

Learning through Service

AmeriCorps, like its Civilian Conservation Corps roots of the 1930's, is serving as the effective solution to addressing the Cedar Valley's most pressing needs. AmeriCorps members address issues from hunger to health, education to the environment, all while earning a credit that can be used to pay tuition or put toward student loans.

The Green Iowa AmeriCorps, operated through the University of Northern Iowa's Center for Energy and Environmental Education, was able to complete 624 educational programs reaching over 30,000 participants in the past year. It recorded the highest volunteer recruitment effort in the program's history, leveraging over 4,300 volunteers for 24,224 volunteer hours of service for the completion of 752 service projects.

In addition, program participants completed 828 energy efficiency projects, including audits and weatherization work, with 66% occurring in the most vulnerable populations impacted by energy affordability. These projects are able to save Iowans over \$60,000 a year annually and \$900,000 over 15 years. This money can be put back into our local economies and used towards other daily essentials that can help lighten the burdens of financial insecurity for low-income families. The program has successfully executed community blitz projects throughout the state including Keokuk, Newton, Waverly, Elkader, and Cascade.

AmeriCorps members have made impacts far and wide for Iowans. From the resurrection of community gardens to successful sustainability fairs, from educational programming that changes the way children see their environment to national days of service that engages veterans, seniors, and persons with disabilities, AmeriCorps members have made impacts far and wide for Iowans.

Green Iowa AmeriCorps is just one AmeriCorps program and its impact on Iowa is undeniable.



Partnerships

Through strong ties with Iowa Heartland Habitat for Humanity and Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity, Green Iowa AmeriCorps members have helped build affordable housing for families, supported incredibly successful initiatives, and contributed to landfill diversion through their time spent at Habitat ReStores.

Thanks to support from the Northeast Iowa Community Foundation and the Carver Trust, Green Iowa AmeriCorps Summer stewards have supported weatherization projects in low-income homes in Waterloo, including installing LED lights that will save residents an average of \$40 annually.