

# Volunteer Iowa | Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service



## Volunteer Hall of Fame and Excellence in Mentoring Awards

Governor Kim Reynolds and Lt. Governor Adam Gregg will induct the 2024 Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame members and present the Excellence in Mentoring awards to two individuals in a ceremony at the Iowa State Capitol building tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, April 30 at 3:00pm.



Being selected for the Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame is the most prestigious state-level honor volunteers can receive as recognition of extraordinary donations of volunteer service to their communities. The Excellence in Mentoring Awards gives Iowa MENTOR certified programs the opportunity to recognize outstanding long-time youth mentors.

Visit [the Volunteer Iowa website](#) for more information about the 2024 Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame inductees and Excellence in Mentoring Award recipients.

Follow [Volunteer Iowa on Facebook](#) for further announcements regarding the ceremony.

## Governor's Volunteer Awards

Volunteer Iowa is now accepting nominations for the [2024 Governor's Volunteer Awards](#); entry deadline is April 30.

The Governor's Volunteer Awards program, celebrating its 40th year, is a simple way for organizations to honor their volunteers with a prestigious, state-level recognition award. Three award categories are available: Individual, Group, and Length of Service.



Award recipient information can be submitted using one of the following methods:

- All organizations (including state government agencies) submit information, and the handling fee (\$15 per nomination) directly through Volunteer Iowa in an [online nomination form](#). Organizations will be able to submit the handling fee online.
- State agencies should submit nominations through the same online form. Invoicing will be handled separately. (Staff of state government agencies must submit nominations through their agency's coordinator.)

Nominations are accepted from: City governments, community colleges, county governments, federal government units operating in Iowa, Iowa MENTOR certified programs, K-12 schools (public and parochial), national service programs operating in Iowa (AmeriCorps, AmeriCorps Seniors), nonprofit and charitable organizations, private colleges and universities, non-state government organizations.

To learn more, please visit [volunteeriowa.org](#).



## Give Back Iowa

The 10th Annual Give Back Iowa Challenge has begun! The Give Back Iowa Challenge is an eight-week statewide challenge, which serves as a competitive way to encourage organizations and businesses alike to participate in community volunteering. The challenge runs from April 1st through May 31st. Your business or organization can still [register to participate](#), then just track the volunteer hours of your employees, record those hours on our system, and celebrate your employees and their dedication to volunteerism!

There are many volunteer opportunities statewide and in your community, including youth mentoring, assisting food banks and food pantries with packaging and distribution, skills-based opportunities, and more. Volunteer opportunities in your area can be found in our [volunteer opportunities portal](#) [Get Connected](#).

Visit the [Give Back Iowa Challenge website](#) to learn more about this year's challenge. Please contact Betsy Shelton at [betsy.shelton@volunteeriowa.org](mailto:betsy.shelton@volunteeriowa.org) with questions.

## Welcome (back) to Deputy Director Patricia Jacobs

Patricia Jacobs rejoined the Volunteer Iowa team on March 1 as Deputy Director of National Service Programs. We welcome Patricia "back" to the team as she previously managed all of Volunteer Iowa's federal grant activity prior to our move to HHS.

Patricia, originally from Schuyler County in northeast Missouri, graduated from Truman State University with a bachelor's degree in accounting and a Master of Accountancy with a concentration in tax. After spending two years with a public accounting firm, Patricia began working for the IRS, auditing individual and small business tax returns. After seven years with the IRS, Patricia took a job with the Iowa Department of Transportation where she began to learn federal grant accounting. She transferred from there to the Iowa Economic Development Authority. After a brief stint with the Department of Public Safety on the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau's federal grant, she officially joined Volunteer Iowa.



Outside of work time, you can find Patricia supporting her very active kids in soccer, football, basketball, volleyball, track and band. She also enjoys building Lego and playing board games with her family. Patricia is happy to be back working with Volunteer Iowa, and Volunteer Iowa is thrilled to have her (back) on our team!

## City Volunteer Engagement Peer Network

Engaging community volunteers to help meet your city's strategic goals and day-to-day operational needs can be both rewarding and challenging. Whether you're a team of one or a large department of volunteer engagement professionals, you're not alone! Local governments across Iowa are also working with volunteers in a variety of ways. Join us as we learn from each other by sharing resources, discussing challenges and possible solutions, and celebrating volunteer engagement successes. This is a new peer learning network. Your input will be invaluable as we develop this network to best need our needs.

The network will meet quarterly, with the first meeting on Monday, April 1 at 2:00pm. You can [join the Zoom meeting](#) or contact [Michelle Raymer](#) with questions.



## AmeriCorps Week Overview

Volunteer Iowa celebrated AmeriCorps week (March 10-16) by highlighting the members, volunteers and alumni who have served their communities across the state of Iowa. Over two dozen individuals were featured in social media and blog posts. Visit [Volunteer Iowa's Facebook page](#) to see why AmeriCorps members choose to serve and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers sign up to support their communities.

## Service Enterprise Certifications

Volunteer Iowa is pleased to announce that the following organizations have been reaccredited as a Service Enterprise:

- [Hawkeye Area Community Action Program, Inc. \(HACAP\)](#)
- [RSVP 55+ Volunteer Program Boone, Greene & Guthrie Counties](#)
- [Food Bank of Iowa](#)
- [Willis Dady Homeless Services](#)



To be designated as a Service Enterprise, organization staff, board members, and volunteers must participate in the research-based assessment, training, and consulting.

The designation, awarded by the Association of Leaders in Volunteer Engagement (ALIVE), strengthens the capacity of nonprofits to leverage the skill sets and talents of volunteers to address community needs.

Service Enterprise is currently delivered through Volunteer Iowa, part of a national network of Service Enterprise Hubs, which has certified more than 400 organizations across the country since 2012. HACAP is one of nearly 60 organizations across Iowa that have received the Service Enterprise certification.

To learn more about Service Enterprise in Iowa, visit [Volunteer Iowa's Service Enterprise webpage](#).

Organizations and agencies that are interested in becoming a Service Enterprise can contact Michelle Raymer at [michelle.raymer@volunteeriowa.org](mailto:michelle.raymer@volunteeriowa.org).

## Iowa Nonprofit Salary and Benefits Survey

The Iowa Nonprofit Alliance invites you to participate in the Iowa Nonprofit Alliance (INA) [2024 Salary & Benefits Survey](#). The survey and report have been designed to support the local nonprofit community by providing custom, local, and actionable data to help you understand the current nonprofit landscape and be competitive in attracting and retaining top talent. All 501(c)3 organizations in Iowa are encouraged to participate – you do not need to be an INA member. All participants will receive a discount on the resulting report. Please note that organizations must provide compensation information for all positions, including the Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director, to be eligible for the report discounts. The [Salary & Benefits Survey](#) may be taken by you or another member of your organization any time before April 10. Once you begin the survey, you can save and continue progress later by entering your preferred email at the top right of the survey page. For more information about survey participation, visit the [Iowa Nonprofit Alliance website](#). If you have any questions about the Salary & Benefits Survey, please contact INA at [info@iowanonprofitalliance.org](mailto:info@iowanonprofitalliance.org).

## Volunteerism in the News

- [RSVP: Sowing seeds in the community](#)
- [State volunteer recognition available](#)
- [Golden year volunteers: Jasper County RSVP team makes a difference in community](#)
- [2024 Governor's Volunteer Awards Accepting Nominations](#)
- [WOMEN LEAD CHANGE: Jacobsen reflects on helping to grant wishes for 33 years](#)
- [Local AmeriCorps Seniors Branch Receives Regional Visit](#)

## Current Volunteer Iowa Opportunities

- Volunteer with us! Find volunteer opportunities with Volunteer Iowa here: [Volunteer Iowa | Volunteer Iowa \(galaxydigital.com\)](#)
- Other Iowa AmeriCorps programs supported by Volunteer Iowa are also recruiting now. Find a listing of Iowa AmeriCorps programs at [Join AmeriCorps | Volunteer Iowa](#).

## Important Dates

- April: [Global Volunteer Month](#)
- April 1: [Give Back Iowa Challenge](#) Begins
- April 21: [Volunteer Generation Fund \(VGF\) Day](#)
- April 21-27: [National Volunteer Week](#)
- April 26-28: [Global Youth Service Day](#)
- April 30: [Volunteer Iowa Awards Ceremony \(tentative\)](#)
- May: [Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month](#)
- May: [National Mental Health Awareness Month](#)
- May: [Older Americans Month](#)
- May 5-11: [Public Service Recognition Week](#)
- May 12: Mother's Day
- May 16: [National Do Something Good for Your Neighbor Day](#)
- May 27: Memorial Day
- May 29: [National Senior Health and Fitness Day](#)



Stay Connected with the Volunteer Iowa:

