

Volunteer Iowa Update - November 2024

**Volunteer Iowa | Iowa Commission on
Volunteer Service**

Announcing Funding Opportunities for Nonprofits and Cities

Applications are now open for three "Training + Implementation Funding" programs to empower change through volunteer engagement, culminating in a 9/11 Day of Service. Ten organizations will be selected for each opportunity. At the heart of this initiative lies the belief that volunteering is a cornerstone of strong, vibrant communities. When nonprofits and cities harness the power of volunteers effectively, they can achieve extraordinary results.

1. [Service Enterprise Program](#): Funding of up to \$4,000 and access to a national, research-based organizational accreditation program in volunteer engagement designed to empower nonprofits to extend their mission and budget through strategic volunteer engagement. Application deadline is November 15, 2024.
2. [City Volunteer Engagement Initiative](#): Specially tailored for cities and municipalities, this cohort-based program provides training and \$4,000 to support city staff to develop, implement, and enhance volunteer engagement strategies that align with their unique needs and objectives. Application deadline is January 30, 2025.
3. [Youth Service Board Development](#): Each awarded organization will receive \$3,000 to develop a youth service board at their organization. This youth board will collaborate and plan a September 11th Day of Service for 9/11/2025 that inspires other youth in the community to volunteer and launch others into service beyond that day. Application deadline is December 13, 2024.

Each program includes comprehensive training and capacity building, implementation funding, and individualized coaching. Participants will implement what they learn and host a 9/11 Day of Service in their community.



Adopting a Mentoring Mindset

Introduction to the "Becoming a Better Mentor" Series
Virtual Training for Mentors

Thursday, December 5, 2024, 4:30-6:00pm

[Register to attend the training](#)

Iowa MENTOR will host a virtual training session on the mentoring mindset twice before the end of the year. This is a training for any individual that would like to be a mentor or is serving as a mentor in a mentoring program. A perfect "first step training" where we will explore some critical attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors that serve as the foundation of being an effective mentor. Participants will receive a certificate of completion and should come prepared to learn and interact with others.

The mentoring mindset training is meant to engage mentors in the journey of self-awareness and supportive engagement.

Questions? Contact [Toni Lampley](#).

Volunteer Iowa Presents at Nonprofit Summit

Special thanks to Monica Osborn and Cheri Doane for representing Volunteer Iowa at the Iowa Nonprofit Summit on October 22nd. Monica and Cheri presented on the importance of youth volunteerism and shared strategies for engaging young people in meaningful service. Thank you, Monica and Cheri, for the time you put into creating this presentation and sharing your expertise with these nonprofit partners! If you are interested in this topic, please reach out to Kamryn.ryan@volunteeriowa.org.





Register for the Empowering Youth Service-Learning Training Series

Are you interested in learning how to engage youth volunteers and youth voice in your organization? Sign up for [Volunteer Iowa's Empowering Youth Service Training](#)! This cohort meets bi-monthly and explores various topics related to service-learning, youth leadership, community partnerships, and more. Service-learning is an approach to teaching and learning that provides youth with opportunities to apply their academic knowledge and skills to address genuine community needs via student-led service projects. The training is free and virtual. You may sign up for individual sessions or the entire cohort. Recordings will be shared as well. Sign up today and learn more about [youth service training](#).

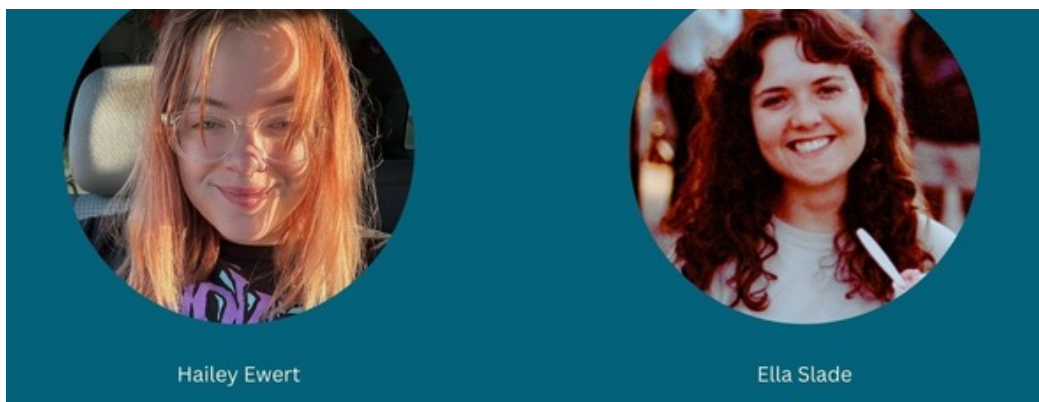
Welcome new team members

Ella Slade joined Volunteer Iowa as the Data Engagement VISTA for Iowa MENTOR in late August. Ella was born in Lawrence, KS, but grew up in Ames where she attended college. She graduated from Iowa State University with a Bachelor of Science in journalism and mass communication in May 2024. Since graduating, Ella worked as a reporter for the Carroll Times Herald in Carroll, as well as an editor for the Iowa State Daily. She is currently studying for the LSAT and hopes to attend law school in the future. In her free time, you can find Ella playing guitar, going on walks in nature and traveling with friends.

Hailey Ewert is Volunteer Iowa's social work practicum student and joined us in late August. They grew up in Sebeka, MN and is currently a student at Winona State University. In addition to interning at Volunteer Iowa, Hailey works at Stride Autism Centers serving children on the Autism Spectrum age 2-6. Previously, they worked in a residential center for older adults with mental and physical disabilities, helping them through their daily routines and assisting them in the community. At that job, Hailey also received some hospice experience and advocating for the people they served. Outside of work, Hailey enjoys taking their dog on adventures, listening to music, and being crafty.

Help us welcome Ella and Hailey to the Volunteer Iowa team!





Thank you for your service, Mia Dean!

We want to extend a huge thank you to VISTA Leader Mia Dean, whose service with Volunteer Iowa came to a close on October 21. Throughout her year, Mia created opportunities for VISTAs to connect one-on-one and as a larger cohort, fostering a strong sense of community and purpose amongst our members. Mia also had the opportunity to support disaster response efforts in NW Iowa this summer, her flexibility and passion for helping others is evident in all she does. We are grateful for her dedication and impact on Iowans and look forward to seeing the great things she'll achieve in the future.



Volunteerism in the News

- ['Your adult best friend': Glenwood Teammates Mentoring named chapter of the year](#)
- [AmeriCorps NCCC team deployed to North Carolina](#)
- [Washington County Youth Service Board Volunteers with Local Seniors](#)
- [STARS Mentoring Program Searching for More Mentors](#)
- [Vinton-based AmeriCorps team helping hurricane victims](#)

Current Volunteer Iowa Opportunities

Volunteer with us! Find volunteer opportunities with Volunteer Iowa here: [Volunteer Iowa](#) | [Volunteer Iowa \(galaxydigital.com\)](#)

AmeriCorps programs across Iowa, supported by Volunteer Iowa, are recruiting now. Find a listing of Iowa AmeriCorps programs at [Join AmeriCorps](#) | [Volunteer Iowa](#).





Important Dates

- November 11: Veteran's Day (Volunteer Iowa office closed)
- November 15: [National Philanthropy Day](#)
- November 17-23: [National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week](#)
- November 23: [Family Volunteer Day](#)
- November 28: Thanksgiving Day (Volunteer Iowa office closed)
- November 29: [Native American Heritage Day](#) (Volunteer Iowa office closed)
- December 3: [Giving Tuesday](#)
- December 7: [National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day](#)
- December 10: [Human Rights Day](#)
- December 25: Christmas Day (Volunteer Iowa office closed)
- December 25: Hanukkah begins

Looking for a way to give back? Visit [Get Connected](#) today to find volunteer opportunities.

Organizations can [post volunteer opportunities](#) on Get Connected as well at no cost.

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