Leveraging Our Greatest Asset- Our People

League of Cities Annual Conference 2020
About Volunteer Iowa

Mission:
To improve lives, strengthen communities and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering.
Our Programs

• AmeriCorps
• Iowa Mentoring Partnership
• RSVP
• Volunteer Promotion and Recognition
• Disaster Volunteer Coordination
• Employer Volunteer Initiative
• Volunteer Generation Fund
• Get Connected—Online Volunteer Opportunities Database
• Training and Technical Assistance to Volunteer Managers
• Service Enterprise Initiative
Let AmeriCorps VISTA help get your organization’s ducks in a row. Contact us to find out how!
Why Volunteering is a Solution for Your Community’s Needs
Economic Benefits

States and major metropolitan areas that had more civic engagement in 2006 or earlier experienced smaller increases in unemployment between 2006 and 2010.

Health & Wellness of Community Members

Research demonstrates that volunteering leads to better health and that older volunteers are the most likely to receive physical and mental health benefits from their volunteer activities.

https://www.nationalservice.gov/pdf/07_0506_hbr.pdf

http://www.rsypsuffolk.org/benefits-of-volunteering.php

Good For You

About a quarter of the people who have volunteered in the past 12 months say that volunteering has helped them to manage a chronic illness.

76% of people who volunteered in the last twelve months say that volunteering has made them feel healthier.

94% of people who volunteered in the last twelve months say that volunteering improves their mood.

95% say that volunteering enriches their sense of purpose in life.

96% say they are helping to make their community a better place.

80% of the people who have volunteered in the past 12 months say that they feel they have control over their health.

78% of people who volunteered in the last 12 months say that volunteering lowers their stress levels.
Civic Engagement, Social Capital, & Employability

Volunteering → Increased Social Connections → Employment
Volunteering → Increased Skills and Experience

https://www.nationalservice.gov/sites/default/files/upload/vol_emp_executivesummary.pdf
Volunteers donate to charity at **twice the rate** as non-volunteers.

Nearly **80%** of volunteers donated to charity, compared to **40%** of non-volunteers.

Corporation for National and Community Service 2018; www.nationalservice.gov
The Business Case for Supporting Volunteerism Among City Employees

- **77%**: Employees who believe volunteering is essential to their overall well-being.
- **55%**: Respondents of a survey who agreed company support for social causes was an important factor in accepting a job.
- **36%**: Employees who believe volunteering can help refine or develop skills to use in their careers.
- **18%**: Employees who think volunteering can enhance their career opportunities.
- **$1,000 to $6,000**: The amount you could save per employee by having a workplace volunteer program in place.

Examples of How National Service and Volunteering Have Supported Iowa Communities
AmeriCorps State & National

Video about AmeriCorps in Dubuque schools: https://youtu.be/laQ-yKJcKXU
Disaster Response
Can you help deliver a fresh meal to someone in need?

Since March NEI3A has been delivering frozen meals rather than freshly prepared meals to seniors in need of meal delivery. Daily delivery of hot meals is scheduled to resume August 1 (though things could change!).

- Drivers use their own car (sometimes two people team up with one as the driver and the other taking meals to the door)... See More
Volunteer Generation Fund (VGF)
Community Volunteers
Activity - How Can Volunteerism and National Service Benefit Your Community?
Questions?

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