

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc: Jon Murphy <jon@lobbyiowa.com>  
Bcc:  
Subject: Children's Behavioral Health System State Board  
Date: Tue Aug 29 2023 14:20:04 CDT  
Attachments: image001.jpg

---

I would like to have time at the September 6th meeting to discuss the impact of the proposed change to the Children's Behavioral Health System State Board.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

Owner:

Filename:

image001.jpg

Last Modified:

Tue Aug 29 14:20:04 CDT 2023

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# The Coalition

Coalition for Family and Children's Services in Iowa

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>; [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Medical Cannabidiol Board  
[REDACTED]

---

I have attended every meeting of this board and have been extremely pleased with it. The members are professional and thoughtful. Thank you for recommending no change to it.

During today's meeting it was mentioned that some of the speciality areas of medicine required on the board are harder to find volunteers for. I know that is true and the board does need to have a quorum to make any recommendations, so removing that requirement would probably make sense. I wish those positions could be filled more easily, but it is what it is.

--  
[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Speak at 9/6 meeting  
Date: Tue Aug 29 2023 15:42:35 CDT  
Attachments: image001.png  
image002.png  
image003.png  
image004.png  
image005.png  
image006.png

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BCRC,

I would like to speak at the September 6 meeting regarding the preliminary recommendation to eliminate the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service. I will be speaking on behalf of America's Service Commissions, the association for the 52 Governor designated state service commissions. State service commissions are required by federal statute to receive federal AmeriCorps State funding. I am a former commissioner for the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service and live in Des Moines.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] / Time Zone: CT  
Need to schedule a meeting with me? Check out my Calendly link.

\*Please note that the ASC team works flexibly and remotely across time zones — so while it suits me to email now, I do not expect a response or action outside of your own working hours.

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image001.png

Last Modified: Tue Aug 29 15:42:35 CDT 2023

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image001.png for Printed Item: 4 ( Attachment 1 of 6)



Page 8 of 564

TWENTY FIVE YEARS UNITED IN SERVICE



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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image002.png

Last Modified: Tue Aug 29 15:42:35 CDT 2023

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image003.png

Last Modified: Tue Aug 29 15:42:35 CDT 2023

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image004.png

Last Modified: Tue Aug 29 15:42:35 CDT 2023

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image005.png

Last Modified: Tue Aug 29 15:42:35 CDT 2023

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image006.png

Last Modified: Tue Aug 29 15:42:35 CDT 2023

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From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@iowacommunityaction.org>  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<brcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Boards & Commissions Review Committee - Request to address the committee  
Date: Tue Aug 29 2023 15:45:55 CDT  
Attachments:

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Iowa Community Action Association - represented by [REDACTED] would like to address the Committee on Sept. 6.

Thanks!  
[REDACTED] e

--

[REDACTED]

Mission: Educating, Advocating for, and Connecting Community Action Agencies to amplify a unified voice in service of lowans facing economic hardship.

Check out our new website!: [www.iowacommunityaction.org](http://www.iowacommunityaction.org)

---

From:

[REDACTED]

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Cc:

Bcc:

Subject: Review Committee Meeting September 6th

Date: Tue Aug 29 2023 15:54:58 CDT

Attachments:

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To whom it may concern, I would like a time to speak at the September 6 meeting.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Request to Speak at Public Input Hearing on 9/6  
Date: Wed Aug 30 2023 08:13:14 CDT  
Attachments: image001.jpg  
image002.jpg  
image003.jpg  
image004.jpg  
image005.png

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Hello,

I am requesting to speak at the public input hearing next Wednesday, September 6, at 12:00pm. I am representing the DMARC Food Pantry Network and the Iowa Hunger Coalition.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]  
POLICY & ADVOCACY MANAGER

DMARC | 100 Army Post Road | Des Moines, IA 50315 | Cell: (515) 520-4741 | dmarcunited.org

Want bragging rights off the field prior to the big game on September 9th? We can help! Help tackle hunger by hosting a friendly competition with a Food & Fund Drive for the DMARC Food Pantry Network! Get Started.

This document may contain confidential information and is intended for use by the addressee and/or their intended representatives only. If you are not the intended recipient, please do not transmit, copy, disclose, store or utilize this communication in any manner. If you received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately and permanently delete this message from your computer.

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image001.jpg

Last Modified: Wed Aug 30 08:13:14 CDT 2023

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image001.jpg for Printed Item  
13 (Attachment 1 of 5)

Page 24 of 564

UNITED TO MEET THE NEED



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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image002.jpg

Last Modified: Wed Aug 30 08:13:14 CDT 2023

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image003.jpg

Last Modified: Wed Aug 30 08:13:14 CDT 2023

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image004.jpg

Last Modified: Wed Aug 30 08:13:14 CDT 2023

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image005.png

Last Modified: Wed Aug 30 08:13:14 CDT 2023

---

**HAWKEYES**

**&**

**CYCLONES**





---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRC Comments <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Public Review Committee  
Date: Wed Aug 30 2023 09:34:46 CDT  
Attachments:

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Good morning,

I'd like to speak at the public input meeting for the Boards and Commissions Review Committee. I'll be representing and speaking about the State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council.

Thanks,

--

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

"If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other." - Mother Teresa

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Wed Aug 30 2023 14:11:17 CDT  
Attachments: Outlook-0bgqba33.png

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Greetings.

I recently learned that there is a proposal to eliminate several commissions. Many of them concern me personally, but the one that concerns me professionally is the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service. I work with individuals who are 55+ years old and who serve their communities. This program is supported by three entities. The federal government, the state of Iowa and the sponsor of the program.

Isn't it required that the federal government mandate a commission be formed for volunteer service in the state of Iowa? And, not only for volunteer service but dozens of other programs receiving federal funds?

Before pulling the trigger and eliminating these important commissions, wouldn't it make more sense for due diligence on the possible unintended (negative) consequences? On the surface it may seem as if this would cut the state budget. However, the bottom line might mean much more spent (out of my pocket) than had they not been eliminated to begin with.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint. I sincerely hope you take this with the weight I intend it to be taken.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: Outlook-0bqqba33.png

Last Modified: Wed Aug 30 14:11:17 CDT 2023

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**AmeriCorps**  
**Seniors**

---

**RSVP** of Jefferson, Monroe,  
and Wapello Counties

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCComments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Boards and Commissions Review Committee  
Date: Wed Aug 30 2023 15:32:06 CDT  
Attachments:

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Good Afternoon,  
I would like to submit my name to speak during the public hearing for the boards & commission review committee.

Name: [REDACTED]  
Organization: Member of the Iowa Commission of Latino Affairs

Best,  
[REDACTED]

--

[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Speaking  
Date: Wed Aug 30 2023 15:34:49 CDT  
Attachments:

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Please add me to the list for speaking.

< Public Hearing Sign-up: If members of the public are interested in addressing the committee at its September 6th meeting, please email [BCRCcomments@iowa.gov](mailto:BCRCcomments@iowa.gov) and request to speak. Please include your name and the organization you are representing. >

[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Sept 6 Public Comment Hearing  
Date: Wed Aug 30 2023 16:03:41 CDT  
Attachments:

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Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am the Legislative and Advocacy Committee Chairperson for the Iowa State Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf. I would like to make a comment at the public hearing on September 6 regarding the Board and Commission Review Committee recommendations.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]



---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service Board  
Date: Wed Aug 30 2023 16:39:49 CDT  
Attachments: image001.png  
image002.png  
image003.png

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Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

[REDACTED]

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image001.png

Last Modified: Wed Aug 30 16:39:49 CDT 2023

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image001.png for Printed Item: 256 Attachmen

BIG BROTHERS & BIG SISTERS

Page 44 of 564

OF THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image002.png

Last Modified: Wed Aug 30 16:39:49 CDT 2023

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# BECOME A BIG

Be the Answer to  
"Who made a Difference?"

Start Today!



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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image003.png

Last Modified: Wed Aug 30 16:39:49 CDT 2023

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image003.png for Printed Item: 25 ( Attachment 3 of 3)



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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<brcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Comment on recommendation to eliminate Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board  
Date: Wed Aug 30 2023 16:40:24 CDT  
Attachments:

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Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Thank you  
[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<brcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Volunteer Iowa  
Date: Wed Aug 30 2023 16:52:16 CDT  
Attachments:

---

Good afternoon,

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to after school programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Public Hearing  
Date: Wed Aug 30 2023 21:35:12 CDT  
Attachments:

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Hello,

My name is [REDACTED]. I plan to speak at the September 6th Boards and Commissions review committee. I will represent myself and be discussing the State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council.

Best,  
[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: BCRC comments  
Date: Wed Aug 30 2023 23:36:26 CDT  
Attachments:

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To ensure Iowa does not lose \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including local private matching funds, and risk loss of key services impacting every county in the state, please preserve the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service with its board and staff continuing to operate as is.

The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination. Given the multiple programs facilitated by the commission, no other state agency or department including HHS could devote the time and staff needed; thus, elimination of Volunteer Iowa would create unintentional and devastating impacts on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa:

- Without this designated commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds.
- The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP.
- The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that make local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding

opportunities.

- The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to local disaster response, after-school programming, tutoring for reading and math, building of low-income housing, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service and board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Request to address the committee on September 6th  
Date: Wed Aug 30 2023 23:47:23 CDT  
Attachments:

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Hello,

This is my formal request to address the committee on September 6th at noon regarding the boards and commissions elimination, specifically Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service. I am the Chair of the Volunteer Iowa Commission and will be representing this organization.

Please confirm.

Thank you.

---

[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCComments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Thu Aug 31 2023 00:03:47 CDT  
Attachments:

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Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]



Sent from my U.S.Cellular© Smartphone

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Action to keep Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Thu Aug 31 2023 00:06:33 CDT  
Attachments:

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It is absolutely critical to ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as-is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with the federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa. This totaled \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds.

Here are the facts:

\* The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP.

\* The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa which makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities. This is critical in today's culture to empower and grow the next generation of adults in our state.

\* The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other

organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Thank you for your time.

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---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Volunteer Iowa  
Date: Thu Aug 31 2023 09:09:53 CDT  
Attachments:

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Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.



---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: request to attend  
Date: Thu Aug 31 2023 09:34:06 CDT  
Attachments:

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This message was sent securely using Zix®

I am interested in attending the committee meeting on September 6

[REDACTED] – Mid-Iowa Community Action and the Iowa Community Action Association

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

This message was secured by Zix®.

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<brcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Thu Aug 31 2023 09:46:48 CDT  
Attachments:

---

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

When I led the Iowa Food Bank Association, I was able to receive funding for the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service to deploy nine AmeriCorps members to food banks across the state to support the expansion of integral community programs addressing food insecurity. They were able to support food banks that lacked the resources to hire staff to meet the needs in rural communities. Without that funding, access to food would have been much harder for thousands of Iowans facing food insecurity.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

--



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<brcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Please keep Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board operating as is  
Date: Thu Aug 31 2023 10:44:04 CDT  
Attachments:

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Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

I have seen first hand, not only as an AmeriCorps program director running a program with members throughout the state of Iowa the impact this has, but also as a former staff member with Volunteer Iowa. The impact AmeriCorps programs and members have in our communities is great. They are recruiting volunteers, supporting students through tutoring to improve reading scores, assisting refugees in housing and support services, and meeting our citizens when they are in the most vulnerable spot during and following disasters. Just in the past few years there have been thousands of hours recorded supporting the clean up efforts following a tornado, clearing debris and leading teams of volunteers following the derecho for many months, and many hours and months supporting needs in food banks during the pandemic.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.



St. Ambrose University Alum: [www.sau.edu](http://www.sau.edu)

AmeriCorps Alum: [www.americorpsalums.org](http://www.americorpsalums.org)

"There is no one alive who is Youer than You."  
- Dr. Seuss

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Thu Aug 31 2023 10:45:12 CDT  
Attachments:

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It is crucial to maintain the current operations of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service Board. The recommendation to eliminate the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (also known as Volunteer Iowa) would have an unintended and devastating impact on the non-profit community throughout Iowa.

Having a commission board is necessary for the state of Iowa to comply with the federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants awarded to new and ongoing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa, amounting to \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards, totaling \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. If the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service were to be eliminated, it would not only result in a loss of \$14.3 million in funding for local non-profit organizations and public entities, but it would also lead to a loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service, such as the Volunteer Generation Fund and the 9/11 Day of Service grant, as well as VISTA and RSVP. Additionally, the Commission certifies mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa, making local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa cater to a wide range of critical community needs, including afterschool programming, reading and math tutoring, low-income housing construction, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

It is essential to keep the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to guarantee the continuous funding of more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the Commission to meet critical community needs throughout Iowa.

Thank you,



---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Volunteer Iowa Commission  
Date: Thu Aug 31 2023 10:46:35 CDT  
Attachments:

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Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute (sec. 191 of the National and Community Service Act (42 U.S.C. 12651)). required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Well respected and long viewed as an excellent example of a volunteer service commission across the country, this organization is critical in preparation for and deploying volunteers and AmeriCorps teams during times of disaster. Local nonprofit organizations across the state rely on the commission's expertise to better engage volunteers in delivering much needed community services.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.



---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: request to speak  
Date: Thu Aug 31 2023 11:55:19 CDT  
Attachments: image001.png

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I am requesting to speak Sept 6th at noon.

Representing Community Action and New Opportunities,

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]





PLEASE BE GREEN—Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image001.png

Last Modified: Thu Aug 31 11:55:19 CDT 2023

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image001.png for Printed Item: 42 ( Attachment 1 of 1)



Page 75 of 564

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Support the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Thu Aug 31 2023 11:56:19 CDT  
Attachments:

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Dear Members of the Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee,

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service Board  
Date: Thu Aug 31 2023 12:18:02 CDT  
Attachments:

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Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Thank you for your consideration.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Public Input Boards and Commission Review Committee  
Date: Thu Aug 31 2023 12:24:01 CDT  
Attachments:

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From: TINA DUNPHY [REDACTED] >  
To: "BCRCcomments@iowa.gov" <BCRCcomments@iowa.gov>  
Subject: Public Input Boards and Commission Review Committee  
Thread-Topic: Public Input Boards and Commission Review Committee  
Thread-Index: AdncL+zK7OJk4qI8RUOZnzOoWCTcvA==  
Date: Thu, 31 Aug 2023 17:24:01 +0000  
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I understand that the Boards and Commissions Review Committee is calling for public input on the proposed recommendations to reform Iowa's boards and commissions and that the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (ICVS) has been proposed for elimination. Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is; its elimination would have devastating impacts on the nonprofit community, communities, and individuals, across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will be out of compliance with

<[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1NxCP29q\\_mMjYfWYqWKFdIL7U4op\\_FhUpFILuHMi](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1NxCP29q_mMjYfWYqWKFdIL7U4op_FhUpFILuHMi)

Yb0U/edit?usp=sharing> federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding and will not have a mechanism to propose additional programs for AmeriCorps competitive funding. In May 2023, the ICVS <<https://volunteer.iowa.gov/press-release/2023-05-30/volunteer-iowa-awards-17-million-state-ameri-corps-programs>> announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding; this figure does not include the local private matching funds that are leveraged by each program.

The devastation of the elimination of ICVS would also be felt by the hundreds of individuals who join as AmeriCorps members every year to give back and make a difference to their communities and the individuals who benefit from the AmeriCorps members' service.

The elimination of ICVS would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in AmeriCorps funding to local nonprofits and public entities, but it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA, and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.



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hkiG9w0DAglCAIAwDQYIKoZIhvcNAwlCAUAwBwYFKw4DAhowsCwYJYIZIAWUDBAIDMAAsG  
CWCGSAFI  
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RSGVey9fa  
7aKiawLDVL2DbSgjCIYHhpzrAqAL2WZCrpVc0kZ9nIjly51gVgFywaWQgJndlVwkJVBjMz+JO  
UG9  
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G  
JYyGYcFXa2doxzWr35Qllwro1Oz4b+Ji39cS9zTVhYTMaLJhDUcUcM0guLpnnSB9QnVtTH3W  
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vjQ  
/T9PwKFcuAAAAAAAAA==

-----=\_NextPart\_000\_0008\_01D9DC0E.66B71E30--

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Public hearing request for sign up  
Date: Thu Aug 31 2023 13:11:20 CDT  
Attachments:

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2nd request

Re: Governor's Boards and Commissions Review Committee Recommendations

[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Iowa Commission of Volunteer Service  
Date: Thu Aug 31 2023 13:26:47 CDT  
Attachments:

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Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, but it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

In Wapello County, Volunteer Iowa supports literacy tutors in local schools, volunteers working in education, housing, and hunger, and programs to prevent child abuse. At United Way this year, this support allowed us to engage over 1000 volunteers who served over 9000 hours with local programs. Those volunteers spent 1,180 hours packaging and delivering food, provided free tax services to 653 low-income households, and worked with 145 elementary students.

The loss of these programs would be devastating to the local nonprofit community.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Thank you for your consideration,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Public

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<brcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is.  
Date: Thu Aug 31 2023 16:18:59 CDT  
Attachments:

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Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

In the past, I've helped to lead organizations that benefit from accessing AmeriCorps support. This helped us to stretch our limited capacity to develop new ways to serve our constituents. Additionally, the Commission helps to ensure that Iowa stays in the Top five states for volunteerism. We've reached the peak, stopping investment now would be unwise and undermine decades of success.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs

across the state of Iowa.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED].com





[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The Quad Cities Community Foundation office will begin our Summer Hours starting May 26, 2023; they will be Monday – Thursday 8am – 4:30pm and Friday 8am – 12pm.

The Quad Cities Community Foundation champions generosity. It is the place where generous people in the bi-state region make both lifetime and estate gifts of all sizes to support the long-term needs and opportunities of their community, and the specific organizations and causes most meaningful to them.

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service Board  
Date: Thu Aug 31 2023 16:24:48 CDT  
Attachments:

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Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service Board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination, which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with the federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa, totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service, including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa which makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

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In Wapello County, Volunteer Iowa supports literacy tutors in local schools, volunteers working in education, housing, and hunger, and programs to prevent child abuse. At United Way this year, this support allowed us to engage over 1,000 volunteers who served over 9,000 hours with local programs. Those volunteers spent 1,180 hours packaging and delivering food, provided free tax services to 653 low-income households, and worked with 145 elementary students.

The loss of these programs would be devastating to the local nonprofit community.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa



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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Support of Iowa Commission on Volunteer Services  
Date: Thu Aug 31 2023 16:24:54 CDT  
Attachments:

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Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service Board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination, which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with the federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa, totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service, including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa which makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs, including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<brcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Support Iowa Commission on Volunteer Services  
Date: Thu Aug 31 2023 16:26:59 CDT  
Attachments:

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Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service Board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination, which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with the federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa, totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service, including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa which makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

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In Wapello County, Volunteer Iowa supports literacy tutors in local schools, volunteers working in education, housing, and hunger, and programs to prevent child abuse. At United Way this year, this support allowed us to engage over 1,000 volunteers who served over 9,000 hours with local programs. Those volunteers spent 1,180 hours packaging and delivering food, provided free tax services to 653 low-income households, and worked with 145 elementary students.

The loss of these programs would be devastating to the local nonprofit community.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Urgent Need to Ensure Volunteer Iowa continues  
Date: Thu Aug 31 2023 16:27:18 CDT  
Attachments:

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Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

[REDACTED]





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From: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<brcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service Concern  
Date: Thu Aug 31 2023 19:04:31 CDT  
Attachments:

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Hello,

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Being a pastor in rural Iowa and also serving as a commissioner for Volunteer Iowa, I have personally seen the impact made. With continued cuts to social assistance programs and an emphasis to utilize nonprofits eliminating this commission would have lasting and significant impacts to our communities and the least of these who rely on the generous volunteers and needed programs.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Thank you in advance for keeping this commission and supporting Iowans.

Thanks,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Bcc:  
Subject: Volunteer Iowa  
Date: Thu Aug 31 2023 20:29:46 CDT  
Attachments:

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Iowa Friends,

I'm [REDACTED], Waterloo West High 1961.

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as it now does.

The Leighty Foundation was founded in Waterloo in 1985 by my father, H.D. "Ike" Leighty, a successful entrepreneur, small business founder and owner, and loyal Republican.

The Foundation has granted several million dollars to nonprofit organizations, in Iowa and worldwide.

I am one of seven directors of the Foundation.

One of our salient programs is Strategic Volunteer Engagement, which is nationally recognized for its innovation and influence.

See: [www.LeightyFoundation.org](http://www.LeightyFoundation.org)

We fund The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa), among other nonprofits.

Via some mistaken impression, The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer

Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination.

1. This would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa:

- \* Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding.

- \* In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds.

- \* The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of:

- \* \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities,

- \* Other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to:

- \* The Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant,

- \* VISTA

- \* RSVP.

- \* The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

2. The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to after school programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Please correct this mistake. Retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the Commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Thank you for your consideration.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Thu Aug 31 2023 20:30:18 CDT  
Attachments:

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To Whom It May Concern:

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

The board works tirelessly to serve Iowans and to help organizations serve their communities. Without this board, the work that is so important to improving lives of people in so many situations will not receive the support it needs.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



---

From: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
To: BCRCComments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Thu Aug 31 2023 21:59:41 CDT  
Attachments:

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Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

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The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Thank you.

---

From: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
To: BCRCCOMMENTS@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board  
Date: Fri Sep 01 2023 07:28:19 CDT  
Attachments:

---

Hello,

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

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Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs

across the state of Iowa.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

The Quad Cities Community Foundation champions generosity. It is the place where generous people in the bi-state region make both lifetime and estate gifts of all sizes to support the long-term needs and opportunities of their community, and the specific organizations and causes most meaningful to them.

From Memorial Day through Labor Day, QCCF will enjoy Summer hours and close on Fridays at noon. Thank you!

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Fri Sep 01 2023 08:24:25 CDT  
Attachments:

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Good morning,

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

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Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Thank you,



---

From: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Support Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Fri Sep 01 2023 09:48:21 CDT  
Attachments:

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Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

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In the Quad Cities, we have faced several major disasters in the last several years. At the Quad Cities Community Foundation, we provide grant support for disaster preparedness and recovery, and also participate in Disaster Ready Quad Cities, our community's coalition of organizations that serve our community when disaster strikes. We have seen the crucial value of Volunteer Iowa in coordinating volunteers and AmeriCorps members to respond quickly and helpfully to these disasters. It means so much to people affected by floods, storms, and other disasters to have someone show up to help. This is just one small example of the value of the programs and community supports possible because of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer

Service.

As a personal note, I served as an AmeriCorps member in the state of Iowa earlier in my career and it gave me the chance to serve young people and my community while growing into my next career opportunity. I can speak personally to the value of this and other volunteer programs only possible in Iowa due to the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Respectfully,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[www.QCCommunityFoundation.org](http://www.QCCommunityFoundation.org) / #GenerosityLivesHere

Please note our summer hours – from Memorial Day through Labor Day:

Monday – Thursday 8:00-4:30

Friday 8:00-12:00

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCComments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Bcc:  
Subject: Comment on Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Fri Sep 01 2023 10:03:25 CDT  
Attachments: Comment ICVS Board September 2023.pdf  
image001.png  
image002.png  
image003.png  
image004.png  
image005.png  
image006.png

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Please see the attached written comment from America's Service Commissions (ASC), the national association of the 52 Governor designated state service commissions. We are submitting comment to recommend continuing the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board as is.

[REDACTED] ime Zone: CT  
Need to schedule a meeting with me? Check out my Calendly link.

\*Please note that the ASC team works flexibly and remotely across time zones — so while it suits me to email now, I do not expect a response or action outside of your own working hours.



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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: Comment ICVS Board September 2023.pdf

Last Modified: Fri Sep 01 10:03:25 CDT 2023

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September 1, 2023

Boards and Commissions Review Committee:

America's Service Commissions (ASC) is the national association of the 52 Governor designated state service commissions, which administer AmeriCorps funds and promote volunteering in their respective states and territories. We are submitting comment to recommend continuing the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board as is.

The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (also known as Volunteer Iowa) board should continue to operate as is to ensure the continued federal funding of AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa. Elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service, as preliminarily recommended, would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service is one of 52 similar Governor designated state service commissions across the country. States are required by [federal statute](#) to have a state service commission board to receive the formula federal AmeriCorps State funds. Federal statute requires between 15-25 commissioner board members and outlines a list of 10 required members and several optional and ex-officio members. While an Alternative Administrative Entity is an option, it must be approved by the federal government and compliance with the board composition section of federal statute is still required.

Without a state service commission (or Alternative Administrative Entity) board, the state of Iowa will be out of compliance with federal statute required to receive formula AmeriCorps State funds. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service [announced 21 grants](#) it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, but it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grants.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state. Without the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service providing the local oversight, administration, and support of these funds, it is unlikely the federal government would continue to fund these programs at their current level through its competitive funding process. Currently 90% of all AmeriCorps State programs are administered through a state service commission board of commissioners.



The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service has a [long history](#) of support from Iowa's Governors, most notably Governor Branstad who established the commission in 1994 by Executive Order. In 2013, Governor Branstad [published the op-ed "National Service is a No-Brainer"](#) touting the successes of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service and its programs. In 2014, Governor Branstad, with the support from then Lt. Governor Reynolds, created the time-limited Governor's Council on National Service to provide recommendations to spur interagency agreements between the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service and other state departments, local organizations, and the private sector.

The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service has had tremendous bipartisan support for three decades. Governor Reynolds and Lt. Governor Gregg are long-standing champions of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service and regularly participate in their programs including the Governor's Volunteer Awards, the Give Back Iowa Challenge, and annually recognize AmeriCorps programs during AmeriCorps Week. In 2017, Governor Reynolds co-authored ["The case for an American year of service" in The Hill](#) highlighting several of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service's programs.

The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board has active and engaged commissioners, regular meetings in compliance with state and federal laws, and effectively and efficiently oversee the core functions of its programs. Commissioners add value to the mission of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service and every three years craft a state service plan with public input that helps guide their priorities. Commissioners use their resources and connections to leverage private dollars and serve as ambassadors for volunteerism in their local communities.

The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service does not create barriers to any workforce and has a track record of eliminating barriers to volunteer participation for Iowans. Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

America's Service Commissions is on standby to offer technical assistance regarding state service commission structures and board composition. Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions at (515) 720-5892 or [rbruns@statecommissions.org](mailto:rbruns@statecommissions.org). We have requested to provide verbal comment during the September 6 hearing and look forward to engaging further.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature block]

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image001.png

Last Modified: Fri Sep 01 10:03:25 CDT 2023

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image001.png for Printed Item: 62 ( Attachment 2 of 7)



Page 125 of 564

TWENTY FIVE YEARS UNITED IN SERVICE

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image002.png

Last Modified: Fri Sep 01 10:03:25 CDT 2023

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image003.png

Last Modified: Fri Sep 01 10:03:25 CDT 2023

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image004.png

Last Modified: Fri Sep 01 10:03:25 CDT 2023

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image005.png

Last Modified: Fri Sep 01 10:03:25 CDT 2023

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image006.png

Last Modified: Fri Sep 01 10:03:25 CDT 2023

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<brcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: IMPORTANT!!!!  
Date: Fri Sep 01 2023 10:37:47 CDT  
Attachments:

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Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Our non-profit runs on volunteers, as so soooooo many other non-profits in the Cedar Rapids, Hiawather, Iowa City corridor. We provide incredible service to the local area and to the state of Iowa. We have utilized AmeriCorp workers for years. In doing so, many a young adult have received ecological education in this state. Our volunteers have responded in direct service during the flood and derecho as well as advocating for refugees locally and at the state level. Our organization would be devastated if such funding was dropped.



PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.



---

From:

To:

BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Cc:

Bcc:

Subject: From a concerned nonprofit professional...

Date: Fri Sep 01 2023 10:42:15 CDT

Attachments:

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Hello:

I wanted to add my voice as a concerned nonprofit professional here in the state of Iowa. Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and

countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Thank you!

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Celebrate with us!

Indian Creek Nature Center  
5300 Otis Road SE  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52403

[Redacted]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<brcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Against the elimination of Volunteer Iowa  
Date: Fri Sep 01 2023 10:47:59 CDT  
Attachments:

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Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

As a retired nonprofit executive and continuing volunteer and board member with a number of nonprofit organizations, I see this proposal as careless, dangerous, and capable of permanent damage to the health and vitality of an industry which picks up tremendous amounts of slack created by our state's continued reduction of services to its residents. This action will negatively impact social services, the cultural community, and educational programs in ways which I must assume were not considered when the proposal was generated.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to after school programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

I personally was President of the Board of Directors of a small nonprofit located in a very underserved neighborhood in Cedar Rapids at a time when the only way it was able to stay open for community use was through AmeriCorps staffing. The relevance and impact of this organization as a community center and cultural outlet would have been dramatically diminished without Americorps assistance. I have also volunteered with a Cedar Rapids organization which produces and delivers fresh produce to those without means or access to otherwise that, without AmeriCorps assistance, would have folded upon the untimely death of its founder a few years ago. Today it is thriving and serving four times the residents it did at that critical turning point.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service Board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Most sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<brcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Fri Sep 01 2023 10:51:49 CDT  
Attachments:

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Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

At Prairiewoods, we would not be able to function without our volunteers, especially our AmeriCorps members. This summer we had three AmeriCorps volunteers, and they were critical to keeping our land healthy and creating programming around ecological topics.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and

countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Sincerely,

[Redacted]

--

[Redacted]

Prairiewoods Franciscan Spirituality Center: A Place of Peace and Transformation

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Please maintain Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service Board  
Date: Fri Sep 01 2023 10:54:37 CDT  
Attachments:

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I am writing to ask that you continue to operate the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

I have benefited from their work both personally as an AmeriCorps member serving with Community Partnerships for Prevention and professionally through my work with Prairiewoods. We count on the service of volunteers to care for the grounds while learning about environmentally focused work.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs



across the state of Iowa.

Iowa is all about service--keep Iowa Iowa!

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Prairiewoods Franciscan Spirituality Center: A Place of Peace and Transformation

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED] <BCRCcomments@iowa.gov>  
<brcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Volunteer Service board  
Date: Fri Sep 01 2023 11:07:36 CDT  
Attachments:

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This is [REDACTED], Volunteer and Mentor Coordinator for the Independence Community School District. I would like to comment on the elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board/Volunteer Iowa.

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

The services received by the Independence School District Mentoring Program, located in Buchanan County is very important to the success of our program. Through Volunteer Iowa, AmeriCorps and Vista staff that has made available to us through their funding have played a big part in the success of the program over the last several years. The staff has worked with me and updated our program handbooks, training manuals, provided technology services and most importantly certification for our school-based Mentoring program. If the funding is not available we would not have the needed unification guidance for our certification. Also, when reviewing our process at the time of re-certification it is invaluable to the program, mentors,

students, and school staff to know that our program is managing, safeguarding by training and following through with background checks. As well as knowing all state-wide certified mentoring programs are following the same process.

We also receive training throughout the year for our program coordinators to provide updates, training and collaboration with the other certified programs. For the rural communities in Iowa this is the support we count on for development of our programs.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

[REDACTED]

Three decades of commitment!

Established in 1993

--  
[REDACTED]

Three decades of commitment!

Established in 1993



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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: RETAIN THE IOWA COMMISSION ON VOLUNTEER SERVICE  
Date: Fri Sep 01 2023 11:29:35 CDT  
Attachments:

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Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds.

The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, but it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to after school programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Iowa is recognized across the country as a leader in volunteerism. Governor Bob Ray created the Iowa Office on Volunteerism in 1978, now known as Volunteer Iowa. In 1994, Governor Terry Branstad established the Commission "to assist in the development and implementation of a comprehensive, statewide plan for promoting volunteer involvement and citizen

participation in Iowa, as well as serve as the state's liaison to national and state organizations which support the Commission's mission."

I proudly served on this Commission for 6 years and worked alongside hundreds of wonderful Iowans from across the state to support Volunteer Iowa's programs and initiatives. I also had the privilege of hosting the Iowa Governor's Volunteer Awards for 20 years so witnessed firsthand the wide ranging and critical impact being made by non-profits across the state because of the support of the Commission. Consolidating this work within another agency, that is not focused on the same outcomes for our non-profit community, would dramatically diminish its impact and would jeopardize millions in federal funding.

It is vital that we retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service Board  
Date: Fri Sep 01 2023 11:51:27 CDT  
Attachments:

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Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state. We at Prairiewoods truly value the benefits of volunteer service programs and cannot function without them. These programs serve as career gateways and training for our future workforce as well as enrich the quality of life of our community.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Thank you





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From: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service Board  
Date: Fri Sep 01 2023 12:14:00 CDT  
Attachments: image001.jpg

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Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Receiving these dollars in the Dubuque is imperative to the foundation of supporting nearly \$500,000 worth of volunteerism each year, saving our nonprofits the resources they require to operate quality programming necessary for our community. Please reach out with any questions you may have.

Thanks for your consideration.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

DBQUnitedWay.org | Facebook | Twitter | YouTube

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image001.jpg

Last Modified: Fri Sep 01 12:14:00 CDT 2023

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**United  
Way**



TM

**United Way of  
Dubuque Area Tri-States**

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Comments  
Date: Fri Sep 01 2023 12:35:17 CDT  
Attachments: Outlook-hyzghwsv.png  
Outlook-u1dkzg0j.png

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As a nonprofit serving the uninsured in Eastern Iowa, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service has been so valuable to us as an organization.

Since our patients do not have Medicaid, we cannot bill for any services. Americorps volunteers placed by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service helped us immensely when we could not find staff. In addition, it has helped these volunteers gain valuable experience. Over the past three years His Hands has had 5 placements. Without them, it would have been very difficult to weather the changing economic climate.

Please reconsider cutting this board. Perhaps it could be merged with another entity.

THANK YOU!

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: Outlook-hyzghwsv.png

Last Modified: Fri Sep 01 12:35:17 CDT 2023

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Outlook-hyzghwsv.png for  
Printed Item: 80 ( Attachment  
of 2)



**His Hands**

FREE CLINIC

*Revitalize the body. Refresh the spirit.*

Page 160 of 564



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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: Outlook-u1dkzq0j.png

Last Modified: Fri Sep 01 12:35:17 CDT 2023

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Outlook-u1dkzgg0j.png fo

Printed Item: 80 ( Attachm

2 of 2)

Page 162 of 564



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From:

[REDACTED]

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<brcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Cc:

Bcc:

Subject: Continue the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board as is

Date: Fri Sep 01 2023 13:21:08 CDT

Attachments:

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Dear Boards and Commissions Review Committee,

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

I have worked with over 30 nonprofit and government organization in Story County that have benefitted from the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service resources including Americorps funding and certification as Service Enterprises to better engage volunteers. I personally have seen this Commission's resources and people save Iowan's huge amount of money and improve quality of life in many ways.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.



---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Fri Sep 01 2023 13:24:35 CDT  
Attachments:

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To whom it may concern,

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

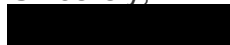
Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to after-school programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Numerous organizations in the Cedar Rapids area benefit from the work of Americorps volunteers, helping to ensure food access, integrate immigrants into the workforce, fight homelessness, and many other invaluable initiatives that help strengthen Iowa.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature.

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Request to speak at 9/6 public hearing  
Date: Fri Sep 01 2023 14:10:16 CDT  
Attachments:

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Good afternoon,

My name is [REDACTED]. I am writing to ask for the opportunity to be a registered speaker for the public input hearing on the BCRC's initial recommendations, which I understand is taking place at the Capitol Building at 12pm on September 6th. I represent only my own personal views on the proposal and do not speak on behalf of any organization or interest group.

I have served 3 terms of AmeriCorps service, including a 2 year engagement as a VISTA Leader which was why I moved to Iowa. Volunteer service and the unfettered generosity I've come to associate with the people of Iowa are why I and countless colleagues fell in love with this state, and I believe my unique experience makes me particularly qualified to speak to the value of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service and several other entities whose futures are being called into question under the proposals in question.

It would be an immense honor to share my perspective with this Committee and the many people who are closely watching the development and review of these recommendations. At your earliest convenience, please confirm whether I've been accepted as a speaker or if I need to elaborate on my qualifications to speak on this subject in order to meet the standard for selection. If I am not selected as a speaker, I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to send my complete opinion on the matter via a subsequent email and have every intention of doing so.

I sincerely appreciate your time and open-mindedness in reading this message. The decision before us is something that I hope all involved consider with the utmost care.

[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Protect the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Fri Sep 01 2023 15:00:26 CDT  
Attachments:

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Hello,

I am writing to ask that you please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

I work with Table to Table, a local food rescue non-profit in Johnson County. Seven of the 10



AmeriCorps members who have served at Table to Table since the summer of 2020 have been facilitated by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service. Our access to this program has had significant economic impacts for our community. Through these service members, 2.2 million dollars worth of food has gone to lowans instead of being wasted. Without their support we would not have had the capacity to seek new food donations during supply chain disruption, develop our gleaning and local foods program, and train and recruit new volunteers. Our state needs the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service to continue to support critical economic development and community action throughout the state. Any short term cost savings from eliminating this commission will have far-reaching negative impacts on the health and economic strength of communities across Iowa.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Thank you.

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From:

To:

bcrccomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Cc:

Bcc:

Subject: Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service Board

Date: Fri Sep 01 2023 15:05:06 CDT

Attachments:

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Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

I have personally seen the impact that RSVP has had on our community in the Cedar Valley. They are providing free tax preparation services to make sure everyone, especially low-income individuals, are paying the correct amount of taxes or receiving a tax refund that can be very beneficial to meeting their needs. I have seen children's reading scores improve throughout the school year to get them back on track to the appropriate reading levels through our local Reading Buddies programs. And I know that we have volunteers on stand-by to help our



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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Request to speak Sept 6th  
Date: Fri Sep 01 2023 15:14:34 CDT  
Attachments:

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Good afternoon,  
I would like to speak on behalf of YSS, a youth-serving nonprofit in central and northern Iowa. Our mission is to create hope and opportunity by putting kids first and we have programs impacted by these changes across the children's behavioral health system, homelessness, mentoring, and more. We are not opposed to updates to the Boards and Commissions in general, and we appreciate the opportunity to offer our perspective on ways to serve youth in Iowa.

Do you have a slot left such that I could make public comments?

Thank you again for the opportunity to participate in this important review process.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | W: [www.yss.org](http://www.yss.org)

Connect with us on Facebook | Twitter | Instagram

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Reconsider Board Elimination  
Date: Fri Sep 01 2023 16:28:06 CDT  
Attachments:

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Eliminating the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board would be decidedly short-sighted.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state. Please don't eliminate this Board.

[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED] <BCRCcomments@iowa.gov>  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Please PRESERVE Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Fri Sep 01 2023 16:49:16 CDT  
Attachments:

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Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds.

I volunteer weekly at the local Community Food Bank here in Iowa City. AmeriCorps participants are vital to this program.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Feedback on the Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee  
Date: Fri Sep 01 2023 17:15:05 CDT  
Attachments:

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Dear Governor Reynolds:

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to after school programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.



Sincerely, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service proposed elimination  
Date: Fri Sep 01 2023 17:32:17 CDT  
Attachments:

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ARE YOU KIDDING ME?!?

Last year Governor Reynolds shook my hand and congratulated me for 15 years of volunteering for Table to Table in Iowa City. I was so impressed with how the state seemed to value its volunteers.

The volunteering I do is essential to me for my feeling of self worth and more importantly to the needs of this community. The Americorps Volunteers that I work with are critical to keeping the Iowa City food pantry (CommUnity) and the organizations that fuel it (Table to Table) going.

We need the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service to continue what it has been doing so we can have these valuable Americorps Volunteers coming to Iowa.

The Americorps experience is extremely valuable to these young people.

If you eliminate the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service you are sending a terrible message to the world about Iowa.

Thank you for your consideration.

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Fri Sep 01 2023 17:42:15 CDT  
Attachments:

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Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

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Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

[REDACTED]

Iowa City

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Fri Sep 01 2023 18:29:46 CDT  
Attachments:

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Hello,

As an annual financial supporter of Table to Table I write the following request...

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

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Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

,

Sent from my iPhone

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From:

[REDACTED]

To:

bcrccomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Cc:

Bcc:

Subject: Public Comment: SIYAC Committee Meeting Wednesday, September 6th

Date: Fri Sep 01 2023 18:33:13 CDT

Attachments:

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I would like to sign up to speak on behalf of SIYAC as a member at the Committee meeting on Wednesday, September 6th at noon.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Public comment registration Wednesday, Sept. 6 Hearing On SIYAC Speaking  
Date: Fri Sep 01 2023 19:03:11 CDT  
Attachments:

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Hello!

My name is [REDACTED] and I am one of the youth SIYAC representatives requesting to speak Wednesday, September 6th at the Iowa State Capitol on the issue of recommendations to SIYAC to merge with another adult committee within the department of Health and Human Services.

I would like to register to speak on behalf of SIYAC and as an individual on the issue.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]



---

From: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
To: BCRCComments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Save Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service!  
Date: Fri Sep 01 2023 20:58:56 CDT  
Attachments:

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To Whom It May Concern,

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued

funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Fri Sep 01 2023 23:30:35 CDT  
Attachments:

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Dear Boards and Commissions Review Committee,

I support the general consolidation of overlapping or bloated boards and commissions as the state works to become more efficient and effective.

However, I would like to object most clearly to the proposed elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service and related projects like Volunteer Iowa.

You probably will receive several emails with the following prepared statement, but I would like to add my own thoughts to these below. Feel free to skip what you've already read from the consortium of nonprofits in Iowa impacted by this potential hammer, and read my personal reasons below this paragraph:

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

I agree with the above information. I have co-sponsored 9/11 Day activities, have worked with county emergency agencies multiple times on disaster relief, have collaborated with the Red Cross on installing thousands of smoke alarms in Iowan homes, serve as a board treasurer for a community foundation, help organize blood drives, rally volunteers for various events, and more. I have direct and regular connection with nonprofits who work tirelessly all year to serve the most vulnerable, but also to improve our communities through the arts and other programs. I am NOT employed by any nonprofit. I work strictly as a volunteer and encourage others to volunteer. I am a recipient of a governor's volunteer award. I am therefore reasonably qualified to speak to this matter.

Iowa has one of the highest volunteer rates in the country, and that comes partly from our state government taking volunteerism seriously. To get rid of a state board devoted to volunteerism, to risk the loss of important funds and access to steady Americorps volunteers, and to push the concept of volunteering from the state radar would invariably hurt far more than the nonprofits who need the funding, access, and recognition that could be lost. It could hurt faith-based groups who support nonprofits or who engage in volunteerism. It will hurt the vulnerable. It could reduce volunteerism in the state, which I believe would harm social cohesion and mutual understanding.

I personally think the commission needs to be revised, restaffed, and restarted. But it certainly should NOT be eliminated. I would welcome a chance to share ideas on reforming the commission, if that would have any value, but I mostly want to write to urge you to reconsider getting rid of a valuable part of our state government.

Thank you for your consideration,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area of the letter.

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Volunteer Iowa  
Date: Sat Sep 02 2023 07:54:10 CDT  
Attachments:

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Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in Iowa.

In Johnson County, Table to Table rescues millions of pounds of food that would otherwise be thrown away and redistributes it to neighbors. Our program depends on AmeriCorps volunteers to achieve this mission, and those volunteers are provided through Volunteer Iowa.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Table to Table

Sent from my iPhone

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<brcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Sat Sep 02 2023 10:05:27 CDT  
Attachments:

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To whom it may concern,

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

I worked at Volunteer Iowa a few years ago and in my time there learned just how much of an impact their work and coordination has for our communities. Losing ICVS would have a major and lasting impact across the State.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.



---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject:  
Date: Sat Sep 02 2023 11:47:38 CDT  
Attachments:

---

To Whom It May Concern,

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination, which would have a negative impact on the nonprofit community across the state.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards, for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service..

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of important community needs including, but not limited to, after-school programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

[REDACTED]



---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board  
Date: Sat Sep 02 2023 13:28:56 CDT  
Attachments:

---

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

I cannot believe you would want to pass on the funding for these programs vital to Iowans. But, sadly, seeing what has already happened in Iowa these last few years, nothing is beyond belief when it comes to the current lawmakers' war on the poor, the hungry, and so many others who have been victimized.



---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Volunteer Iowa  
Date: Sat Sep 02 2023 17:33:08 CDT  
Attachments:

---

To Whom It My Concern,

My name is [REDACTED]. I was an Americorps member for Volunteer Iowa in 2015. I am writing because I was recently advised that Volunteer Iowa is in danger of elimination.

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to after school programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa

Thank you for your time.

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Sun Sep 03 2023 11:16:12 CDT  
Attachments:

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To whom it may concern,  
My name is [REDACTED] and I am a founder of a Des Moines based non-profit, a city council member, and a past Commissioner for the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service. I currently work in the nonprofit sphere as a consultant to many organizations that survive with the service of AmeriCorps members.  
The nonprofit I founded got established with the help of an AmeriCorps program, which helped us leverage over \$500k to engage young people in the community. While this helped our nonprofit become sustainable, it also allowed us to mentor young people, who have went on to do great work in our community.  
While there are challenges to AmeriCorps implementation, this is a federal program that we desperately need in our state, particularly at a time when state funding for proactive services and supports for young people and our communities are quickly disappearing.  
I urge you to understand why Boards and Commissions exist and understand the impact of removing such entities. I strong urge you to keep the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service intact.

Sincerely,  
[REDACTED]  
Urbandale City Council

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board...  
Date: Sun Sep 03 2023 14:01:48 CDT  
Attachments:

---

Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee:

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with the federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

More than half of the 13 AmeriCorps members who have served at Table to Table since the summer of 2020 have been facilitated by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service, which is now proposed for elimination based on the Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee's preliminary recommendations for restructuring.



Our access to this program has had significant economic impacts for our community. Through these service members, 2.2 million dollars worth of food has gone to lowans instead of being wasted. Without their support we would not have had the capacity to seek new food donations during supply chain disruption, develop our gleaning and local foods program, train and recruit volunteers, and secure additional grant funding that directly supported increased food recovery capacity. Any short term cost savings from eliminating this commission will have far-reaching negative impacts on the health and economic strength of communities across Iowa.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Sun Sep 03 2023 14:08:39 CDT  
Attachments:

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On August 29, the Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee released its preliminary recommendations to reform Iowa's board and commissions. As part of the recommendations, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service is proposed for elimination.

Per federal statute, states are required to have a board of commissioners to receive formula AmeriCorps State funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board will jeopardize the federal funding for all the programs currently administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service. Eliminating the commission would have a devastating impact on Iowa's nonprofit community.

Sent from my iPhone

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From:

[REDACTED]

To:

bcrccomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Cc:

Bcc:

Subject: Comment

Date: Sun Sep 03 2023 19:49:47 CDT

Attachments:

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To whom it may concern,

Do not change anything about the Deaf Services Commission of Iowa, nor the Interpreter/Transliterator Licensure Board.

[REDACTED], long time Iowa Resident and Iowa worker.

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Deaf Services Commission of Iowa  
Date: Mon Sep 04 2023 06:10:05 CDT  
Attachments:

---

To whom it may concern,

Please keep the Deaf Services Commission of Iowa and the Interpreter/Transliterators  
Licensure Board

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Mon Sep 04 2023 08:08:31 CDT  
Attachments:

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-Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Boards and commission review  
Date: Mon Sep 04 2023 08:15:25 CDT  
Attachments:

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Hello,

I am a student at Scott community College in bettendorf. I am about to graduate to become a licensed interpreter for the Deaf. If the Deaf services or board of licensure for interpretators is affected by this I will lose almost everything I've been working towards. Please please do not cut these boards.

[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Preserve the Deaf Services Commission of Iowa and the Board of Licensure  
for Sign Language Interpreters and Translitterators  
Date: Mon Sep 04 2023 09:20:08 CDT  
Attachments:

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I write to urge the State of Iowa to preserve its governmental agencies that serve deaf people in Iowa.

As a rabbi, I see issues through a theological lens. Deaf and Hard of Hearing people are in fact people, equally created in the image of God. Our scriptures, including the Holiness Code, exhort us to offer special protections as needed to people who are Deaf. We need the Commission to ensure that our government is always mindful of the special needs of those who are deaf or hard of hearing, and we need the Board of Licensure to ensure that those who provide interpreting services are competent and ethical in providing these essential services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to interact with the hearing world. God forbid that we should make Iowa a state that cannot provide a suitable home for families with members who are deaf!

But one need not look at this through religious eyes to see that providing services that allow Deaf and Hard of Hearing people to educate themselves to their greatest capacity and to interact with the hearing world well is simply the right thing to do, both morally and practically. Why should we be so cruel as to cut off Deaf people from the rest of our Iowan people? Why would we be so shortsighted as to waste the intelligence and talents and skills of passions of those Iowans who are deaf or hard of hearing?

Please, please, preserve the Deaf Services and Commission and the Board of Licensure for Sign Language Interpreters and Translitterators.

Thank you for your consideration.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



---

From: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<brcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Mon Sep 04 2023 11:43:45 CDT  
Attachments:

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Dear Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee,

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Since May 2020, I have managed a statewide AmeriCorps program partnering with local organizations responding to the increased need due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During that time, our program has placed more than 200 AmeriCorps members at 50 organizations in 25 Iowa communities. Members have focused on food insecurity, resource navigation, and volunteer recruitment and management, among other pressing community needs. Collectively, these

members have provided more than 110,000 hours of service to support fellow lowans. While the effects of the pandemic have changed since the initial launch, the need for people power to support local initiatives has not. This substantial impact would not have been possible without the funding and programmatic support from the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Sincerely,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Mon Sep 04 2023 11:47:21 CDT  
Attachments: image001.jpg

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Dear State of Iowa Contact, I am deeply disappointed to hear that the Iowa Commission on Volunteer service is on the list of programs that are recommended for elimination. Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to summer programming, afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state and are important to creating good citizens. General Stanley McChrystal recently spoke about the importance of public service (Sunday Morning Value of National Service ) and he calls for an expansion of opportunities like AmeriCorps because these opportunities help young Americans work together to create community and instill the value of public service.

The Grinnell community has partnered in an initiative called the Grinnell Education Partnership, a National Campaign for Grade Level Reading project, for the last nine years. This community wide program focuses on ensuring that all children are reading at grade level by the third grade which is a predictor of high school graduation. GEP's direct service initiatives like after school and summer initiatives have benefitted from AmeriCorps members being placed in their program to build capacity. The Grinnell Education Partnership has hosted 202 AmeriCorps members since the program began nine years ago and more than 8,000 youth have participated in GEP activities supported by AmeriCorps members. The AmeriCorps members have had a profound impact on the GEP program and have served many children with literacy

and other supports.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] - Greater Poweshiek Community Foundation

PO Box 344 (mailing address)

1510 Penrose Street (physical address)

Grinnell, Iowa 50112

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image001.jpg

Last Modified: Mon Sep 04 11:47:21 CDT 2023

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image001.jpg for Pri  
Item: 111 (Attachme  
of 1)



Page 211 of 564

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: [REDACTED] Registering to Speak Wednesday at 12pm  
Date: Mon Sep 04 2023 13:48:50 CDT  
Attachments:

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Greetings,

I am [REDACTED] a new member of the State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council and I would like to register to speak at the capital on Wednesday the 6th at 12pm.

Thank You,  
[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Volunteers  
Date: Mon Sep 04 2023 14:09:25 CDT  
Attachments:

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I am a long-time community volunteer for Table to Table, a food rescue program in Johnson county.

Table to Table has been blessed with the help of Americorp volunteers, More than half of the 13 AmeriCorps members who have served at Table to Table since the summer of 2020 have been facilitated by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service, which is now proposed for elimination based on the Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee's preliminary recommendations for restructuring.

Our access to this program has had significant economic impacts for our community. Through these service members, 2.2 million dollars worth of food has gone to lowans instead of being wasted. Without their support we would not have had the capacity to seek new food donations during supply chain disruption, develop our gleaning and local foods program, train and recruit volunteers, and secure additional grant funding that directly supported increased food recovery capacity.

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of



not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of other critical community needs including but not limited to after school programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state, not just our county.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Thank you.

[Redacted signature block]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Do not eliminate the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Mon Sep 04 2023 15:02:38 CDT  
Attachments:

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September 4, 2023

Governor Reynolds

Lt. Governor Gregg

Boards and Commissions Review Committee

As we celebrate the holiday to honor all who have labored throughout history to build the United States into the world's premier country let us not lose sight of the millions of people who have served in myriad volunteer roles. Think about where we would be today without the efforts of volunteers.

With this in mind please take the necessary measures to ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) continues to operate as is. Eliminating it, as is being recommended, would create a devastating impact on the nonprofit community across Iowa. The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Please note, without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be compliant with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities; it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP.

I have volunteered with Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity (IVHFH) in various capacities since 1998 including six years on their board of directors (two years as president). Since 1992 IVHFH has built more than 150 houses for families who were living in substandard/poverty housing in Johnson, Iowa, Cedar, Louisa, or Washington county. As homeowners these families now pay property taxes and mortgages, just as traditional homeowners do. IVHFH has also renovated dozens of houses. The first 42 houses were built entirely with volunteer labor; the remaining 100+ houses have been built by AmeriCorps personnel and thousands of area volunteers under the supervision of paid professional construction managers.

During my time with IVHFH I have been blessed to work with more than 35 highly qualified and talented AmeriCorps volunteers. Without their efforts IVHFH would be significantly less effective in its mission to eliminate poverty housing in its 5-county service area. Scott Hawes, IVHFH's current executive director, came to IVHFH as an AmeriCorps volunteer and has risen through the ranks to become its leader.

The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities. Today more than ever Iowa needs more (not less) people to serve as mentors for our youth. I see this need first-hand. For thirty-two years I have served as a big brother. I am currently a big brother to a 12-year-old who has never met his father. Five and a half years ago when I was matched with my little brother via Big Brothers Big Sisters of Johnson County he was an angry young man. Now as a leader at school, at church, and in athletics he is a positive role model for his peers. More than 100 youth in Johnson County are awaiting a mentor (big brother or big sister) because a parent or guardian took the initiative to enroll them in the Big Brother Big Sister program. Hundreds of additional youths have similar needs but have not yet been enrolled into a mentorship program. Please do not let mentorship programs go unfunded.

Thank you for your attention to and consideration of my plea for retention of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service.

Sincerely,

██████████

██████████

██████████ Volunteer Iowa

Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame, 2023 Inductee

Coralville

██████████

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Deaf Services Commission of Iowa  
Date: Mon Sep 04 2023 15:05:56 CDT  
Attachments:

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To whom it may concern,

Do not change anything about the Deaf Services Commission of Iowa, nor the Interpreter/Transliterators Licensure Board.

- [REDACTED], a supporter of deaf rights

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Preserve the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service & Provide Detail on  
Other Changes  
Date: Mon Sep 04 2023 15:13:22 CDT  
Attachments:

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Hello,

I am writing to provide my written public comment on the report released by the Boards and Commissions Review Committee, specifically the recommendations to eliminate the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service and to consolidate/merge the Board of Social Work.

First, I would like to say that the general nature of this committee's work and initial report leaves many questions for Iowa citizens about what exactly is being recommended, why, and whether or not meaningful input from the public will be considered. The report that was released contains no details on the proposed changes and gives little time for the public to participate in the hearing, with short notice. Given that some seemingly drastic changes are being proposed, I would have hoped that the group would have taken more time to gather broader input from the public and then provided more detail in the initial report about why each board/commission is recommended for a change and what impact the committee expects that would have. I especially have concerns about the recommendation to eliminate the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service and to merge or consolidate the Board of Social Work.

In a news article that I read about the recommendations made, Kraig Paulsen was quoted as saying that during their review, the committee applied the standards of: "Is it making an impact for Iowans and is it doing what it's supposed to do?" After serving in an Iowa AmeriCorps program that was granted federal funding from the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service and then working as a staff member for that same commission for nearly fourteen years, I can definitively state that the commission has an incredible impact in the state and is exceeding at doing its job, as it is supposed to do it. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service is responsible for distributing millions of dollars in federal AmeriCorps funding to local government and nonprofit agencies, who then enroll AmeriCorps members in programs that provide meaningful services to Iowans. Organizations such as Habitat for Humanity and Iowa Legal Aid, local governments such as the City of Davenport and City of Dubuque, and educational institutions such as Hawkeye Community College and all three regents institutions operate AmeriCorps programs with funding that comes through the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service. As a part of these programs, hundreds of Iowans receive services from AmeriCorps members, and those members in turn earn an education award that they can use to further their skills. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service is regularly recognized as an outstanding commission, and its work is recognized nationally as an example for other states to follow. The commission was one of only a handful of state service commissions to receive

challenge grant funding from the Schultz Family Foundation, for example, and commission staff and board members have been asked to participate in consulting visits at other commissions and present at national training events. The commission's board has a key role in directing the agency's work and the make-up of the board members is clearly outlined in federal law. Iowa must have a commission in order to receive certain AmeriCorps funding, so eliminating the board would eliminate this funding, hurting both the lowans who want to serve their state by becoming AmeriCorps members and the community members who would benefit from the services provided. I see absolutely no reason to eliminate the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service and urge you to retain the commission as is.

Secondly, I ask the group to reconsider the recommendation to merge or consolidate the Board of Social Work. I am a licensed social worker in Iowa and therefore subject to oversight by this board. An important part of maintaining professional standards for social workers and other licensed professionals is having a board that can review allegations of improper practice and apply sanctions as needed. It is unclear from the report what other boards are recommended to be consolidated along with the Board of Social Work, but I would urge the committee to think carefully about what the impact of a merged board would mean, both for the individuals asked to serve on the merged board and for the public that counts on these boards to help govern the practice of the professionals who provide them services. Will members of a merged board have the knowledge necessary to review concerns that are brought to them about various professions? And will such a board have a reasonable workload such that members of the public can reasonably participate, and have the time to review materials and prepare for each meeting?

Finally, I would like to address the recommendations the committee provided about removing the "arbitrary" gender requirement and providing compensation for members of "critical" boards and committees. I don't see anything arbitrary about requiring gender balance on state boards and commissions. There are good reasons to ensure that both male and female perspectives are represented on boards and commissions, just as we look for boards to be balanced by political party. When I worked with the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service, we had trouble recruiting male board members. Clearly men are involved in volunteering and service, but having the gender balance requirement ensured that their perspective was included in our commission board. Gender balance can make a meaningful difference, such as getting male input on how to recruit more male mentors, because having a mentor of the same gender can be very meaningful for young boys. The fact that multiple boards and commissions struggle to meet the gender balance requirement is a sign that it is still needed. Service on boards and commissions can also be a gateway to future public service. We are nowhere near a 50/50 gender balance in our state legislature, maybe once that is the case then a recommendation can be made that we no longer need this requirement.

I do support providing opportunities for commission and board members to be compensated for their time but I would apply different criteria than what I think the committee is proposing. When I worked for the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service, our commission board wanted to look at its own demographics and understand how they were or were not representing the population of Iowa as a whole. The commission board members completed an anonymous demographic survey and over several years, found that while they were fairly representative of the Iowa population in terms of race/ethnicity, family size, and disability status, the board membership was significantly more educated and wealthier than the average lowan. Participating in a board or commission that meets during the work day and holds meetings that may last half a day or more is something that many low-income lowans cannot do. While we could reimburse commissioners for travel costs to and from the meeting, we could not pay

commissioners for their time, and that meant that it was easier for upper income professionals to serve than it was for lower-income individuals who may have had to take time off work in order to participate. Therefore, I think that compensation should be available to any board/commission member under certain income thresholds as a way to make sure that all lowans can serve on boards and commissions, not just those who can afford to do so. That also may mean it is better to keep multiple boards whose work is broken up into smaller categories so that the burden or participation is one that can be reasonably completed by a volunteer on a part-time basis, instead of consolidating multiple boards such that being a board member becomes a full time (unpaid) responsibility.

Thank you for considering these written comments. I would love to speak publicly at the hearing but unfortunately I am unable to take time off from my job in order to be there. Should any clarifications to my comments be needed, I have included my contact information below.

Sincerely,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]



---

From:

[REDACTED]

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Cc:

Bcc:

Subject:

Date: Mon Sep 04 2023 16:39:12 CDT

Attachments:

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To whom it may concern,

Please do not change anything about the Deaf Services Commission of Iowa, nor the Interpreter/Transliterators Licensure Board.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED] a supporter of deaf rights

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

---

From: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Please retain Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Mon Sep 04 2023 17:59:04 CDT  
Attachments:

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Dear Iowa Boards & Commissions Review Committee,

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Take care,



I help organizations & individuals share their expertise & ideas

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCComments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Mon Sep 04 2023 18:26:43 CDT  
Attachments:

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Dear Commissioners,

As a volunteer for Table to Table in Iowa City for the past 10 years, I've witnessed the valuable service of AmeriCorp workers in advancing the rescue and distribution of food to people in need. For this program and the many others in the State of Iowa which have benefitted from the 14.3 million federal dollars of funding distributed throughout the state, I implore you to continue to fund the Commission on Volunteer Service for the valuable contributions made to many communities by access to these funds. The needs met through this process cannot be replaced without this support.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<brcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: volunteer programs  
Date: Mon Sep 04 2023 18:27:24 CDT  
Attachments:

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Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service Board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination, which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with the federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa, totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service, including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa which makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs, including but not limited to after-school programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

In Wapello County, Volunteer Iowa supports literacy tutors in local schools, volunteers working in education, housing, and hunger, and programs to prevent child abuse. At United Way this year, this support allowed us to engage over 1,000 volunteers who served over 9,000 hours with local programs. Those volunteers spent 1,180 hours packaging and delivering food, provided free tax services to 653 low-income households, and worked with 145 elementary students.

I have had the honor to volunteer through the United Way of Wapello County for the past several years. I have helped with the packaging and delivering food, with the Food Pantry

garden, writing letters with 3rd grade pen pals, VITA program, Day of Caring, delivering lunches to school children during the pandemic and several other events. These programs are so critical to the residents of Wapello County of all ages. I cannot fathom the negative impact the loss of these programs would create for many people. The loss would be devastating.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Mon Sep 04 2023 20:40:45 CDT  
Attachments:

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I am a former AmeriCorps Senior Director, past president of the AmeriCorps Seniors Professional Network, (ASPN) and Currently serve as the administrator of the ASPN Leadership Academy. I live in Fort Dodge.

I am deeply concerned that the proposal to eliminate the board of commissioners for Volunteer Iowa will have devastating results and will essentially close the agency and rob Iowans of the important service provided by AmeriCorps members in our state because we will no longer qualify for federal funding for these important programs. This loss will also impact college students who are able to earn education awards by committing to national service.

Per federal statute, states are required to have a board of commissioners to receive formula AmeriCorps State funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board will jeopardize the federal funding for all the programs currently administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service. Eliminating the commission is short-sighted and ill-informed.

I strongly urge that decision makers reconsider this action in order to protect Iowa's non-profit community and avoid the loss of federal investment in our state.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Keep DSCI  
Date: Mon Sep 04 2023 21:03:30 CDT  
Attachments:

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Hi,

We need to keep Deaf Services Commission for the State of Iowa. We have Commissioners are working to make changes in positive ways for the Deaf Community in Iowa and for our State. Many goals that the Commissioners are actively working on now. We need to keep them that way to continue helping improving Deaf Community in Iowa and accessibility. Thanks!

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone



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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Public Comments on Boards and Commissions  
Date: Mon Sep 04 2023 22:25:57 CDT  
Attachments: image001.png

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Hello,

My name is [REDACTED]. I am requesting to present comments on behalf of NAMI Iowa regarding the Iowa Children's Behavioral Health State System Board at the meeting on September 6. I will also submit written comments prior to the meeting.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] NAMI Iowa

3839 Merle Hay Road, Suite 229, Des Moines, IA 50310

[REDACTED]

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image001.png

Last Modified: Mon Sep 04 22:25:57 CDT 2023

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image001.png for Printed Item: 124 ( Attachment 1 of 1)



**NAMAMI**

**National Alliance on Mental Illness**

**Iowa**

Page 232 of 564

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board  
Date: Mon Sep 04 2023 22:56:47 CDT  
Attachments:

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Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

My name is [REDACTED], I am a student at Upper Iowa University studying conservation management. I worked as a paid volunteer for the Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa (CCMI) in the summer of 2022. The experience was nothing short of lifechanging for me. I worked hard on various projects from dealing with invasive plant species to watershed management. These vital conservation projects could not have been completed without the help of volunteers from CCMI. I concluded my term at CCMI with greater knowledge and technical skills to further my career in environmental stewardship, as well as the money to continue my higher education. This experience could not have happened without AmeriCorps funding, and by extension the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service Board.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

This electronic message, including any attachments, is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed, and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you received this electronic communication in error, please contact the sender immediately and destroy this electronic communication in its entirety. Email sent to or from Upper Iowa University may be retained as required by law or regulation. Thank you for your cooperation.

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From: [REDACTED] n  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Iowa commission on volunteer service board  
Date: Mon Sep 04 2023 23:05:18 CDT  
Attachments:

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Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

My community would be devastated without funding for operation threshold in my community. I personally have used their services for car insurance to a new furnace, both of which I would have had to go without if it wasn't for them.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Elimination of boards and commissions  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 08:24:54 CDT  
Attachments:

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Good morning:

I serve as the vice chairperson of the Early Childhood Iowa State Board. We appreciate the confidence of this group in maintaining our Board in its current format.

Personally I am concerned about the reduction in boards and commissions in that this greatly reduces the voice of our citizens in our state government. Serving on a board allows everyday Iowans an opportunity to use their voices and expertise to help better our state services. It gives them opportunities to practice leadership and develop skills that may lead to future roles.

Perhaps a better strategy would be to “stack” these boards to report to other boards, as subcommittees? This could reduce the numbers reporting directly to department heads while still ensuring input from those with knowledge and experience.

The ECI State Board greatly appreciates the leadership and expertise provided by the ECI Stakeholders Alliance, the Child Development Coordinating Council, and the State Child Care Advisory Committee. We must ensure their voices still can be heard and their recommendations implemented.

[REDACTED]

---

From:

To:

[REDACTED]  
BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Cc:

[REDACTED]  
Subject:

Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service Board  
[REDACTED]

---

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]





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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 09:12:22 CDT  
Attachments:

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Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Please Note! We have moved to our new location in the Kirkwood Linn County Regional Center located on Boyson Road.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/linn/>

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Retain Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 09:16:11 CDT  
Attachments:

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Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

AmeriCorps service has supported local and state preparedness and response. These individuals assist local non profit and governmental agencies. We need the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service to continue the AmeriCorps program as well as other volunteer opportunities in our state.

Thank you for your time,  
[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<brcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Retain AmeriCorps State Funding  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 09:19:43 CDT  
Attachments:

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Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Without the support of Volunteer Iowa, our Summer Program would not be able to offer the children in our community the safe, engaging, and affordable programming desperately needed for our families. This past summer, 18% of our population included families on our sliding fee scale or child care assistance. Over 10% of our children this past summer were special needs/neurodivergent. We have become a safe, inclusive space for all children because of the support Volunteer Iowa provides. To lose this support would be a critical loss for these children and our program.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and

countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

LINK office: 641-888-0661

[REDACTED]

[www.linkgrinnell.org](http://www.linkgrinnell.org)

---

From: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<brcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (Volunteer Iowa)  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 09:24:30 CDT  
Attachments:

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Dear Members of the Iowa Boards and Commission Review Committee,

I am deeply disappointed to hear that the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service is on the list of programs currently recommended for elimination. Please reconsider this recommendation, and ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is, to perform vital operations across our state.

Without a commission board, the State of Iowa will not be in compliance with a federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds.

The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, but it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including, but not limited to, the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA, and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa, which makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including, but not limited to, summer programming, afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

The Grinnell community has collaborated through an initiative called the Grinnell Education Partnership (GEP), a National Campaign for Grade Level Reading project, for the last nine years. This community-wide program focuses on ensuring that all children are reading at grade level by the third grade, which is a predictor of high school graduation. GEP's direct service initiatives, including after school and summer initiatives, have benefitted from AmeriCorps members being placed in their program to build capacity. The Grinnell Education Partnership has hosted 202 AmeriCorps members since the program began nine years ago and more than 8,000 youth have participated in GEP activities supported by AmeriCorps members. The AmeriCorps members have had a profound impact on the GEP program and have served many children through literacy and other educational and emotional supports.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service Board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Thank you.

Kind Regards,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]



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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Retain Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 09:57:28 CDT  
Attachments: image001.png

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To whom it may concern,

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

United Way of East Central Iowa (UWECI) is a recipient of these grants and promotes volunteerism within the counties it serves of Linn, Jones, Cedar, Benton and Iowa counties. These actions allow us to connect rural and urban Iowa with their communities, allowing for Iowans to have a better sense of community and connection to where they live. The beauty is

each county lives out this volunteering in their own unique ways that speak to the communities they live in.

For example, the last few years UWECI has partnered with the Arc of East Central Iowa to create opportunities for local Iowans to participate in the 9/11 Day of Service through the federal grant. We have had exceptional support from local businesses leaving volunteers and employers better prepared for natural and man-made disasters and feeling better about the community they live in. In return, we have distributed 1,000's of disaster preparedness kits to elderly Iowans, Iowans with disabilities, and those with lower socio-economic status. While this may seem small in scope, for those who lived through 2020, particularly the derecho that devastated Linn County, these kits help in ways beyond measure.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

[Redacted title]

United Way of East Central Iowa

[Redacted address line 1]

[Redacted address line 2]

[Redacted address line 3]

[uweci.org](http://uweci.org)



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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image001.png

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 09:57:28 CDT 2023

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United Way

image001.

for Printe

Item: 134

of 564

Attachment

of East Central Area

1)

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From:

[Redacted]

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Cc:

Bcc:

Subject: Volunteer Iowa Commissioners

Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 10:04:44 CDT

Attachments:

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<brcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Keep Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service Board  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 10:10:19 CDT  
Attachments:

---

Sorry about that, I hit send before getting my message in. As a former AmeriCorps VISTA in Iowa, and someone who cares about the development of our local communities, and values the role non-profits play in delivering critical services, please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Congenital and Inherited Disorders Advisory Committee  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 10:11:27 CDT  
Attachments:

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To Whom it May Concern:

I am deeply concerned with the recommendation that the Congenital and Inherited Disorders Advisory Committee be consolidated or merged. As a long-term, volunteer member of this advisory committee, I can attest to the high level of workload this committee currently faces, which will only continue to grow rapidly in the next few years. Consolidating or merging this committee would decrease this committee's ability to make decisions and recommendations in a timely manner and to be a place to hear and address the concerns of parents and families in Iowa.

Specifically, this committee 1) listens to families and patients about their health care needs and concerns and seeks to identify effective, meaningful, and cost-effective solutions to support their health and to protect the health of families like them in the future, 2) makes decisions about suitable, ethical, and reasonable research activities that will advance the health of individuals with congenital and inherited disorders in Iowa, and 3) makes decisions about Iowa's Newborn Screening Panel and holds the Newborn Screening Program accountable to the people of Iowa.

Importantly, this committee, and its responsibilities, are written explicitly in Iowa code (641—4.3(136A); <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/iac/rule/641.4.3.pdf>). Merging or consolidating this committee may require a revision to Iowa code.

In summary, I am opposed to the consolidation or merging of the Congenital and Inherited Disorders Advisory Committee because doing so will decrease parent and family involvement in decision-making, will slow down decision-making processes, and will decrease the state's ability to support the health of its most vulnerable and youngest population.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have additional questions.

[REDACTED]





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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 10:13:05 CDT  
Attachments:

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September 5, 2023

Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee:

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service Board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) was preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Volunteer Iowa provides a lifeline for millions of Iowans throughout the entire state. I have worked with Volunteer Iowa for the past 25 years in many different efforts – Service Learning, AmeriCorps Youth Launch, RSVP of Southern Iowa, Volunteer Generation and many short term programs. I live in Decatur County which usually ranks 99th in the per capita income but we are a county rich in volunteers supported by Volunteer Iowa. They have given us guidance, support, and assistance in grant writing that has brought millions of dollars into our county over these years. As I look at all the Iowans served by Volunteer Iowa – disabled, those living in poverty, elderly in nursing homes who can be penpals for elementary students, and individuals from all walks of life – volunteerism gives each a reason to live and to stay in Iowa. This organization is not comparable to other cuts suggested in the list – they serve ALL Iowans in ways that will not happen if the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service does not exist. Iowans would lose programs, dollars, and even the reason to live for some Iowans. As a member of the Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame, my efforts to support my fellow Iowans started because of Volunteer Iowa and continue to impact many with their support and guidance.

We need the Commission on Volunteer Service and Volunteer Iowa!! Iowans need Volunteer Iowa!!



---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Boards and Commissions  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 10:43:41 CDT  
Attachments:

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Hello,

It is my understanding that you plan to remove 100+ boards and commissions. This affects my friends and loved ones who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. I am concerned that these people will not have the access to do their jobs anymore. Deaf people are working lowans.

Sent from my iPhone

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Bcc:  
Subject: The IMPORTANCE OF the Iowa Commission for Volunteer Service  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 10:57:54 CDT  
Attachments:

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Dear State of Iowa Contact,

I am deeply disappointed to hear that the Iowa Commission on Volunteer service is on the list of programs that are recommended for elimination. Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to summer programming, afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

The Grinnell community has partnered in an initiative called the Grinnell Education Partnership, a National Campaign for Grade Level Reading project, for the last nine years. This community

wide program focuses on ensuring that all children are reading at grade level by the third grade which is a predictor of high school graduation. GEP's direct service initiatives like after school and summer initiatives have benefitted from AmeriCorps members being placed in their program to build capacity. The Grinnell Education Partnership has hosted 202 AmeriCorps members since the program began nine years ago and more than 8,000 youth have participated in GEP activities supported by AmeriCorps members. The AmeriCorps members have had a profound impact on the GEP program and have served many children with literacy and other supports.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Iowa Commission on Volunteers - People First  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 11:25:55 CDT  
Attachments:

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Hello, I write concerning the elimination of a state board to assist with volunteer recruitment, retention and support in Iowa.

Since 2021, I have volunteered at least twice per week at CommUnity Foodbank in Iowa City. Americorp staff help run that necessary place. Many volunteers have not returned since COVID, as they are ill, taking care of grandchildren, or have other interests. By the way, most of the people I see using the foodbank are working families and old people without resources. I am a nurse in the community and see many people I know.

In the Iowa City area, we are lucky to have an organization called Table 2 Table. It is a volunteer group that has grown from a man in a station wagon to a fleet of vans and volunteers to rescue food from area groceries and bring to the Iowa City area foodbanks and free lunch sites. Americorps workers fill many of the positions needed to run Table 2 Table.

I have known a number of people who have been Americorp workers. They are people of character who want to learn, give to the community, and share their talents and energy. It is an excellent opportunity for our younger citizens. I have worked with some amazing Iowans who work with Americorps.

Lack of funding for Americorp, RSVP and other volunteer initiatives is very short-sighted. We have a bulging state emergency fund and there have been so many initiatives to cut state spending - where will it end? Volunteers are the infrastructure of many communities.

Also, as a Registered Nurse I want nurses monitoring the practice of nursing. I realize that Governor Reynolds has no idea of the education and ethics required to be a professional and safe nurse. Please do not mess with the Board of Nursing nor the Iowa Commission Volunteer Service Board.

You can certainly contact me at [REDACTED]. I am a life-long Iowan but have never been more concerned about the status of Democracy and Freedom to Flourish in our state. People first, not corporations.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]





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From: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
To: BCRCComments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Keep the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service Active!  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 11:40:01 CDT  
Attachments: image001.jpg  
image002.jpg

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## We Need Your Help!

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) has been preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, transportation programs, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

In Henry County, RSVP coordinates a medical transportation program that is vital to members of the community. In fact, two Henry County residents could have potentially passed away in

the past year were it not for this transportation program. The program offers medical transportation to disabled and senior individuals. Many of these individuals are shut ins that have no other family in the area. Some rarely have others checking in on them. This year, we had two separate incidents where a person well known to us had scheduled rides, but when their driver arrived, there was no answer at the door. After checking in with us to ensure the appointments had not been cancelled, we called local law enforcement for a welfare check. In the first incident, the individual was found to be septic, nonresponsive, and near death. Fortunately, she has made a full recovery. In the second incident, a woman with cancer was so weak, she couldn't even get out of bed to answer her phone or her door. The officer was able to get her emergency services and even fed her dog for her (which was her greatest concern).

Henry County RSVP works for the greater good of Henry County by engaging those aged 55 or better in volunteer opportunities that benefit our local youth, families, and seniors. Our volunteers work with our local schools in literacy programs, with our local food pantry, our conservation department, and others.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Thank you,

[Redacted signature block]

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/henrycountyrsvp>

Website: <https://thefellowshipcup.org/rsvp/>



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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image001.jpg

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 11:40:01 CDT 2023

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image001.jpg for Printed Item: 143 ( Attachment 1 of 2)

# Henry County RSVP

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Lead With Experience

Page 266 of 564

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image002.jpg

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 11:40:01 CDT 2023

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# American Corps

# Seniors

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<brcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: KEEP the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 11:46:03 CDT  
Attachments:

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To the Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee:

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to after school programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

The Catherine McAuley Center (CMC) is a unique and well established nonprofit in Cedar Rapids. For almost 35 years, CMC has been addressing the plight of women in crisis in our community. CMC began a long standing relationship with AmeriCorps in 2016 as the Center launched additional services for immigrants and refugees, including a Refugee Resettlement Program as an affiliate site of the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants. The Catherine McAuley Center benefits from multiple programs which are currently at stake, including



AmeriCorps VISTA and RSVP. Without these dedicated volunteers, we would not be able to keep up the demand for English classes, computer literacy, citizenship preparation, and help to navigate the new community our clients are now living in. VISTA and RSVP offer critical resources to CMC, which allow us to research and respond to the needs of our community, develop new curriculum, offer more classes, support neighbors working towards self-sufficiency, and much, much more.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

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[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Main: (319) 363-4993

[Redacted]

Follow us on Facebook & Twitter!

1220 5th Ave SE | Cedar Rapids, IA 52403

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Bcc:  
Subject: Read 2 Lead Poweshiek County NFP couldn't do their great work w/o  
Volunteer Iowa & AmeriCorps! Retain Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service Board!  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 12:07:13 CDT  
Attachments:

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Dear Iowa BCR Committee,

PLEASE ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service/Volunteer Iowa is the agency that provides AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps VISTA members in our community. The AmeriCorps members in

our community have deeply impacted the work that our organization, Read2Lead has been able to tackle in regards to supporting Early Childhood literacy.

At Read 2 Lead, our mission is to support the language and literacy development of youth in our community through the provision of books, programs and other supports that foster an inquisitive mind and a love of reading. We wouldn't exist without the partnership in support we have received from AmeriCorps and VISTA members. Given the support that we have received through AmeriCorps over the past four years, we now have nearly 60% of the Birth to 5.0 year old populations in our county who are registered with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. In 2021, we launched our Raising-A-Reader program to increase parent awareness of crucial information on the importance of reading to infants/babies along with providing them age-appropriate books (bilingual, English-Spanish translation books too) for new parents. This program is connected to our local Hospital Ob/Gyn, County Health Dept and clinics in our towns to distribute this information and books - almost as a prescription for reading to your child. We have served hundreds of children and their caregivers as a result! It's important to note, the Raising -A- Reader program was designed, developed and supported early on through our local AmeriCorps & VISTA members.

Again, please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations, like Read 2 Leads, supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Sincerely,



Read2Lead

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<brcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 12:08:53 CDT  
Attachments:

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Good afternoon,

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

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The Catherine McAuley Center benefits from multiple programs which are currently at stake, including AmeriCorps VISTA and RSVP. Without these dedicated volunteers, we would not be able to keep up the demand for English classes, computer literacy, citizenship preparation, and help to navigate the new community our clients are now living in. VISTA and RSVP offer critical resources to CMC, which allow us to research and respond to the needs of our community, develop new curriculum, offer more classes, support neighbors working towards self-sufficiency, and much, much more.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Sincerely,

[Redacted]

--

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Main: (319) 363-4993

Follow us on Facebook & Twitter!

1220 5th Ave SE | Cedar Rapids, IA 52403

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 12:12:39 CDT  
Attachments:

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Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

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The Catherine McAuley Center benefits from multiple programs which are currently at stake, including AmeriCorps VISTA and RSVP. Without these dedicated volunteers, we would not be able to keep up the demand for English classes, computer literacy, citizenship preparation, and help to navigate the new community our clients are now living in. VISTA and RSVP offer critical resources to CMC, which allow us to research and respond to the needs of our community,

develop new curriculum, offer more classes, support neighbors working towards self-sufficiency, and much, much more.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Main: (319) 363-4993 | [REDACTED]

Follow us on Facebook & Twitter!

1220 5th Ave SE | Cedar Rapids, IA 52403

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Concerning Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 12:20:08 CDT  
Attachments:

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To whom it may concern,

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Thank you,





---

From: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
To: BCRCComments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 12:39:10 CDT  
Attachments:

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Greetings,

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

RedTails LEAD AmeriCorps at Hawkeye Community College creates a network of support for underserved students and the Waterloo community by providing direct service, serving as mentors, and increasing access to academic and social support. Through these actions we are able to increase student persistence and success, as well as transform the lives of over 5,000

individuals a year. \

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Thank you for your consideration,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Hawkeye Community College  
Hawkeye Center, Suite 114A

1501 East Orange Rd., P.O. Box 8015  
Waterloo, IA 50704-8015

[REDACTED]

Empowering students, strengthening businesses, and enriching communities

---

From: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Volunteer Iowa Recommendation  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 12:52:48 CDT  
Attachments:

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To the Members of the Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee.

I write this message in response to the recent news that your committee plans to recommend the elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Services (Volunteer Iowa). I was both surprised and very concerned to hear this news. I can only think that you have incomplete information regarding both the resources that this organization brings to our state and the multitude of programs it provides in service to the citizens of Iowa.

At Graceland University, we understand the importance of our role as community leaders. Graceland is located in Decatur County. It is a very rural area and is, along with the other counties in the area, the poorest in the state. In communities with scarce resources such as ours, finding ways to link communities to address important needs is a daunting task. During my term as Vice President at Graceland, we discovered Volunteer Iowa and the very able and caring staff has been an important partner ever since, providing tools and access to programs that helped Graceland leverage resources from many sources to provide much needed services in communities in our 5-county area that would not otherwise be available. These include After School and Out of School programs, literacy focused programs for youth that utilize seniors, community service programs, programs that provide mechanisms for seniors to make meaningful contributions through volunteer efforts, and many others. These are programs that, because of leveraged funding, have very little actual budgetary impact on Iowa state funding. And they are programs that would disappear without the support of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Services. Why would we eliminate the people and mechanisms that address Iowa priority programs by encouraging and enabling neighbors to work together to address their shared needs as volunteers.

If finding economical and efficient ways of providing services to the youth and the aging populations in the poorest and most rural areas is important to Iowa's leaders, and I believe it is, then most certainly do not eliminate the very vehicle that helps provide those services. It is my hope that once you have had the opportunity to consider a more complete view of the immense impact of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Services on the citizens of Iowa, you

will retract your recommendation to eliminate this important organization. Please feel free to contact me if I can add any more information as you search for ways to make Iowa a more efficient and responsible state.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 4

Former Vice President for Enrollment Management – Graceland University

Former Executive Director of Affiliate Relations – Graceland University

Former Iowa State Commissioner – Volunteer Iowa

Recipient of the Iowa Governor Volunteer Award

Member of the Iowa Rock & Roll Hall of Fame

Member of the Iowa Blues Hall of Fame

---

From:

To: [REDACTED]  
BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Cc:

Bcc:

Subject: The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service

Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 12:55:53 CDT

Attachments:

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To Whom it May Concern,

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: DSCI and Interpreter Licensure Board  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 12:59:08 CDT  
Attachments:

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Hi, my name is [REDACTED].  
I'm reaching out in regard to the DSCI and Interpreter Licensure Board. Deaf lowans of all ages, from birth to our seniors and everyone in between, need access to the services DSCI provides. We need help with various services such as education, training, employment, and more. We need the Interpreter Licensure Board to be strong to uphold the integrity and skill of interpreters who serve the Deaf population. The number of Deaf and hard-of-hearing people in Iowa is vastly greater than the number of Blind lowans, yet the services they are provided are disproportionate to the numbers. Deaf lowans should be able to keep our services, similar to how Blind lowans' services are protected. Please keep the Commissions/Boards that affect the Deaf/Hard of Hearing community intact.

Thank you so much for listening.

Albert Mingo



---

From: Nick Landmesser  
<nicklandmesser@gmail.com> on behalf of Nick Landmesser  
<nicklandmesser@gmail.com> <nicklandmesser@gmail.com>  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<brcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 13:00:35 CDT  
Attachments:

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Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

---

From: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
To: BCRComments@iowa.gov  
<bcrcomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Comment on recommendation to eliminate Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 13:08:55 CDT  
Attachments:

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Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

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The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

I am the Build Crew Site Supervisor for the Hawkeye Community College RedTails LEAD AmeriCorps program. Our Build Crew members build and rehabilitate housing for low income families. We have seen in the little over 1.5 years that we've been in operation as an AmeriCorps site the large impact our members have had in the Waterloo, Iowa community. We have neighbors stopping by to voice their appreciation for the investment into their neighborhoods. We have also seen a drastic impact the AmeriCorps program has had on the Build Crew members themselves. Our members follow the AmeriCorps motto of getting things done, and the value and impact is being noticed throughout our community.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

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[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Workforce Training and Community Development

Hawkeye Community College

Van G. Miller Adult Learning Center

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted].edu

[Click here to follow us on Facebook!](#)



---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 13:24:38 CDT  
Attachments:

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Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

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The Catherine McAuley Center (CMC) is a unique and well established nonprofit in Cedar Rapids. For almost 35 years, CMC has been addressing the plight of women in crisis in our community. CMC began a long standing relationship with AmeriCorps in 2016 as the Center launched additional services for immigrants and refugees, including a Refugee Resettlement Program as an affiliate site of the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants.

The Catherine McAuley Center benefits from multiple programs which are currently at stake, including AmeriCorps VISTA and RSVP. Without these dedicated volunteers, we would not be able to keep up the demand for English classes, computer literacy, citizenship preparation, and help to navigate the new community our clients are now living in. VISTA and RSVP offer critical

resources to CMC, which allow us to research and respond to the needs of our community, develop new curriculum, offer more classes, support neighbors working towards self-sufficiency, and much, much more.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Sincerely,

--

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Visit us at [www.cmc-cr.org](http://www.cmc-cr.org)

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 13:28:12 CDT  
Attachments:

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Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

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develop new curriculum, offer more classes, support neighbors working towards self-sufficiency, and much, much more.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Sincerely,

[Redacted]

--

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]



---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 13:28:48 CDT  
Attachments:

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Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

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The Catherine McAuley Center benefits from multiple programs which are currently at stake, including AmeriCorps VISTA and RSVP. Without these dedicated volunteers, we would not be able to keep up the demand for English classes, computer literacy, citizenship preparation, and help to navigate the new community our clients are now living in. VISTA and RSVP offer critical

resources to CMC, which allow us to research and respond to the needs of our community, develop new curriculum, offer more classes, support neighbors working towards self-sufficiency, and much, much more.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Proposed Elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 13:36:37 CDT  
Attachments:

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To Whom It May Concern,

The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Services board will have a devastating impact on nonprofit communities across the state of Iowa. The programs funded by this board meet a wide range of critical community needs in every county in this state. The programs affect the most vulnerable of our state's population. Some examples include programs for those unhoused, the hungry, at-risk children, low-income housing, and providing services to refugees.

Another factor to consider is a federal statute requires states to have a board of commissioners to receive formula AmeriCorps State funds. The elimination of the commission would result in the loss of \$14.3 million in federal funding. It would also result in the loss of other federal funds including the Volunteer Generation Fund, 9/121 Day of Service grant, VISTA, and RSVP. These programs are also instrumental in delivering services desperately needed by our citizens.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service Board. The Commission truly meets critical needs in the state of Iowa. We ask for your compassion, your caring, and your action to continue the operation of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Services.

Signed,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Support for Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 13:44:19 CDT  
Attachments:

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On August 29, the Iowa Boards and Commission Review Committee released its preliminary recommendations, which included the proposal that the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service be eliminated. I am writing in opposition to that recommendation.

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (a/k/a Volunteer Iowa) has been preliminarily recommended for elimination. Such action would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa, as well as the many Iowans who benefit from the essential work of Iowa nonprofits.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding. These funds also leveraged millions in local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa, which makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a wide range of critical community needs, including after school programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, improving access to justice, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state, and are incredibly cost-effective.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and

countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Be well,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted contact information]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<brcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Huge Mistake: Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service Proposed Elimination  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 14:03:02 CDT  
Attachments:

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The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa. This is a mistake for my community and the entire state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

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Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa. Our state and my community cannot lose this funding. Again, please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service.

[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service Proposed Elimination is a Mistake  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 14:03:11 CDT  
Attachments:

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Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

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Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

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[REDACTED]





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From: [REDACTED]  
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service Board  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 14:09:59 CDT  
Attachments:

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Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to after school programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.



---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 14:42:39 CDT  
Attachments:

---

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

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The Catherine McAuley Center benefits from multiple programs which are currently at stake, including AmeriCorps VISTA and RSVP. Without these dedicated volunteers, we would not be able to keep up the demand for English classes, computer literacy, citizenship preparation, and help to navigate the new community our clients are now living in. VISTA and RSVP offer critical resources to CMC, which allow us to research and respond to the needs of our community,

develop new curriculum, offer more classes, support neighbors working towards self-sufficiency, and much, much more.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Thank you for your consideration,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Follow us on Facebook & Twitter!

1220 5th Ave SE | Cedar Rapids, IA 52403

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Elimination of the Childcare Advisory Committee Violates Federal Law

---

Good Afternoon,

I am [REDACTED], I am the Executive Director of Building Families. I want to bring to your attention the fact that per Section 642B of the Head Start Act the maintenance of a Childcare Advisory Committee is required by Federal Law in order to access Head Start Funding. I have attached a link to the relevant section below. I hope we can ensure in some fashion or another the Federal Requirements are met so that the state can continue to access Head Start Funds.

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/head-start-act/sec-642b-head-start-collaboration-state-early-education-care>

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Building Families

120 1st Ave NW, Suite #14

Clarion, IA 50525

515.602.6371

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Developing healthy, independent, and successful children

---

Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image001.png

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 14:43:16 CDT 2023

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*Building*

FAMILIES

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From: Brad Cavanagh  
<bcavanagh@cityofdubuque.org> on behalf of Brad Cavanagh  
<Bcavanagh@cityofdubuque.org> <bcavanagh@cityofdubuque.org>  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Bcc:  
Subject: Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service letter of support  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 14:49:11 CDT  
Attachments: 23\_09\_05 Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service.pdf  
image001.png  
image002.png  
image003.png  
image004.png  
image005.png  
image006.png  
image007.png

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Attached is a letter regarding the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service.

Brad Cavanagh

Mayor | City of Dubuque  
City Hall | 50 W 13th Street

Dubuque, Iowa 52001  
O: 563.690.6502



---

Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: 23\_09\_05 Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service.pdf

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 14:49:11 CDT 2023

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Office of the Mayor  
City Hall  
50 West 13<sup>th</sup> Street  
Dubuque, IA 52001-4845  
www.cityofdubuque.org

September 5, 2023

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

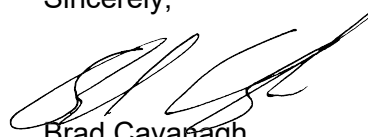
Without a commission board, the State of Iowa will not be in compliance with [federal statute](#) required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service [announced 21 grants](#) it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

The City of Dubuque has received over \$4.8 million in AmeriCorps State funding over the past 10+ years. Formula funding has been vital for the City of Dubuque to establish strategic program models that have the necessary research and development to receive competitive funding. The formula funding has helped serve thousands of Dubuque youth through academic literacy support, mentoring, career exploration, academic support, and the development of key skills to ensure youth are prepared for their future. Losing the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would lead to the loss of the City's current and future AmeriCorps funding to help Dubuque youth prepare for their best possible futures.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Sincerely,



Brad Cavanagh  
Mayor

---

Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image001.png

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 14:49:11 CDT 2023

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THE CITY

image001.png

15 Of Printed Item E16  
Attachment 2 of

*Masterpiece on the Mississippi*

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image002.png

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 14:49:11 CDT 2023

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image003.png

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 14:49:11 CDT 2023

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image004.png

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 14:49:11 CDT 2023

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image005.png

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 14:49:11 CDT 2023

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image006.png

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 14:49:11 CDT 2023

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image007.png

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 14:49:11 CDT 2023

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Public Comment re: Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee  
Recommendations  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 14:55:18 CDT  
Attachments: Volunteer Iowa Public Comment\_Service Year Alliance.pdf

---

Good afternoon,

Please accept the attached comments regarding the preliminary recommendation to eliminate the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board. Please direct any questions to [meccleston@serviceyear.org](mailto:meccleston@serviceyear.org).

Thank you for your consideration.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[ServiceYearAlliance.org](http://ServiceYearAlliance.org)

YOU can do a service year. Watch and share our new recruitment video.

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename:

Volunteer Iowa Public Comment\_Service Year Alliance.pdf

Last Modified:

Tue Sep 05 14:55:18 CDT 2023

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September 5, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Service Year Alliance, I write to strongly oppose the proposed elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service, as recommended by the Board & Commissions Review committee in its August 29, 2023 report.

The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service is a leader in the field of service and volunteerism as it coordinates programs to engage Iowans in service to meet community challenges. The Commission coordinates volunteer initiatives and recognition, provides leadership and infrastructure through Iowa MENTOR, and is the statewide funder and technical assistance provider for AmeriCorps.

Through its 21 AmeriCorps programs, the Commission is engaging Iowans in addressing significant community needs in educational achievement, economic opportunity, environmental protection, and nonprofit capacity building. And those who serve in these AmeriCorps programs gain professional skills, as well as grants to support higher education (\$4.85 million to Iowans this year alone). In addition to important community impacts, the individuals themselves are impacted: AmeriCorps members stay civically engaged throughout their lives, continuing to volunteer and voting at a higher rate than their peers; they complete bachelor's degrees at higher rates than their peers; and are more likely than their peers to work in education, as well as community and social services occupations.

Per federal statute (42 U.S. Code § 12638), a state must have a state service commission in order to be eligible for federal AmeriCorps formula funding. This year, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service is granting \$9.45 million in federal funds to local communities throughout the state - which generates additional local funding to support AmeriCorps service.

Last year in Iowa, there were 7,800 AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers. Eliminating the commission would have a devastating impact on Iowa's nonprofit community and the culture of service and volunteerism in the state.

Service Year Alliance is working to make a year of paid, full-time service — a service year — a common expectation and opportunity for all young Americans. We envision a future in which national service is part of growing up in America. We strongly urge you to reconsider your recommendation to eliminate the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service so that Iowans can

continue to experience the triple bottom line of national service: service years transform lives, strengthen communities, and fuel civic renewal.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

[Redacted title]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 14:55:26 CDT  
Attachments:

---

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

The Catherine McAuley Center (CMC) is a unique and well established nonprofit in Cedar Rapids. For almost 35 years, CMC has been addressing the plight of women in crisis in our community. CMC began a long standing relationship with AmeriCorps in 2016 as the Center launched additional services for immigrants and refugees, including a Refugee Resettlement Program as an affiliate site of the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants.

The Catherine McAuley Center benefits from multiple programs which are currently at stake, including AmeriCorps VISTA and RSVP. Without these dedicated volunteers, we would not be able to keep up the demand for English classes, computer literacy, citizenship preparation, and help to navigate the new community our clients are now living in. VISTA and RSVP offer critical



resources to CMC, which allow us to research and respond to the needs of our community, develop new curriculum, offer more classes, support neighbors working towards self-sufficiency, and much, much more.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted title]

[Redacted address]

Follow us on Facebook & Twitter!

1220 5th Ave SE | Cedar Rapids, IA 52403

---

From: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
To: BCRCComments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 15:09:13 CDT  
Attachments:

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To Whom It May Concern,

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In Wapello County, Volunteer Iowa supports literacy tutors in local schools, volunteers working in education, housing, and hunger, and programs to prevent child abuse. At United Way this year, this support allowed us to engage over 1000 volunteers who served over 9000 hours with local programs. Those volunteers spent 1,180 hours packaging and delivering food, provided

free tax services to 653 low-income households, and worked with 145 elementary students.

The loss of these programs would be devastating to the local nonprofit community.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Sincerely your,

[Redacted signature block]

[www.indianhills.edu](http://www.indianhills.edu)

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 15:21:19 CDT  
Attachments:

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Sincerely,

--

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Follow us on Facebook & Twitter!

1220 5th Ave SE | Cedar Rapids, IA 52403

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Bcc:  
Subject: Feedback on Iowa's Board and Commission Review  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 15:25:26 CDT  
Attachments: image001.png  
image002.png  
image003.png  
image004.png  
image005.png  
image006.png  
image007.png  
Letter of Support - Boards and Review Committee - OSPNS.pdf

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Please see the attached letter on the Committee's preliminary recommendations.

Liz

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Office Hours: Tuesday – Thursday

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image001.png

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 15:25:26 CDT 2023

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image001.png for Printed Item: 181 (

THE CITY OF Attachment 1 of 8)

DUBUQUE

Page 340 of 564  
*Masterpiece of the Mississippi*



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Filename: image002.png

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 15:25:26 CDT 2023

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image003.png

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 15:25:26 CDT 2023

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image004.png

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 15:25:26 CDT 2023

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image005.png

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 15:25:26 CDT 2023

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image006.png

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 15:25:26 CDT 2023

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image007.png

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 15:25:26 CDT 2023

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename:

Letter of Support - Boards and Review Committee - OSPNS.pdf

Last Modified:

Tue Sep 05 15:25:26 CDT 2023

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Office of Shared Prosperity & Neighborhood Support  
Engine House No. 1  
1805 Central Ave  
Dubuque, IA, 52001-3601  
Office (563) 690-6054  
www.cityofdubuque.org

Monday, September 5, 2023

Office of the Governor  
Iowa State Capitol  
1007 East Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Governor Reynolds,

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

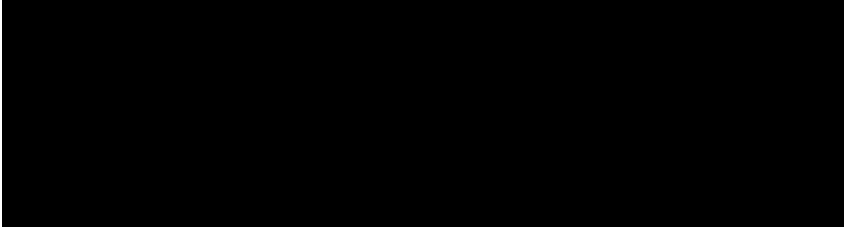
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The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

As a former commissioner for Volunteer Iowa, I know firsthand the impact its commissioners, staff and partner agencies have had in our state. Without Volunteer Iowa, many communities, specifically rural communities, would lack the resources to address some of Iowa's greatest area of needs.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Sincerely,



---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Elimination of Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 15:30:30 CDT  
Attachments:

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Bur Oak Land Trust is a 501c3 nonprofit land trust based in Iowa City, Iowa. For the past five years we have had a land stewardship and conservation education AmeriCorps program. Recently I was notified that The Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee recommended the elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service. If this happens, our organization, along with many others in the state, would be negatively impacted. Thousands of individuals would lose the opportunity to gain valuable career-building skills. Over 50 AmeriCorps members have come through our program, and many of them have utilized the program to launch their careers. Our AmeriCorps members have served over 70,000 hours restoring native habitat in Iowa, both for land owned by our Trust, as well as numerous other property owners in the state. Eliminating the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service will prevent us from utilizing federal funding that makes it possible for us to operate approximately one half of our programs. The elimination of a commission that positively impacts so many nonprofits and the communities they support seems short-sighted. AmeriCorps provides individuals with the skills necessary to pursue a career while staying in Iowa. There are massive economic benefits to providing young Iowans, especially those who come from rural areas of the state, with career building skills. I encourage you to reconsider the elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]buroaklandtrust.org

Advancing biodiversity in eastern Iowa by protecting resilient  
landscapes and connecting people to nature.



---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<brcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Supporting Commission on Volunteer Service (Volunteer Iowa)  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 15:30:47 CDT  
Attachments:

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Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

As a program that has received AmeriCorps funding through Volunteer Iowa since 2009 we know firsthand the incredible impact it can make on our state, our communities, our nonprofit organizations and our citizens. Over the past 14 years Green Iowa AmeriCorps has provided energy efficiency services to over 7,500 homes and educated over 105,000 people. The program has completed more than 5,500 service projects alongside more than 350 community organizations and 28,000+ volunteers. By July of 2023, more than 925 members will have given a little over 882,000 hours to our communities. At the national rate of in-kind value of a volunteer hour, the program has leveraged over 28 million dollars in support for our state. None of this impact is possible without the Commission on Volunteer Service. Its loss would be

absolutely devastating to a state that has always taken pride in our heart and commitment of volunteerism. Volunteering is a common good and has bipartisan support.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Thank you,



Center for Energy & Environmental Education Assistant Director  
Green Iowa AmeriCorps Program Director

"Never underestimate the power of a few committed people to change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." -Margaret Mead

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: IA Commission on Volunteer Service Board  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 15:41:45 CDT  
Attachments:

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Dear Iowa Boards & Commissions review Committee,

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to after-school programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

I'm a member of First Presbyterian Church, Iowa City. Our members regularly volunteer at CommUnity's Food Bank, Table to Table's food rescue program and the Free Lunch Program.

All of these organizations critically rely upon the Volunteer Service.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Most sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<brcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Subject: Retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 16:06:50 CDT  
Attachments:

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To the Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee,

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

The Catherine McAuley Center (CMC) is a unique and well established nonprofit in Cedar Rapids. For almost 35 years, CMC has been addressing the plight of women in crisis in our community. CMC began a long standing relationship with AmeriCorps in 2016 as the Center launched additional services for immigrants and refugees, including a Refugee Resettlement Program as an affiliate site of the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants.

The Catherine McAuley Center benefits from multiple programs which are currently at stake,

including AmeriCorps VISTA and RSVP. Without these dedicated volunteers, we would not be able to keep up the demand for English classes, computer literacy, citizenship preparation, and help to navigate the new community our clients are now living in. VISTA and RSVP offer critical resources to CMC, which allow us to research and respond to the needs of our community, develop new curriculum, offer more classes, support neighbors working towards self-sufficiency, and much, much more.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted signature]

Follow us on Facebook & Twitter!  
1220 5th Ave SE | Cedar Rapids, IA 52403

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Fw: Action Alert: Comment on recommendation to eliminate Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 16:07:39 CDT  
Attachments: 0.jpg  
image001.png  
image002.png  
image003.png  
image004.png  
image005.png  
image006.png

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TEMPLATE:

SUBJECT: Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board

BODY:

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 3:37 PM  
Subject: Fwd: Action Alert: Comment on recommendation to eliminate Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board

\*\* This email originated outside of the City of Iowa City email system. Please take extra care opening any links or attachments. \*\*

Good afternoon host sites,

I wanted to reach out to all of our host sites regarding the state's recent decision to put the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service on the list of proposed boards/commissions considered for elimination. Without a state commission, our state is no longer able to receive federal AmeriCorps funding.

As a host site we know that you are aware of the tremendous value AmeriCorps members and programs can bring to our communities. If you feel inclined to educate those reviewing the proposal on how you have positively impacted by having Volunteer Iowa and AmeriCorps programming available to your organization, it would be most appreciated.

ASC has provided a template that you can easily cut and paste into your email. It takes about 10 seconds. Comments are due today for the review committee tomorrow.



Thanks all,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Center for Energy & Environmental Education Assistant Director  
Green Iowa AmeriCorps Program Director

"Never underestimate the power of a few committed people to change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." -Margaret Mead

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]

Date: Wed, Aug 30, 2023 at 4:18PM

Subject: Action Alert: Comment on recommendation to eliminate Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board

To:

I'm contacting you as someone that currently receives funding from the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) and/or someone that is a supporter of their mission.

On August 29, the Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee released its preliminary recommendations to reform Iowa's board and commissions. As part of the recommendations, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service is proposed for elimination.

Per federal statute, states are required to have a board of commissioners to receive formula AmeriCorps State funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board will jeopardize the federal funding for all the programs currently administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service. Eliminating the commission would have a devastating impact on Iowa's nonprofit community.

There is a public hearing taking place next Wednesday, September 6 at 12pm. We need supporters of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service to submit comments on the Committee's preliminary recommendations by sending an email to [BCRCcomments@iowa.gov](mailto:BCRCcomments@iowa.gov) in advance of the public hearing.

America's Service Commissions, the the association of state service commissions, has submitted a request to speak during the hearing and has created a template for supporters to email their comments in support of retaining the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board.

Please use the template message and email it to [BCRCcomments@iowa.gov](mailto:BCRCcomments@iowa.gov) by end of day Tuesday, September 5.

Thank you for your time and support of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (Volunteer Iowa). Please share and encourage others to submit a comment. Please don't hesitate to contact me with questions via email or by phone at 515-720-5892.

Rachel Bruns (she/her) / Chief Engagement Officer / America's Service Commissions  
[rbruns@statecommissions.org](mailto:rbruns@statecommissions.org) / (515) 720-5892 / Time Zone: CT  
Need to schedule a meeting with me? Check out my Calendly link.

\*Please note that the ASC team works flexibly and remotely across time zones — so while it suits me to email now, I do not expect a response or action outside of your own working hours.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of

the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

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Owner:

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Filename: 0.jpg

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 16:07:39 CDT 2023

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Item: 194 (

Attachment 1 of

69 of 5645K

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image001.png

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 16:07:39 CDT 2023

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Page 371 of 564

TWENTY FIVE YEARS UNITED IN SERVICE

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Filename: image002.png

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 16:07:39 CDT 2023

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image003.png

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 16:07:39 CDT 2023

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image004.png

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 16:07:39 CDT 2023

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image005.png

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 16:07:39 CDT 2023

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image006.png

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 16:07:39 CDT 2023

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<brcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Volunteer Service Board Comments  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 16:08:32 CDT  
Attachments: image001.png

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Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

I serve as the Director of Programs Des Moines Metro at Trees Forever and we rely heavily on the service of AmeriCorps members to execute our programs. Not only do these individuals get hands on experience, they allow non-profits to function at a high level with limited resources. Eliminating this board would have far reaching and detrimental impacts on the nonprofit sector across the state, and would certainly decrease impact and capacity of many programs.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and

countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

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Filename: image001.png

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 16:08:32 CDT 2023

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TREES FOREVER

Planting a better tomorrow™

[REDACTED]

She/Her/Hers

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
To: BCRCCOMMENTS@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Support Volunteer Iowa  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 16:12:53 CDT  
Attachments: image001.png  
image002.jpg  
image003.png  
image004.png  
image005.png  
image006.png  
image007.png  
image008.png

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This message was sent securely using Zix®

To Whom it May Concern:

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income

housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

My organization utilizes AmeriCorps crews every year to help maintain our public park system and protect our natural areas that are so beloved by the community. Not only does the County benefit from the hard work of the people enrolled in the programs, but the AmeriCorps members are given an opportunity to learn about Iowa's natural history and develop a strong sense of pride in their home state.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

  
leadingyououtdoors.org | jesterparknaturecenter.com | dsmskatepark.com

Connect with Us on:

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Owner:

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Filename: image001.png

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 16:12:53 CDT 2023

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image002.jpg

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 16:12:53 CDT 2023

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204 ( Attachment 2 of 8)



Page 391 of 564

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Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 16:12:53 CDT 2023

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[REDACTED]

Filename: image004.png

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 16:12:53 CDT 2023

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image005.png

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 16:12:53 CDT 2023

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image006.png

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 16:12:53 CDT 2023

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image007.png

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 16:12:53 CDT 2023

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image008.png

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 16:12:53 CDT 2023

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Commission on Voluntary Service  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 16:34:09 CDT  
Attachments:

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To who it may concern:

A child in trouble on a path at Lakeside Lab, water samples critical to water quality at one of Iowa Great Lakes, strategic research on shoreline habitats- these are just a few of the ways Americore interns are helping Iowa strengthen the work at Iowa Lakeside Laboratory on West Okoboji. Without the Commission on Voluntary Service, Iowa may fail to meet the statutory requirements for the important work of Americore Interns.

Please retain the Commission on Voluntary Service.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone



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From: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
To: BCRComments@iowa.gov  
<bcrcomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Bcc:  
Subject: Comment on Proposed Elimination of Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 16:42:33 CDT  
Attachments: image001.jpg

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Good afternoon,

We are writing today on behalf of the Iowa Council of Foundations (ICoF), a statewide network of 75 Iowa grantmakers, to ask that you please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination, which would have a negative impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa. We believe that Volunteer Iowa creates significant financial and workforce benefits for nonprofits that our state needs both now and in the future. For full disclosure, Volunteer Iowa is a member of our network.

The work of Volunteer Iowa directly connects to our mission: to strengthen, guide and grow philanthropy in Iowa. We have been witness to the many ways Volunteer Iowa and their partners have contributed to growing philanthropy in Iowa over the years. A few examples of how these programs strengthen philanthropy and nonprofits in Iowa include:

Our organization, along with many ICoF member organizations, has directly benefitted from participating in an AmeriCorps program. The ICoF coordinated a VISTA program in the late 2000s/early 2010s to place VISTAs at community foundations across the state, growing their capacity to raise funds, strategically invest grants, and increase their community leadership capacities.

AmeriCorps support also fueled success in expanding the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading in Iowa. From 2013 – 2021, Iowa expanded from six to 15 Campaign communities, all working to improve reading proficiency of Iowa's children. One specific example of how AmeriCorps supported this success is in Grinnell. Several ICoF members there are stakeholders in the Grinnell Education Partnership. They have worked with Volunteer Iowa to apply for and receive several cycles of AmeriCorps members to support the work of their summer and year-round programming. Most recently, they partnered with Campus Compact, also an ICoF member, to

place AmeriCorps members at Grinnell sites so there are other organizations in the area supporting the Partnership's efforts.

Volunteer Iowa successfully leverages significant federal dollars, which then leverage private charitable dollars (sometimes from within Iowa, sometimes from outside of the state) through matching requirements. Many of our ICoF members have provided matching funding to support AmeriCorps, VISTA, and/or RSVP programs in their communities/counties.

These programs help Iowa's philanthropic resources stretch further to support other work. With the influx of AmeriCorps resources – both monetarily and via staffing/volunteer capacity – ICoF members can use their philanthropic dollars in other ways to increase benefits and better serve Iowa communities.

Finally, an underlying benefit of the AmeriCorps programs is to provide another foothold for workforce development in our State. People who work as AmeriCorps members develop skills and connections, leading some to stay in the State's workforce.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Iowa Council of Foundations  
Moines, IA 50266

Office: 515.989.1188  
Mailing: 6919 Vista Drive | West Des

Office: 563-323-5177

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[www.iowacounciloffoundations.org](http://www.iowacounciloffoundations.org)

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 16:44:45 CDT  
Attachments: image001.png  
image002.png  
image003.png  
image004.png  
image005.png

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Good afternoon –

Our Community Foundation works hard to support the quality of life in our county-wide region across a wide variety of nonprofit organizations. Nonprofit organizations operate on a thin margin, and are creative and dedicated in finding ways to extend the reach of their work. One of those strategies is to use volunteers.

I fear that the elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service could have a devastating and unintentional impact on Iowa nonprofits. This commission is required by federal statute for Iowa to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. The elimination of the commission would result in the loss of \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities in AmeriCorps and Segal Education Award funds, as well other federal funding programs.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service to ensure continued funding for AmeriCorps programming in the state.

Thank you –

[REDACTED]

Karla Twedt-Ball she/her/hers


Office: 319.366.2862 | 324 3rd Street SE Cedar Rapids, IA 52401 | [www.gcrf.org](http://www.gcrf.org)

Join Us! Looking for a way to support the greatest needs of Linn County today and tomorrow? Consider an unrestricted gift to the Greater Good Fund. Or, visit our Nonprofit Giving Center to search for a fund, organization, or cause to support.

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image001.png

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 16:44:45 CDT 2023

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Attachment 1 of 5)

Page 413 of 564

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Owner:

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Filename: image002.png

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 16:44:45 CDT 2023

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Attachment 2 of



15 of 564

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image003.png

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 16:44:45 CDT 2023

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Attachment 3 of

17 of 564

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image004.png

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 16:44:45 CDT 2023

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Attachment 4 of

19 of 564

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Owner:

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Filename: image005.png

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 16:44:45 CDT 2023

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Printed Item: 210

Attachment 5 of



21 of 564

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 16:58:04 CDT  
Attachments: image001.png

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Boards & Commissions Review Committee:

Greetings! I am the director of the Larned A. Waterman Iowa Nonprofit Resource Center, and I am writing in response to the Subcommittee Recommendations published on August 29, 2023.

As a Center at the University of Iowa, we engage with hundreds of nonprofit organizations each year—including members of the board, staff, and additional stakeholders. We understand the challenges of board structure and performance in service to the purpose of an entity. We have also worked directly with several of the boards and commissions included in this report. Without greater understanding of the criteria used to recommend whether to continue, reorganize, consolidate, or eliminate a board/commission, I did want to express our concern for the potential elimination of the board for the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (ICVS).

Our Center has collaborated with ICVS on a multitude of projects and programs since our Center's creation in 2000. This includes co-producing—along with United Ways of Iowa and the Iowa Council of Foundations—the state's largest conference focused on developing the individual, organizational, and inter-organizational capacities of leaders, entities, and networks across Iowa's nonprofit sector. In our Center's work, we see ICVS's tremendous positive impact on volunteerism and community service in terms of both quality and quantity. Further, ICVS performs a vital role in Iowa's engagement in national service programs that bring federal resources to our rural and urban communities.

Our Center is concerned with the effects of eliminating the ICVS board and its impact on ICVS internally—including the insight, knowledge, and experience a well-recruited board can offer ICVS leadership—and in the role of ICVS in Iowa's national service programming.

Volunteers make our communities in Iowa even better places to live and grow, and ICVS

strengthens our volunteers and so much more.

Thank you for your time and attention.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Larned A. Waterman Iowa Nonprofit Resource Center

Iowa College of Law | University of Iowa

[REDACTED] 1 West Prentiss Street

Iowa City, Iowa 52242

[REDACTED]

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image001.png

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 16:58:04 CDT 2023

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Printed Item: 222

425 Attachment 1 of 1  
of 564

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<brcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: In Support of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 17:03:07 CDT  
Attachments: CRPLsignature200x108px-resized\_0fc6c01d-cbf4-496c-8fae-75efbb761636.jpg

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Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Since 2015, the Cedar Rapids Public Library has worked with AmeriCorps, AmeriCorps VISTA, RSVP, Foster Grandparents, and NCCC members. Many of these members were placed with the Library through the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service. They have helped us expand our capacity to meet the needs of individuals throughout our community with a specific focus on combating the summer learning slide and youth literacy. They go above and beyond Cedar Rapids taxpayers' dollars to pilot innovative programming and outreach opportunities. In addition, many have later joined our staff as City employees and pursued higher educational degrees, often a Masters of Library and Information Science, and careers in libraries in our

area. Their service elevates our Library, our community, and their own contributions to their communities. This is critical work as we enrich our Iowa communities today and plant seeds for success for generations to come.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]  
CRLibrary.org

---

Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename:

CRPLsignature200x108px-resized\_0fc6c01d-cbf4-496c-8fae-75efbb761636.jpg

Last Modified:

Tue Sep 05 17:03:07 CDT 2023

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CEDAR

RAP

PUB

CRPPLS

Photography

2

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<brcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: In Support of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 17:08:22 CDT  
Attachments: CRPLsignature200x108px-resized\_0fc6c01d-cbf4-496c-8fae-75efbb761636.jpg

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

---

Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: CRPLsignature200x108px-resized\_0fc6c01d-cbf4-496c-8fae-75efbb761636.jpg

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 17:08:22 CDT 2023

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CEDAR

RAP

PUB

CRPPLS

Photography

2

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject:  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 17:21:05 CDT  
Attachments:

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Subject: Retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

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The Catherine McAuley Center (CMC) is a unique and well established nonprofit in Cedar Rapids. For almost 35 years, CMC has been addressing the plight of women in crisis in our community. CMC began a long standing relationship with AmeriCorps in 2016 as the Center

launched additional services for immigrants and refugees, including a Refugee Resettlement Program as an affiliate site of the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants.

The Catherine McAuley Center benefits from multiple programs which are currently at stake, including AmeriCorps VISTA and RSVP. Without these dedicated volunteers, we would not be able to keep up the demand for English classes, computer literacy, citizenship preparation, and help to navigate the new community our clients are now living in. VISTA and RSVP offer critical resources to CMC, which allow us to research and respond to the needs of our community, develop new curriculum, offer more classes, support neighbors working towards self-sufficiency, and much, much more.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

RISE AmeriCorps

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Follow us on Facebook & Twitter!

1220 5th Ave SE | Cedar Rapids, IA 52403

Attachments area



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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service Board  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 17:23:09 CDT  
Attachments:

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Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Mobile:

[REDACTED]

Website

|

Email Me

|

Connect With Me

Advisors represent Northwest Wealth Management, a registered investment advisor and affiliate of Northwest Bank. Not FDIC insured | No bank guarantee | May lose value

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From:

[Redacted]

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Cc:

Bcc:

Subject: Retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service

Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 17:25:36 CDT

Attachments: Volunteer Service Action Alert Message.pdf

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename:

Volunteer Service Action Alert Message.pdf

Last Modified:

Tue Sep 05 17:25:36 CDT 2023

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**Please use the template message below and email it to [BCRCcomments@iowa.gov](mailto:BCRCcomments@iowa.gov) by end of day TODAY, Tuesday, September 5.**

---

**Subject:** Retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service

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Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of the sender.

---

From: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
To: BCRCComments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: ICVS Board  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 17:35:37 CDT  
Attachments: image001.png  
image003.png  
image004.png  
image005.png  
image006.png  
image007.png  
image008.png  
image009.jpg

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Polk County Conservation has used AmeriCorps crews from numerous providers for eight years. This additional labor they provide is vital to us fulfilling our organizational mission. The training the service members receive is incredibly valuable for their ability to secure employment when they leave AmeriCorps. We are in the process of becoming a host organization, which would increase our capacity to utilize AmeriCorps service members.



Thank you!



[leadingyououtdoors.org](http://leadingyououtdoors.org) | [jesterparknaturecenter.com](http://jesterparknaturecenter.com) | [dsmskatepark.com](http://dsmskatepark.com)

Connect with Us on:

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image001.png

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 17:35:37 CDT 2023

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image003.png

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 17:35:37 CDT 2023

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image004.png

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 17:35:37 CDT 2023

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image005.png

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 17:35:37 CDT 2023

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image006.png

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 17:35:37 CDT 2023

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image007.png

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 17:35:37 CDT 2023

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image008.png

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 17:35:37 CDT 2023

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image009.jpg

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 17:35:37 CDT 2023

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image009.jpg for Printed Item  
232 ( Attachment 8 of 8)



Page 461 of 564

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Funding for united way  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 17:58:28 CDT  
Attachments:

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Hi I have been volunteering with United Way through Vita as well as Day of Sharing. It is not only rewarding but needed. I sure hope the State of Iowa will continue funding these types of programs. I know the people I have served really appreciate it.

--

[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<brcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Critical volunteer program support at risk  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 18:01:52 CDT  
Attachments:

---

Hello,

I write concerning the elimination of a state board to assist with volunteer recruitment, retention and support in Iowa.

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

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The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

I work at Table to Table, a nonprofit hunger relief organization. More than half of the 13 AmeriCorps members who have served at Table to Table since the summer of 2020 have been facilitated by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service.

Our access to this program has had significant economic impacts for our community. Through these service members, 2.2 million dollars worth of food has gone to lowans instead of being wasted. Without their support we would not have had the capacity to seek new food donations during supply chain disruption, develop our gleaning and local foods program, train and recruit volunteers, and secure additional grant funding that directly supported increased food recovery capacity.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc: Jon Murphy <jon@lobbyiowa.com>  
Bcc:  
Subject: RE: Children's Behavioral Health System State Board  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 18:04:11 CDT  
Attachments: image001.jpg  
Iowa Boards Commissions written submission.pdf

---

Attached please find my written submission to be considered at the Boards & Commissions Review Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Coalition for Family & Children's Services in Iowa

1111 9th Street, Suite 235

Des Moines, Iowa 50314

[REDACTED]

[www.iachild.org](http://www.iachild.org)

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, August 29, 2023 2:20 PM  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
Cc: Jon Murphy <jon@lobbyiowa.com>  
Subject: Children's Behavioral Health System State Board

I would like to have time at the September 6th meeting to discuss the impact of the proposed change to the Children's Behavioral Health System State Board.

Thank you.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Coalition for Family & Children's Services in Iowa

1111 9th Street, Suite 235

Des Moines, Iowa 50314

[Redacted]

[www.iachild.org](http://www.iachild.org)

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Owner:

Filename:

image001.jpg

Last Modified:

Tue Sep 05 18:04:11 CDT 2023

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# The Coalition

Coalition for Family and Children's Services in Iowa



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Owner:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Filename: Iowa Boards Commissions written submission.pdf

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 18:04:11 CDT 2023

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# The Coalition

Coalition for Family and Children's Services in Iowa

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input. My name is Kristie Oliver. I am the Executive Director of the Coalition for Family & Children's Services in Iowa. The Coalition's alliance of agencies provides the safety net to all children and youth with mental health or substance abuse needs, as well as children and youth who have been, or are now, in danger of being abused, neglected, or delinquent.

We advocate for children and families and for the people who provide services to children and families. The Coalition believes in a public/private partnership and works closely and well with the Department of Health and Human Services.

We commend the Governor and the Iowa legislature for reviewing the efficiency and effectiveness of all Iowa's board, commissions and other similar entities creating in Iowa law and making recommendations for the continuation, elimination, consolidation, or reorganization.

However, we are concerned that this process did not include issue experts outside of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Child welfare is asking the question: "Are families better off because HHS is involved?"

I would like you to ask yourself the question: "Are the youth with substance use and mental health needs going to be better off with the Children's Behavioral Health System State Board being consolidated/merged?"

In 2018, Governor Reynolds signed Executive Order Number Two and established the Children's System State Board because there was not a state board dedicated to the children's mental health system. In 2019, the Iowa legislature codified the Children's behavioral health system state board.

That was five years ago, but we know true system change takes at least three to five years. In addition, the pandemic occurred during this five-year period.

According to reports from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, children's emergency room visits for mental health issues increased significantly during the pandemic and continue to be a concern.<sup>1</sup>

Did you know? <sup>2</sup>

- 90% of teenagers who die by suicide suffer from a psychiatric disorder, such as depression, anxiety or substance abuse.
- Suicide is the second-leading cause of death in high school and college students.
- Youth suicide rates are higher in rural areas than in urban areas.

---

<sup>1</sup> Georgetown University Health Policy Institute Center for Children and Families

<sup>2</sup> Foundation2 Crisis Services Statistics: <https://foundation2.org/suicide/suicide-statistics/>

According to a 2020 election eve poll conducted by Lake Research partners, there is tremendous “tripartisan” support for making significant progress on children’s issues. This support includes ensuring that the “best interests” of children govern decision making involving them. There was also support in establishing a federal independent Children’s Commissioner “to protect and improve the care and well-being of children.”<sup>3</sup>

What is the responsibility of the members of the Children’s Behavioral Health System State Board? The website states: *The Children’s Behavioral Health System State Board is the single point of responsibility in the implementation and management of a Children’s Mental Health System...*”

However, in reality, Iowa Code 225C.52 the following duties are described:

1. Advise the administrator on the administration of the children’s behavioral health system.
2. Provide consultation services to agencies regarding the development of administrative rules for the children’s behavioral health system.
3. Identify behavioral health outcomes and indicators for eligible children with a serious emotional disturbance to promote children living with their own families and in the community.
4. Submit a written report on each year. The U.S. Surgeon General Advisory Protecting Youth Mental Health confirmed that mental health challenges were a leading cause of disability and poor life outcomes in young people even before the COVID-pandemic.<sup>4</sup>

The Children’s System State Board does not have responsibility for the implementation and/or the management of a Children’s Mental Health System.

Since our children and youth do not vote, we want to make sure that the consolidated and merged Children’s System State Board does not lead us to have them treated as an afterthought.

The Coalition would like to volunteer to be involved in the strategies of the consolidation/merger of the Children’s Behavioral Health System State Board.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

---

<sup>3</sup> First Focus: Campaign for Children: A Children’s Agenda for the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Surgeon General Advisory: Protecting Youth Mental Health:

<https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/surgeon-general-youth-mental-health-advisory.pdf>

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<brcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Please keep the Volunteer Service board (aka Volunteer Iowa) - vital for food security and increasing rural vitality  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 18:30:46 CDT  
Attachments:

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So many of the AmeriCorps members that have served in my county to reduce food insecurity over the past 3 years served our county only through this program. They directly reduced food insecurity in our county in Iowa. AmeriCorps Programs through Volunteer Iowa serve not just urban areas, but rural areas in Iowa too. They have just pivoted to a focus on rebuilding rural vitality, and this program is needed now more than ever.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Thank you,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service Board  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 18:32:45 CDT  
Attachments:

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Hello,

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

I was an AmeriCorps member for 4 terms. What I learned and gained through my time in AmeriCorps was valuable. It helped me hone skills I already had and gain skills I did not fresh out of college. If it were not for my time as a member I would still be looking for a good job related to my degree and passion. Don't take away this valuable experience for others or for

the host sites that rely on AmeriCorps members.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Best,



---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 18:49:53 CDT  
Attachments:

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Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Thank You,  
[REDACTED]

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone





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From: [REDACTED]  
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Proposed elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 18:51:04 CDT  
Attachments:

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Dear Committee,

I wonder if the committee fully understands the ramifications of eliminating the ICVS? Many nonprofits that deliver crucial services to the public, with the help and support of the ICVS, will be severely hampered if not forced to discontinue these services entirely if the ICVS is shut down. This action would have a serious ripple effect and would compound the many challenges nonprofits have faced since the pandemic such as staffing shortages, increased demands for services, and significant decreases in donations.

For many years, Iowa has been among the top states in volunteerism in the country. This is something to be proud of. The ICVS has always been an important entity in fostering, supporting, and recognizing Iowa's generous volunteers.

I urge you to let the ICVS remain so it can continue its many important functions.

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Bcc:  
Subject: Request to Maintain the Current Operations of the Iowa Commission on  
Volunteer Service  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 19:18:14 CDT  
Attachments:

---

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Volunteer Iowa sponsoring AmeriCorps staff has made an impact on our communities, and it has been nothing short of transformative, and I would like to share two compelling examples of their remarkable contributions, both of which are hosted by the esteemed Iowa Lakeside Laboratory.

Firstly, AmeriCorps has played a pivotal role in supporting a program that aims to provide youth, some categorized as under-privileged, with top-tier STEM education while instilling a profound connection to lake and water safety. This initiative operates in collaboration with both Iowa Lakeside Laboratory and the Okoboji Sailing Center. By providing access to our beautiful lakes, students have the opportunity to delve into the fascinating field of Limnology, allowing them to gain a comprehensive understanding of lake ecology. As someone who previously served as the Executive Director at the Okoboji Sailing Center, I can personally attest to the incredible impact of this program on our youth and the broader community.

Secondly, AmeriCorps provides indispensable support to Iowa Lakeside Laboratory itself. As a current Board Member of Friends of Lakeside Lab, a non-profit who supports community programming at Lakeside, I have witnessed firsthand the instrumental role AmeriCorps staff plays in facilitating educational programming for our youth. These programs offer students a unique opportunity to engage in real-world research through self-guided and directed discovery, fostering a deep appreciation for scientific inquiry.

It is crucial to emphasize that maintaining funding for programs like AmeriCorps through Volunteer Iowa is not merely an investment in these specific initiatives but also a commitment to promoting educational equity across our region and rural Iowa as a whole, where resources and opportunities can sometimes be limited, these programs stand as a beacon of hope, ensuring that every student, regardless of their geography or access, has access to high-quality education and transformative experiences.

I kindly request that you prioritize the funding to retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa. By your granting the continued operations of The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service, we not only continue the investing in education but also in the very heart of our communities.

Thank you for your consideration,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



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From: [REDACTED]  
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Consider impacts of changes  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 19:38:44 CDT  
Attachments:

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In reviewing the state boards and commissions, I hope you are thinking carefully about the impact of any changes. For example, the panel's proposal to eliminate Iowa's Commission on Volunteer Service could put more than \$14 million in federal funding at risk. Keep the commission, and do not eliminate others that will bring benefits (and \$!) to Iowans.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Maintain Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 20:10:00 CDT  
Attachments:

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Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.





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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<brcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Volunteer Iowa  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 20:43:41 CDT  
Attachments:

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Greetings,

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Sincerely,  
[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Letter in support of Iowa Commission for Volunteer Service  
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 21:44:44 CDT  
Attachments:

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September 5, 2023

To whom it may concern:

On August 29, the Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee released its preliminary recommendations to reform Iowa's board and commissions. As part of the recommendations, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service is proposed for elimination.

Per federal statute, states are required to have a board of commissioners to receive formula AmeriCorps State funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board will jeopardize the federal funding for all the programs currently administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service. Eliminating the commission would have a devastating impact on Iowa's nonprofit community.

There are many organizations that depend on the service of AmeriCorps students to inform and educate our Iowan communities. I am concerned that the loss of the research completed by Green AmeriCorps students at the Iowa Lakeside Lab will greatly limit the water quality and related environmental research completed. The Green AmeriCorps students provide year round continuity for the research projects that are multi-year in scope.

Thank you for your consideration to continue the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service in support of the AmeriCorps program.

Sincerely,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Sent from Mail for Windows

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Written Public Comments from Blank Children's Hospital  
Date: Wed Sep 06 2023 00:06:44 CDT  
Attachments:

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Written Public Comment for the Boards & Commissions Review Committee

Submitted by Chaney Yeast, Government Relations Director, Blank Children's Hospital

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

\*Not requesting to speak at the public hearing

Blank Children's Hospital appreciates the complex responsibility Boards and Commission Review Committee had in developing General Findings and Recommendations under the goal of making the state's boards and commissions organizational structure and duties more meaningful, effective, and efficient. Such a review is an important strategic undertaking to ensure government creates opportunities for meaningful citizen engagement to carry out its responsibilities to grow our economy, and to protect and support the people of Iowa. However, an important caveat to this complex review process is to consider "one size does not fit all" when contemplating the future responsibilities of Iowa's boards and commissions, and the expertise required to address the unique needs of children in Iowa.

While it is a cliché to simply say our children are our future, the meaning behind the cliché is extremely accurate. Iowa children are the future of our state. The vast majority of children born and raised in Iowa will remain in or leave temporarily and return to our state. These children are the future leaders, the future workforce, the future taxpayers of Iowa. Investing intentional time and consideration into consistently creating conditions for children to thrive by addressing the unique health, developmental, social and educational needs of infants, children and adolescents will in turn generate greater prosperity for the future of our state.

Under the current Boards & Commission Review Committees' reorganization recommendations, almost all of the youth-related advisory boards, commissions, and councils specifically designed to advise the state government regarding the unique needs of infants,

children and adolescents at different developmental stages, will be rolled into another Board which focuses on multi-age populations. Even with the best intentions, if specific time and focus is not provided to study and respond to the unique needs of children, one cannot not assume this will happen organically within a broader Board structure. There are simply too many competing priorities and fires of the day that will distract the focus away from developmentally appropriate policies and preventive investments in the health, well-being, and education of Iowa's children. Just as an adult-sized shoe doesn't fit a newborn, we cannot assume board decisions made for all Iowans will be specifically tailored to fit the needs of Iowa children without the inclusion of board members with pediatric expertise and decision-making authority concentrated on policy strategies designed for children. Of specific concern, two child-focused boards recommended for consolidation are:

1. the Hawki Board into the Medical Assistance Advisory Committee (MAAC), and
2. the Children's Behavioral Health Board into a Mental Health and Disability Services subcommittee.

Both boards are proposed to roll within the multiple layers of committee structure and ultimately falls under the authority of the Health and Human Services (HHS) Council. Currently, both the Hawki Board and the Children's Behavioral Health Board are responsible with maintaining a specialized lens to address the unique health and behavioral health needs of Iowa's children. The Hawki Board provides guidance to HHS on the development, implementation, and administration of the Children's Health Insurance Program. This health insurance product for uninsured children of working families allows children access to the care they need to be healthy without families having to choose between food, rent or paying for a doctor's appointment for their child. If the Hawki Board is rolled into the Medical Assistance Advisory Committee, priority policy considerations regarding Hawki will always come second to the complexities of the Medicaid program which serves a variety of populations including low-income pregnant women, low-income children and families; the elderly; and persons with disabilities.

Codification of the Children's Behavioral Health Board was a key provision of Governor Reynolds' landmark legislation HF 690 to establish a mental health system in Iowa for kids. While progress in establishing core services for children has occurred in the last four years there is still so much work to accomplish to ensure every child, regardless of where they live in Iowa, has access to quality, developmentally appropriate behavioral health services. If the Children's Behavioral Health Board is encompassed within the Mental Health and Disability Services Subcommittee, the unique needs of children will likely always be a secondary priority compared to the creation of adult services like Access Centers, Assertive Community Treatment teams, programs to care for elderly with dementia and veteran mental health services that have consumed the department's focus through various forms of adult mental health service redesign for the past 20+ years. At a time when children's health and mental health are at a critical juncture, it does not make sense to roll the functions of all these boards into a large subcommittee structure which is responsible for a broad mission and lacks the specific board member expertise to address the health, mental health and well-being challenges Iowa children and youth face today and in the future. If the consolidation plan moves forward, Blank Children's Hospital recommends that specific children's health and mental health expertise be mandated additions to the HHS Council to elevate children's health, children's mental health and well-being focus into the decision-making authority of the council.

A second concern is the consolidated board structure proposed does not propose attention be

given to the importance of cross-department collaboration. Children and youth in Iowa are impacted by various state departments, but most visibly and directly are the Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Education. Legislators have recognized the importance of cross-department collaboration by mandating department representation and participation in current Boards and Commissions established in law. It is unclear if the Boards and Commissions Review Committee recommendations will explicitly mandate the participation of other departments on each relevant board. Yet such collaboration is key to ensuring successful outcomes for children. For example, Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) is a critical partner to developing programs to train, recruit and retain the health care and mental health care workforce in Iowa, and should be intricately involved with the HHS Council and relevant subcommittee efforts. Yet it is unclear if that will be an explicit priority identified in the Boards and Commissions Review Committee's recommendations or future legislation codifying the new boards and commission structure. Likewise, the same is true for the need of collaboration between the Department of Education and IWD to develop, recruit and retain quality teachers, school personnel and school administrators to educate Iowa's children.

One strategy to promote cross-department collaboration to strengthen health and education outcomes for children utilized by our neighbors in Wisconsin was the creation of the Office of Children's Health & Well-Being. Under Governor Scott Walker, the small office of three personnel was created for the purpose of promoting cross-department collaboration, connecting programs, aligning policies and funding streams to more efficiently and effectively address the root causes of adversity which negatively impact child health, well-being, and future educational success. Blank Children's Hospital recommends Governor Reynolds create a similar role to highlight the importance of child health and well-being to Iowa's future economic prosperity. Through the development of a Children's Policy Advisor position within the Governor's Office, the Governor and her Cabinet will better be able to identify and facilitate cross-department collaborative opportunities to improve health and education outcomes for children in Iowa.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these recommendations to ensure the unique needs of children continue to be prioritized and addressed by our future state government Boards and Commissions structure. For any additional information about these suggestions, please feel free to contact Chaney Yeast, Government Relations Director, Blank Children's Hospital at [chaney.yeast@unitypoint.org](mailto:chaney.yeast@unitypoint.org).

[Redacted signature block]

Blank Children's Hospital | UnityPoint Health – Des Moines  
1200 Pleasant Street  
Des Moines, IA 50309

[Redacted contact information]

[blankchildrens.org](http://blankchildrens.org)  
[unitypoint.org](http://unitypoint.org)

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Concerned about reducing/merging Iowa Commissions/Boards  
Date: Wed Sep 06 2023 00:44:08 CDT  
Attachments:

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To whom it may concern,

I am unable to attend or watch the Sept 6 Public Comments event so here is my letter.

Since moving to Iowa in 2007 at the age of 48 years old, I have become active in trying to advocate for deaf and hard of hearing Iowans because in other states I have seen deaf people accommodated, given equal access and heard from through the different parts of the state government. Of the last 6 states, I lived in as a Deaf person, I have told people Iowa's status for Deaf people is the worse. I could cite examples of different kinds of services that need to improve in working for and accommodating Deaf people equally - whether it is the courts, prisons, law enforcement, education, public health, at the Capitol, etc. Iowa's Commission of the Deaf is hardly heard from and their effort to improve has often fallen short.

After a few years living in Iowa, I joined at least one advisory group and also was appointed to serve two terms on the Deaf Services Commission of Iowa (DSCI), because I saw the need to help my peers. I meet former Iowans who moved out of state citing the sad fact that they being college graduates or professionals, in some field of serving others, do not feel they are treated as equal persons, and do not find employment opportunities due to being deaf.

Even while serving my second term on the Deaf Services Commission of Iowa, I submitted a resignation letter because I had a few suggestions to improve that was not carried through because the committee at one time had more non-Deaf people and was underrepresented. The chair was Deaf but felt she had to be neutral. The agency director did not agree with me and others who raised concerns. Thus we could not push for improvements like, for example in Washington State, where commission concerns were immediately shared directly with whom it involved (e.i., public schools, hospitals, public services, etc.). Unlike Iowan Blind citizens, who have their own Department with direct access to the governor executive team, deaf and hard of hearing people are in a mixed commission with hearing people, and have to push our voice or input up the several levels through a group of different Community Advocacy Services, then if we are successful we bring it up to the Human Rights Commission. We are three steps down from where Blind people advocate for their rights-- while the number of deaf/hard of hearing Iowans was at least three times larger than the Blind/Sight impaired Iowans (I compiled facts about this 6 years ago). Iowa in helping the blind Iowans include a good number of state employees working for their behalf and we hardly have one person representing us!



I could cite different examples that I experienced in Iowa that Deaf people do not experience in other states, but we made some improvements and have a long way to go. Deaf people will be left behind and left at the mercy of the state's welfare if they are treated less than equal as persons and their concerns are not listened to. We have been underestimated in number, ignored or overlooked, or looked at as completely disabled and unworthy citizens. Even the words from Scripture is still true today when it states: "Do not insult the deaf or cause the blind to stumble. You must fear your God; I am the LORD." Leviticus 19:14.

Please leave and respect the commission/boards: Deaf Service Commission of Iowa and the Iowa Board of Sign Language Interpreters and Transliterators (Licensure). Better yet, please begin discussions on how deaf, hard of hearing and deaf-blind people will have their grievances heard, accommodations improved and be treated as their fellow Iowan citizens. Minority groups or commissions for people of disabilities rarely include Deaf people because we are a minority with linguistic oppression. There needs to be a way where their voices are not overtaken by other groups or overshadowed because they have to start way down the state departmental level and have no deaf government representative hired to address their rights.

Thank you for letting me and my peers bring this to your attention. We want to work together and bring common good, and exercise our constitutional rights.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

(proudly Deaf and active in my community, region and state as a committed citizen)

Cedar Rapids

--

[Redacted Signature]

"Our mission is to ensure that deaf children shall receive the educational and social opportunities to enable them to experience life in a manner equivalent to their hearing peers."

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: DSCI  
Date: Wed Sep 06 2023 05:31:30 CDT  
Attachments:

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Iowa hearing people are arrogant about Deaf. They often they know best for deaf people. They don't...

Back 2014 two applicants for DSCI for office of deaf service they hired a hearing and see what happen.. they should hire deaf person . he applied and they didn't hire deaf a right person for deaf office.

Also DSCI had community discussion several years how to improve deaf community and still hearing people run that and they didn't do anything.

I went ODS several years they don't have any deaf staff.

Please consider to keep DSCI. Iowa is a finest place to live .

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
To: BCRCComments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
Date: Wed Sep 06 2023 07:18:51 CDT  
Attachments:

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Dear Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee,

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

To ensure Iowa does not lose \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including local private matching funds, and risk loss of key services impacting every county in the state, please preserve the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service with its board and staff continuing to operate as is.

The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination. Given the multiple programs facilitated by the commission, no other state agency or department including HHS could devote the time and staff needed; thus, elimination of Volunteer Iowa would create unintentional and devastating impacts on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa:

\* Without this designated commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds.

\* The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP.

\* The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that make local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

\* The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to local disaster response, after-school programming, tutoring for reading and math, building of low-income housing, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

I served on the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service for nine years representing the business sector and saw the tremendous need across our state to support our non-profits and communities through volunteer engagement. It opened my eyes to programs and opportunities that I did not know existed. I attended the Association of State Commissions conference in D. C. and learned what other states are doing with their programming. Iowa is known as a leader in this field and Volunteer Iowa Director Adam Lounsbury is highly regarded among his peers across the country for the innovative programs and ways the department has grown over the years. Governor Terry Branstad established the Commission in 1994 "to assist in the development and implementation of a comprehensive, statewide plan for promoting volunteer involvement and citizen participation in Iowa, as well as serve as the state's liaison to national and state organizations which support the Commission's mission." The Commission has proven to be successful and it would be devastating to see the state of Iowa lose the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service and board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

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From: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: In Support of Volunteer Iowa  
Date: Wed Sep 06 2023 07:27:15 CDT  
Attachments: image001.png

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Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]  
Iowa Program Manager

Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa

11407 NW Jester Park Dr. | Granger, IA 50109



[www.conservationcorps.org](http://www.conservationcorps.org)

resources restored. lives changed.

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image001.png

Last Modified: Wed Sep 06 07:27:15 CDT 2023

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**AmeriCorps**



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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Consolidation of volunteer committees  
Date: Wed Sep 06 2023 08:05:12 CDT  
Attachments:

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Good morning and to whom it may concern,

I understand what is happening and why our governor is doing what she is doing. The consolidation of committees and commissions is definitely all about creating a lack of transparency in our government. Let's not play games here and pretend like you don't either.

When you are older and thinking back on your life. I hope you understand your complicitness in this dereliction of duty that most Iowan Republicans are in on. It's disgusting and Iowa is worse for it.

None of this is meant to offend you. This is a constitute airing her displeasure at the government she was handed.

I'm particularly concerned about the commission Volunteer Iowa. I think one thing that goes across all differences in Iowa is people here are great at volunteering. I guess the governor and those like her don't think that's a good thing. As I don't trust her and her ilk it's hard to even write this letter. I feel like nobody listens in this governor's realm. It's all about private school using public money and keeping women down. My own daughter has left the state and she's vows never to return.

I've had two clients over the last year and a half move out of state. And please don't quote the latest paid for statistic. Not with this dirty water and shitty air and more hogs than people.

Anyway this is probably futile but at least I get to put it out there.

Thank you  
[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Dapac state board  
Date: Wed Sep 06 2023 08:30:30 CDT  
Attachments:

---

I am a retired adult protective worker with Iowa DHS/ HHS who has been an active guest member in the DAPAC ( dependent adult protection advisory committee) for several years. This is an active multidisciplinary group of concerned individuals whose input across disciplines is valuable. The meetings afford opportunities to share information and updates of people all working with the elderly and dependent adults in varying capacities. Recommendations have been submitted regarding pending legislation, policy changes etc. If this group is disbanded the current HHS dependent adult protection team will lose access to valuable diverse input.

Sincerely  
[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Proposed elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board  
Date: Wed Sep 06 2023 08:51:03 CDT  
Attachments:

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Dear Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee:

I was dismayed to learn that the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board is on the proposed chopping block by your committee. Do you fully realize what this board quietly does? Without this board, our state will not be in compliance to receive AmeriCorp state funding. These are funds that many nonprofits in our state desperately need to do good work in our state. Nonprofits are increasing many challenges these days due to tax changes and the pandemic. Please do not eliminate the Volunteer Service board (aka Volunteer Iowa) which is our pathway to additional funding.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Protect Volunteer Iowa and Federal Funding  
Date: Wed Sep 06 2023 08:52:32 CDT  
Attachments:

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Hello,

I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposal to eliminate the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service, also known as Volunteer Iowa. This proposal, as part of the state government reorganization plan signed into law earlier this year, could have serious consequences for our communities and organizations across the state.

Volunteer Iowa plays a critical role in overseeing federal funding through the AmeriCorps program in Iowa, ensuring that these funds are distributed to address "critical community needs." These needs range from low-income housing construction to after-school programming and local disaster response. The commission has consistently demonstrated its commitment to supporting our communities and has been instrumental in disbursing vital funds.

The federal statute mandates the presence of a state commission to remain eligible for AmeriCorps funding. While it is suggested that an "alternative administrative entity" could replace the commission, it's important to note that such an entity would require federal approval and would still necessitate the existence of a commission. Without a state commission, Iowa stands to lose approximately \$2.5 million in formula funding, putting at risk the essential programs and services that AmeriCorps funding supports.

Furthermore, the elimination of Volunteer Iowa would force Iowa organizations currently receiving AmeriCorps State funds to compete through the federal process, pitting them against national nonprofits and organizations. This could have a detrimental impact on local organizations that rely on this funding to serve our communities effectively.

I urge you to reconsider this proposal and its potential repercussions on our state. Volunteer Iowa has enjoyed strong bipartisan support and has been a valuable asset to our community programs. It serves as a vital bridge between federal resources and local organizations, ensuring that our communities receive the support they need.

I respectfully request that you take the concerns of Volunteer Iowa board members, grant recipients, and community advocates into account. I also encourage you to explore alternative solutions that preserve the commission's essential role in supporting our communities.

Please know that I am not alone in my concern. Many Iowans are deeply troubled by this proposal and its potential impact on our state's ability to access federal funding for critical

community needs. I implore you to listen to the voices of the people who rely on Volunteer Iowa and its vital work.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I hope that, together, we can find a solution that preserves Volunteer Iowa and ensures the continued well-being of our communities.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Public Comment Elimination of Boards and Commissions  
Date: Wed Sep 06 2023 08:52:53 CDT  
Attachments:

---

Please accept this email as a part of public comments:

- \* For each state board and commission that will be eliminated or consolidated, provide information/transparency with the public as to “why” the decision was made for that specific board or commission.
- \* Provide specific impact on lowans as to the loss of active commissions that are being consolidated or eliminated.
- \* Has anyone in state government reviewed potential consequences or impact on federal funding as a result of elimination/consolidation of each board or commission? See example below regarding the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service
- \* Will elimination/consolidation of commissions make Iowa ineligible for certain federal grants?
- \* The public comment period should be extended as the deadline is a day after a holiday weekend.

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa. The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state. Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching

funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCComments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Bcc:  
Subject: AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa  
Date: Wed Sep 06 2023 09:19:29 CDT  
Attachments:

---

Why would you want to eliminate a proven open channel to receive Federal money to another “agency” that could possible not work or delay this money source? I recommend you leave this commission operational.  
Thank You.  
[REDACTED]



---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCCOMMENTS@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: ICAA Comments on Preliminary Recommendations  
Date: Wed Sep 06 2023 09:30:51 CDT  
Attachments: Boards and Commissions Committee Letter.pdf

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Please see the attached letter.

Thanks,  
[REDACTED]

--

Mission: Educating, Advocating for, and Connecting Community Action Agencies to amplify a unified voice in service of Iowans facing economic hardship.

Check out our new website!: [www.iowacommunityaction.org](http://www.iowacommunityaction.org)

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Filename: Boards and Commissions Committee Letter.pdf

Last Modified: Wed Sep 06 09:30:51 CDT 2023

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September 5, 2023

Governor Kim Reynolds  
Office of the Governor  
Iowa State Capitol  
1007 East Grand Ave.  
Des Moines, IA 50319

Sent via Email to Taryn Frideres: [taryn.frideres@governor.iowa.gov](mailto:taryn.frideres@governor.iowa.gov)

Dear Governor Reynolds & the Board & Commissions Review Committee:

After reviewing the preliminary recommendations made by the Boards & Commissions Review Committee tasked with streamlining the Boards and Commissions for the State of Iowa, the Iowa Community Action Network is disappointed that the Committee would recommend the elimination of the Community Action Agency Commission, particularly with no context or reasoning to accompany the recommendation.

It is the Community Action Network's position that the elimination of this Commission takes the public further away from the work of Community Action - which is not in the best interest of individuals and families experiencing low income. We need and want Iowans to know what is happening with the work that we do and provide input - it is in fact central to our mission and part of our founding principles. We believe that having this representation at the State level helps hold State Government **and** Community Action Agencies accountable and is a key component to the success of Community Action programming. Most importantly, the citizen voices of low-income families should retain their seat at the table in order to be part of decision making that affects them.

In the interest of the Governor's intentions for making State Government more streamlined, the Network would propose the following efficiency: to fold the existing Family Development and Self-Sufficiency (FaDSS) Council under the Community Action Agency Commission. Of the providers who offer FaDSS programming, Thirteen (13) of the Fifteen (15) are Community Action Agencies. In fact, the FaDSS program was born out of pilot programming in the Community Action Network. The mission of FaDSS and Community Action are in lock-step and most families who are utilizing FaDSS Services are also accessing other services provided by Community Action Agencies. We believe the Community Action Agency Commission and the FaDSS Council would benefit from the expertise and diversity that exists on the Council and Commission today.

The Network of Community Action Agencies served over 290,000 Iowa households experiencing low income last year. Iowa is recognized nationally for its effective administration of Community Action Agency run programs such as Weatherization, LIHEAP and CSBG. This is in



large part due to the tri-partite board structure (equal representation from public, private and low-income constituencies) that is utilized at each agency and by the Commission.

By eliminating the Community Action Agency Commission, you are eliminating citizen voices: their experience, their advocacy and the accountability they bring to State Government and the programs and agencies that serve them.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss this further with the Governor, any of her staff or the Committee.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted line]

[Redacted line]

[Redacted line]

CC: Director Kelly Garcia, [Redacted], Director Kraig Paulsen

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Commission remarks  
Date: Wed Sep 06 2023 09:31:06 CDT  
Attachments:

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Hello BCRC members,

There are 38 states who have Commissions for the Deaf, including Iowa. These Commissions are crucial organizations that improve the quality of the lives of the Deaf, Hard of hearing, and DeafBlind citizens of their states by providing services and programs that understand the specific needs of the members of that community. As you can imagine, Deaf people's experience in navigating school, employment, and access to government is different than it is for people who can hear and speak. DSCI and other Commission for the Deaf around the country are positioned to understand that experience and work to break down barriers and create access. Most of the time, the barriers that exist are not intentionally placed, but simply oversights due to it not occurring to people to think in terms of access for Deaf people. That's what DSCI does. It makes sure that the Deaf citizens of Iowa don't get lost in the mix just because they are a small population.

If DSCI and the other Community Advocacy Commissions are merged into the Human Rights Commission, Deaf people in Iowa *will* be lost in the mix.

Currently, the 7 Commissioners on DSCI give their time and energy at little to no cost to the State to work diligently on issues specific to enhancing the quality of life of Deaf people in Iowa. Why lose that talent and dedication? Keeping an active DSCI is an easy, cost effective way for the State of Iowa to demonstrate that it values its Deaf citizens and wants them to have a voice at the table.

Don't remove the one small but mighty resource that Deaf Iowans have in our State government. Don't create more barriers for a community that already has so many.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Comments to be delivered in today's hearing  
Date: Wed Sep 06 2023 10:26:02 CDT  
Attachments:

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Good morning,

As I stated previously, I'm sharing by email the comments I intend to make verbally at this afternoon's hearing to ensure they are received in the event that I'm cut for time.

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Good afternoon, and thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts on these proposals. My name is [REDACTED]. I have served 3 terms of AmeriCorps service, including a 2 year engagement as a VISTA Leader which ended on the same day as your recommendations were announced.

While plenty of proposals on this list would spell disaster for participatory democracy, I feel especially compelled to share my objection to proposal #167, which would eliminate the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service.

Every year, thousands of hardworking people and millions of federal dollars serve Iowans through AmeriCorps and other programs coordinated by Volunteer Iowa, doing everything in their power to make sure there's food on the table and a roof overhead for every Iowan, and responding fearlessly in the aftermath of disasters such as the Derecho.

The scale of these efforts, as well as the terms of the federal funding that supports them, require a Volunteer Commission equipped to coordinate their efforts statewide.

The service opportunities made possible by Volunteer Iowa and the organizations it supports incubate impactful and fulfilling careers, strengthen communities, and save lives.

Volunteer Iowa is one of several state bodies facing elimination which have not only permitted but celebrated the aspirations of the most compassionate and driven people I've ever met. The destructive impact of eliminating the Commission will have widespread effects felt in state agencies, local governments and school districts, and the entire nonprofit community in Iowa.

In the increasingly uncertain times we live in, the need for a culture of volunteerism, as well as the infrastructure required to coordinate volunteers' efforts, is more important now than it ever has been.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]



---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: DSCI  
Date: Wed Sep 06 2023 10:34:45 CDT  
Attachments:

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Salutations, Boards and commissions review committee-

I am writing to you as an ally of the Deaf community, I was raised with two Deaf parents in Ankeny and am now a licensed Sign Language Interpreter. I was born and raised in Iowa, went to Ankeny High School and graduated from DMACC and then left the state for a decade and have recently returned to Iowa earlier this year. Since my return I have noticed big changes that have happened that's left Iowa severely lacking in its support for this underrepresented community in comparison to other states I've lived and worked in. Being a Deaf or Hard of Hearing person in the state of Iowa is an incredibly isolating life and I refuse to believe that the state government wants this quality of life for Iowans. The decisions being proposed makes me feel like we are pushing members of a marginalized community out of our beautiful state due to a lack of access and support.

DSCI was once a fully functioning commission with a mission providing support to the community in such a robust capacity. The current Office of Deaf Services ceases to have any full time staff and the '1/3 FTE' person knows no American Sign Language and cannot provide the advocacy or education that this office needs.

I am deeply concerned about the proposed merging of DSCI as well as reorganization of the Board of Sign Language Interpreters and Transliterators in addition to a few other proposed mergers impacting the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deafblind community.

There are dire concerns for our Deaf and Hard of Hearing Iowans as they are already feeling cut off from support, resources and services. Proposing that we have one person representing the perspective of Deaf/Hard of Hearing Iowans across the state is a severe detriment and loss to the community. One person cannot represent the perspective or support all of the needs within the community. If you look at other states they are well staffed with commissioners who are Deaf and ASL fluent forming a variety of perspectives.

I envision a barrier free Iowa. I have seen my parents work so hard fighting for their rights to access on a daily basis. They are having to continuously educate and advocate for themselves literally everywhere they go. I have witnessed Iowa hospitals, education systems, financial institutions and other systems that people rely on to function in society deny my parents access to communication and disregard their needs and rights to access. It's a battle just to ask a



restaurant/bar to turn on captioning on a single TV when we go out to watch a game.

DSCI is a vessel of support to help connect people to resources and services with the intent to improve communication access while raising awareness and education. I plead with my State government to please support DSCI to ensure that Deaf Iowans, taxpayers like my parents who have worked in Iowa their entire life, don't get left behind or feel further isolated by the state they call home. I urge you to keep DSCI intact with active and involved commissioners so the diverse perspectives of the Deaf community can be represented and supported by members within that community. Please protect the initiatives of DSCI and continue supporting the voice of Iowa's Deaf community.

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: DSCI  
Date: Wed Sep 06 2023 10:45:01 CDT  
Attachments:

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DSCI is very critical for the deaf community. We need a place to be able to contact for our concerns, get resources, and advocates. Currently we are scrambling around looking for these services with DSCI we were able to rely on them for several things.

This program can become a big thing for Iowa and really support the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. We can work together and educate one another in a very positive way. Me being a deaf adult in rural Iowa, is difficult not having the services from DSCI to help with all the issues concerns and resources that need to be expressed.

As a former Junior DSCI commissioner this is tough to see, I was able to learn my identity of being Deaf and meeting others all around Iowa, we built long lasting friendships personally and professionally. Improving my Knowledge of deaf culture, ASL, and knowing all the resources for the Deaf.

All services in one place would be amazing please reconsider and keep DSCI and let us make it bigger and better. Iowa is great and can have so many potentials for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community.

Thank you  
[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: FW: AmeriCorps Funding  
Date: Wed Sep 06 2023 12:07:59 CDT  
Attachments:

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Dear Boards and Commissions Review Committee,

I'm writing to urge you to retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service, also known as Volunteer Iowa, which oversees AmeriCorps programs in Iowa. Federal statute requires states to have a commission to remain eligible for AmeriCorps funding.

AmeriCorps programs in Iowa do good things for our communities. In Grinnell, our AmeriCorps workers have focused on literacy, especially during the summer months, helping to raise the scores of K-4 readers, and prevent "summer slide." These efforts have been documented in pre and post testing over a multi-year period.

Grinnell College Museum of Art was able to serve 2,784 children and caregivers in our community with free arts and literacy programs this past summer because of the work our AmeriCorps members do.

As well, the AmeriCorps experience provides local youth important opportunities working in education and serving their communities.

Without AmeriCorps members, our community's ability to ensure summer learning and keep kids at grade level reading would be severely compromised.

Please keep the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service and AmeriCorps in our state.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

From:

[REDACTED]

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Cc:

Bcc:

Subject:

Date: Wed Sep 06 2023 12:08:23 CDT

Attachments:

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I believe Iowa should not illuminate the Board or Commission that would d away with Iowa Volunteer. The result in losing important funding for other programs for lowas is in poor choice. Many Iowa leaders of both political parties believe this to be important. Our communities are based on this premise of common good.

[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Public Comment: United Way of Central Iowa  
Date: Wed Sep 06 2023 12:10:59 CDT  
Attachments: 09.06.23 United Way Public Comment.pdf

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Hello,

Attached is a public comment letter to the Boards & Commissions Review Committee.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1111 9th St., Suite 100, Des Moines, IA 50314

[www.UnitedWayDM.org](http://www.UnitedWayDM.org)

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: 09.06.23 United Way Public Comment.pdf

Last Modified: Wed Sep 06 12:10:59 CDT 2023

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United Way  
of Central Iowa

Public Comments on Proposed Changes to Iowa's Boards & Commissions

United Way of Central Iowa

1111 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Ste. 100

Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Dear Boards & Commissions Review Committee,

On behalf of United Way of Central Iowa, I write to submit comments on the proposed changes to Iowa's boards and commissions. United Way of Central Iowa invests in hundreds of local nonprofit programs focused on creating progress in the 5 Elements of a Thriving Community: Essential Needs, Early Childhood Success, Education Success, Economic Opportunity, and Health & Well-Being.

The proposed changes to reorganize, restructure or eliminate many critical boards & commissions could mean that some of Iowa's most vulnerable populations do not have their specific needs addressed.

Working in a collaborative way, many of these boards and commissions not only represent local community involvement and input, but also serve to raise awareness and provide agency and voice to those who too often are not represented.

At United Way, we believe that community-based approaches, with the representation and involvement of affected communities, helps to advance the specific causes and populations that these boards and commissions were setup to address. With potential eliminations and reorganizations, many of Iowa's most vulnerable populations may not have that representation moving forward in state business.

We urge the Review Committee to maintain strong representation in the areas we have identified below, retaining critical boards and commissions that help serve as the voice for Iowans of all walks of life.

Thank you for your time and attention,

[Redacted signature block]



**United Way  
of Central Iowa**

**United Way of Central opposes the following changes and eliminations:**

Elimination:

- State Building Code Board Advisory Council
- Dental Hygiene Committee
- Board of Dietetics
- Midwifery Advisory Council
- Board of Nursing Home Administrators
- Prison Industries Advisory Board
- Midwestern Higher Education Compact
- Advisory Committee for Perinatal Guidelines
- Child Care Advisory Committee
- Leadership Council for Child Care Training and Development
- Early Childhood Stakeholders Alliance
- Commission on Community Action Agencies
- Dependent Adult Protective Advisory Council
- Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service
- Local Food and Farm Program Council
- Organic Advisory Council
- Area Education Agency Advisory Group

Reorganize/Other Changes

- Child Development Coordinating Council
- Iowa State Civil Rights Commission
- Board of Dentistry
- Board of Medicine
- Board of Nursing
- Board of Optometry
- Board of Pharmacy
- Board of Physician Assistants
- Board of Social Work
- Board of Corrections
- Iowa Autism Council
- College Student Aid Commission
- Community College Council
- State Board of Education
- Iowa Public Broadcasting Board
- Commission of Veterans Affairs
- Commission of Deaf Services
- Commission of Persons With Disabilities
- HAWK-I Advisory Council
- HAWK-I Board
- Latino Affairs Commission
- Mental Health and Disability Services Commission
- Commission of Native American Affairs
- Commission on the Status of Women
- State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council
- Iowa Workforce Development Board
- Local Workforce Development Boards

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Public Comments  
Date: Wed Sep 06 2023 12:23:47 CDT  
Attachments: 09.06.23\_BCRC\_WrittenComments.pdf  
image001.jpg  
image002.jpg  
image003.jpg

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Thank you for the opportunity to share my comments. My comments are both attached and identified in the body of this email.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Best,

[REDACTED]

September 6, 2023

Boards and Commission Review Committee

Des Moines, IA

Comments Submitted to: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov.

Dear Members of the Boards and Commission Review Committee,

I am writing in response to the Committee's recommendations to make changes to Iowa's standing boards and commissions, shared with the public early last week. I want to express concerns with some of the recommendations released.

United Ways of Iowa is a membership organization, representing local United Ways across Iowa. Together, our members raise nearly \$60 Million annually to strengthen Iowa communities through investments in education, financial stability, health, and crisis services.

We are fortunate to be a partner with the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Services to implement Reading Corps, an evidence-based and effective AmeriCorps program working directly with early learners in the school setting. A recommendation for consideration is the elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Services. This would be detrimental to not only this important reading program provided to Iowa's early learners, but the numerous AmeriCorps programs designed to meet critical community needs while serving Iowans in all 99 counties.

The creation and continuation of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Services is a requirement by federal statute to receive AmeriCorps funds. The elimination of this Commission will jeopardize current and future federal funding, impacting, not only the lives of Iowans served by these programs, but those committed to providing volunteer service, as well as the nonprofit communities providing support for AmeriCorps programs.

In reviewing the impact of this decision in terms of numbers, this includes:

\*\*\*\*\* 21 grants to new and continuing AmeriCorps programs in Iowa;

\*\*\*\*\* \$9.45 million in federal grants;

\*\*\*\*\* \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards;

\*\*\*\*\* TOTAL Federal Funding in Jeopardy: \$14.3 million

The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Services is just one area of concern we would like to highlight. In reviewing the list of boards and commissions scheduled for elimination, a concern arose with the elimination of the Early Childhood Stakeholders Alliance and the potential to jeopardize early childhood federal funds. The Alliance is designated to serve as the state's advisory council, a requirement under the federal Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007.

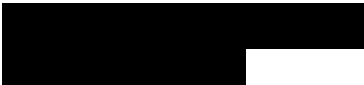
There are a number of other boards and commissions recommended for elimination and

consolidation/merger that could have lasting impacts on lowans. I shared concerns with the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Services and the Early Childhood Stakeholders Alliance as two examples that are not just elimination of boards and commissions served by community members to provide input, but rather could have unintended consequences should their eliminations remain as recommendations in the final report.

I can appreciate the importance to align boards and commissions to fulfill their responsibilities. There may be some boards and commissions where further review and determination for change is warranted. It would be recommended to determine a schedule, available with community involvement, if at minimum current members of the boards and commissions, to best determine their future fate. Reviews for the ongoing needs for the various boards and commissions should be common to help alleviate massive restructure, similar to the recommendations in front of us today.

I appreciate your time to share comments about the process for review and look forward to final recommendations set forth by the committee.

Best,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: 09.06.23\_BCRC\_WrittenComments.pdf

Last Modified: Wed Sep 06 12:23:47 CDT 2023

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United Ways of Iowa

**Board of Directors**

September 5, 2023

**Danielle Peterson, Chair**  
Dubuque Area

Boards and Commission Review Committee  
Des Moines, IA

**Michella Friesen, Vice Chair**  
Mahaska County

**Comments Submitted to: [BCRCcomments@iowa.gov](mailto:BCRCcomments@iowa.gov).**

**Kristin Roberts, Treasurer**  
East Central IA

Dear Members of the Boards and Commission Review Committee,

**Jill Krall, Past Chair**  
Waverly-Shell Rock

I am writing in response to the Committee's recommendations to make changes to Iowa's standing boards and commissions, shared with the public early last week. I want to express concerns with some of the recommendations released.

**Heather Hennings**  
Siouxland

**Jean Kresse**  
Story County

United Ways of Iowa is a membership organization, representing local United Ways across Iowa. Together, our members raise nearly \$60 Million annually to strengthen Iowa communities through investments in education, financial stability, health, and crisis services.

**Randy Kuhlman**  
Ft. Dodge

**Ali Wilson**  
Wapello County

We are fortunate to be a partner with the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Services to implement Reading Corps, an evidence-based and effective AmeriCorps program working directly with early learners in the school setting. A recommendation for consideration is the elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Services. This would be detrimental to not only this important reading program provided to Iowa's early learners, but the numerous AmeriCorps programs designed to meet critical community needs while serving Iowans in all 99 counties.

**Kelli Soyer**  
President & CEO

The creation and continuation of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Services is a requirement by federal statute to receive AmeriCorps funds. The elimination of this Commission will jeopardize current and future federal funding, impacting, not only the lives of Iowans served by these programs, but those committed to providing volunteer service, as well as the nonprofit communities providing support for AmeriCorps programs.

In reviewing the impact of this decision in terms of numbers, this includes:

- 21 grants to new and continuing AmeriCorps programs in Iowa;
- \$9.45 million in federal grants;
- \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards;
- TOTAL Federal Funding in Jeopardy: \$14.3 million

The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Services is just one area of concern we would like to highlight. In reviewing the list of boards and commissions

scheduled for elimination, a concern arose with the elimination of the Early Childhood Stakeholders Alliance and the potential to jeopardize early childhood federal funds. The Alliance is designated to serve as the state's advisory council, a requirement under the federal Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007.

There are a number of other boards and commissions recommended for elimination and consolidation/merger that could have lasting impacts on Iowans. I shared concerns with the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Services and the Early Childhood Stakeholders Alliance as two examples that are not just elimination of boards and commissions served by community members to provide input, but rather could have unintended consequences should their eliminations remain as recommendations in the final report.

I can appreciate the importance to align boards and commissions to fulfill their responsibilities. There may be some boards and commissions where further review and determination for change is warranted. It would be recommended to determine a schedule, available with community involvement, if at minimum current members of the boards and commissions, to best determine their future fate. Reviews for the ongoing needs for the various boards and commissions should be common to help alleviate massive restructure, similar to the recommendations in front of us today.

I appreciate your time to share comments about the process for review and look forward to final recommendations set forth by the committee.

Best,

[Redacted signature block]



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Owner:

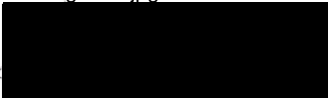
[REDACTED]

Filename: image001.jpg

Last Modified: Wed Sep 06 12:23:47 CDT 2023

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image001.jpg for Printed Item: 27



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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image002.jpg

Last Modified: Wed Sep 06 12:23:47 CDT 2023

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image002.jpg for Printed Item: 27

Attachment 3 of 4)



Page 536 of 564

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

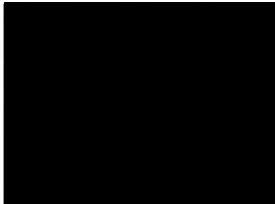
Filename: image003.jpg

Last Modified: Wed Sep 06 12:23:47 CDT 2023

---



**United Ways of Iowa**



---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCComments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Consideration of Elimination of Iowa's Boards and Commissions  
Date: Wed Sep 06 2023 13:21:12 CDT  
Attachments:

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To: Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee;

In response to the proposal that calls for the elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (ICVS):

I have been managing one of Iowa's AmeriCorps National Service Programs for 34 years. I am very familiar with the inner workings of ICVS as I have served at the liaison between Volunteer Iowa and the Iowa Association of RSVP Directors for several years now, serving as an ex-officio commissioner. Over the years I have communicated with many colleagues from across the country and I am convinced that Iowa has the very best Commission on Volunteer Service in the country. With strong leadership and a dedicated staff, ICVS has effectively served as the administrators, advocates, and ambassadors for Iowa's National Service Programs and more importantly, for Iowa's volunteer force.

This Commission provides the state's volunteer management infrastructure with the necessary support needed for all of us to effectively operate Iowa's National Service Programs. From a fiscal standpoint, ICVS directly administers AmeriCorps grants that bring over \$14 million into the state of Iowa and assure that those grants are awarded to organizations who are addressing critical needs for some of Iowa's most vulnerable citizens.

As you may know, 42 US Code 12638 requires each state to designate a state commission to receive federal AmeriCorps funds. The code does allow the state to designate an alternative administrative entity. As you review this code and the administrative requirements of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service, I urge you to consider the rich history of the Commission and the current capabilities of ICVS. The staff as well as the diverse and dedicated (appointed) commissioners do a job second to none. Although I felt educated on the many tasks and responsibilities of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service, in reading US Code 12638, I became even more aware of ICVS's responsibilities and needed capacity to fulfill all of the federal obligations. I cannot imagine any alternative administrative entity being more or

better equipped to administer and/or oversee Iowa's National Service Programs than Volunteer Iowa.

Respectfully,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]



---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Retention of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service Board  
Date: Wed Sep 06 2023 13:40:21 CDT  
Attachments:

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Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

I had the privilege of serving on the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board for six years. I saw first-hand the important work that this board does in supporting the overall well-being of thousands and thousands of Iowans. The negative impact that would result from eliminating this board would be devastating throughout the state.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and

countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Bcc:  
Subject: Boards and Commissions Review Committee--Request from the Pediatric Collaborative  
Date: Wed Sep 06 2023 14:24:19 CDT  
Attachments: Pediatric Healthcare Collaborative Intro.pdf

---

\*Sent on behalf of Dr. Teri Wahlig\*

-----  
  
State of Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee:

The Iowa Pediatric Healthcare Collaborative, including ChildServe, Blank Children's, MercyOne Children's, and the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospitals, is grateful for the opportunity to provide input on recommendations regarding restructuring Iowa's Boards and Commissions. We appreciate the state's effort to streamline and enhance these oversight bodies.

As Iowa's leaders in providing high-quality healthcare services to children across the state with complex and special health needs, we work collaboratively to address issues affecting children's healthcare. We are positioned to help identify ways to create more value in Iowa's healthcare system by improving quality outcomes and modernizing the delivery of programs and services that support Iowa's children.

The Iowa Pediatric Healthcare Collaborative respectfully requests consideration for having the chair of the collaborative, or designee, as a designated appointment to serve on the Health and Human Services Council.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the Spirit of a Child

This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error, please notify the sender and delete the message. Please check this email and any attachments for the presence of viruses; ChildServe accepts no liability for any damage caused by any virus transmitted by this email.

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: Pediatric Healthcare Collaborative Intro.pdf

Last Modified: Wed Sep 06 14:24:19 CDT 2023

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**Blank Children's Hospital**  
UnityPoint Health



*Believing in the spirit of a child.*



**University of Iowa**  
Stead Family  
Children's Hospital



## Pediatric Healthcare Collaborative

### Who We Are

As Iowa's leaders in providing high quality healthcare services to children with complex and special healthcare needs, Blank Children's Hospital, ChildServe, MercyOne Children's Hospital and University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital established the Pediatric Healthcare Collaborative.

We know children are not simply little adults. That's why we believe our state should design healthcare policies that meet the unique developmental needs of children by focusing on opportunities for prevention, early identification and early intervention for more cost effective solutions.

### What We Do

We collaborate to identify and address issues affecting children's healthcare in Iowa. Together, we share a collective voice of pediatric providers to better educate and inform local, state and federal policymakers about existing and emerging issues impacting the health of Iowa's children.

### How We Can Serve

- We are experts in pediatrics with statewide reach and impact and collectively serve nearly every child in Iowa – especially those with the most complex medical needs
- We are uniquely positioned to help you identify ways to create more value in Iowa's healthcare system by improving quality and outcomes while reducing cost and carefully considering the "return on child health"
- We can help you prevent "unintended consequences" by serving as a trusted source of information for more comprehensively assessing the potential impact of proposed policy or system changes on child health
- We are willing to work to identify solutions and problem-solve challenges alongside the Governor's Office, HHS, IME and MCOs

**Thank you for taking the time to carefully consider how to best protect healthcare access for Iowa's children. Please reach out to any of us for further information.**

#### **Chaney Yeast, LMSW, JD**

Director of Government Relations & Medical-Legal Project  
Blank Children's Hospital | UnityPoint Health – Des Moines  
515.241.4312 | chaney.yeast@unitypoint.org

#### **Mikki Stier**

Vice President of Government Relations & Public Affairs  
ChildServe  
515.331.4541 | mikkist@childserve.org

#### **Cheryll A Jones ARNP, CPNP, FAANP**

Director of Policy and Advocacy  
Health Services Coordinator  
Ottumwa Regional Center CHSC  
641.682.8145

#### **Mary Cownie**

Chief of Staff/Innovation/Advocacy  
MercyOne Des Moines  
515.358.9216  
mcownie@mercydesmoines.org

---

From: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Public comments re BCRC preliminary recommendations  
Date: Wed Sep 06 2023 14:53:33 CDT  
Attachments: image001.png

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September 6, 2023

Iowa Boards and Commission Review Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the Commission's preliminary recommendations to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of boards, commissions, and other similar entities created in Iowa law.

We are writing to ask you to ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is, effectively equipping community service organizations to provide important services to the people of Iowa.

Conservation Corps Iowa engages 45-50 young adult AmeriCorps members each year in meaningful hands-on community service and workforce preparedness training in natural resource management, environmental stewardship, and disaster response across Iowa. We are part of the more 7,800 volunteers who serve Iowa every year through Volunteer Iowa, which serves as the means for vital support we receive through the AmeriCorps national service program.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, but it would also result in

the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA, and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Thank you for considering our request.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



I'm using Adobe Acrobat.

You can view and comment on "letter to BCRC.09.06.23.pdf" at: <https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:c195c58f-a264-4844-a072-5e245dbb0b63>

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[www.conservationcorps.org](http://www.conservationcorps.org)

restoring resources. changing lives.

---

Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image001.png

Last Modified: Wed Sep 06 14:53:33 CDT 2023

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image001.png for Printed Item: 286 ( Attachment 1 of 1)



**AmeriCorps**

Page 551 of 564

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Volunteer Iowa  
Date: Wed Sep 06 2023 15:08:22 CDT  
Attachments:

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To Whom It May Concern:

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

For example, the Volunteer Center of Cedar Valley connects thousands of individuals of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities with opportunities to serve in Black Hawk County. Without partnership from the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service many of our programs, including RSVP and Youth Service-Learning, would be affected resulting in a loss thousands of active members of our community providing service.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Signed,

Volunteer Center of Cedar Valley Board of Directors

---

From:

[REDACTED]

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Cc:

Bcc:

Subject: Elimination of Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service

Date: Wed Sep 06 2023 15:22:21 CDT

Attachments:

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Hello,

I would like to express my concern regarding the potential elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Services. This commission makes it possible for the nonprofit I work for to have an AmeriCorps program. Over the last 4 years, our AmeriCorps program has provided over 60,000 service hours to our community and over 50 people have completed service terms. The knowledge gained through their service has helped many people to continue working in conservation fields.

Please do not eliminate the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service. AmeriCorps programs support many nonprofits in Iowa and our community will suffer if the program goes away.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

--

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Celebrating 45 years of advancing biodiversity in eastern Iowa by protecting resilient landscapes and connecting people to nature.

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc: Jon Murphy <jon@lobbyiowa.com>  
Bcc:  
Subject: FW: Children's Behavioral Health System State Board  
Date: Wed Sep 06 2023 18:14:37 CDT  
Attachments: image001.jpg  
Iowa Boards Commissions written submission.pdf

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Can you please verify that my emails below along with the attached comments have been received?

Thanks.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Coalition for Family & Children's Services in Iowa

1111 9th Street, Suite 235

Des Moines, Iowa 50314

[REDACTED]

[www.iachild.org](http://www.iachild.org)

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 6:04 PM  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
Cc: Jon Murphy <jon@lobbyiowa.com>  
Subject: RE: Children's Behavioral Health System State Board

Attached please find my written submission to be considered at the Boards & Commissions Review Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Coalition for Family & Children's Services in Iowa

1111 9th Street, Suite 235

Des Moines, Iowa 50314

[REDACTED]

[www.iachild.org](http://www.iachild.org)

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, August 29, 2023 2:20 PM  
To: [BCRCcomments@iowa.gov](mailto:BCRCcomments@iowa.gov)  
Cc: Jon Murphy <[jon@lobbyiowa.com](mailto:jon@lobbyiowa.com)>  
Subject: Children's Behavioral Health System State Board

I would like to have time at the September 6th meeting to discuss the impact of the proposed change to the Children's Behavioral Health System State Board.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]





Coalition for Family & Children's Services in Iowa

1111 9th Street, Suite 235

Des Moines, Iowa 50314



[www.iachild.org](http://www.iachild.org)

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Owner:

Filename:

image001.jpg

Last Modified:

Wed Sep 06 18:14:37 CDT 2023

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# The Coalition

Coalition for Family and Children's Services in Iowa

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename:

Iowa Boards Commissions written submission.pdf

Last Modified:

Wed Sep 06 18:14:37 CDT 2023

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# The Coalition

Coalition for Family and Children's Services in Iowa

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input. My name is [REDACTED]. I am the Executive Director of the Coalition for Family & Children's Services in Iowa. The Coalition's alliance of agencies provides the safety net to all children and youth with mental health or substance abuse needs, as well as children and youth who have been, or are now, in danger of being abused, neglected, or delinquent.

We advocate for children and families and for the people who provide services to children and families. The Coalition believes in a public/private partnership and works closely and well with the Department of Health and Human Services.

We commend the Governor and the Iowa legislature for reviewing the efficiency and effectiveness of all Iowa's board, commissions and other similar entities creating in Iowa law and making recommendations for the continuation, elimination, consolidation, or reorganization.

However, we are concerned that this process did not include issue experts outside of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Child welfare is asking the question: "Are families better off because HHS is involved?"

I would like you to ask yourself the question: "Are the youth with substance use and mental health needs going to be better off with the Children's Behavioral Health System State Board being consolidated/merged?"

In 2018, Governor Reynolds signed Executive Order Number Two and established the Children's System State Board because there was not a state board dedicated to the children's mental health system. In 2019, the Iowa legislature codified the Children's behavioral health system state board.

That was five years ago, but we know true system change takes at least three to five years. In addition, the pandemic occurred during this five-year period.

According to reports from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, children's emergency room visits for mental health issues increased significantly during the pandemic and continue to be a concern.<sup>1</sup>

Did you know?<sup>2</sup>

- 90% of teenagers who die by suicide suffer from a psychiatric disorder, such as depression, anxiety or substance abuse.
- Suicide is the second-leading cause of death in high school and college students.
- Youth suicide rates are higher in rural areas than in urban areas.

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<sup>1</sup> Georgetown University Health Policy Institute Center for Children and Families

<sup>2</sup> Foundation2 Crisis Services Statistics: <https://foundation2.org/suicide/suicide-statistics/>

According to a 2020 election eve poll conducted by Lake Research partners, there is tremendous “tripartisan” support for making significant progress on children’s issues. This support includes ensuring that the “best interests” of children govern decision making involving them. There was also support in establishing a federal independent Children’s Commissioner “to protect and improve the care and well-being of children.”<sup>3</sup>

What is the responsibility of the members of the Children’s Behavioral Health System State Board? The website states: *The Children’s Behavioral Health System State Board is the single point of responsibility in the implementation and management of a Children’s Mental Health System...*”

However, in reality, Iowa Code 225C.52 the following duties are described:

1. Advise the administrator on the administration of the children’s behavioral health system.
2. Provide consultation services to agencies regarding the development of administrative rules for the children’s behavioral health system.
3. Identify behavioral health outcomes and indicators for eligible children with a serious emotional disturbance to promote children living with their own families and in the community.
4. Submit a written report on each year. The U.S. Surgeon General Advisory Protecting Youth Mental Health confirmed that mental health challenges were a leading cause of disability and poor life outcomes in young people even before the COVID-pandemic.<sup>4</sup>

The Children’s System State Board does not have responsibility for the implementation and/or the management of a Children’s Mental Health System.

Since our children and youth do not vote, we want to make sure that the consolidated and merged Children’s System State Board does not lead us to have them treated as an afterthought.

The Coalition would like to volunteer to be involved in the strategies of the consolidation/merger of the Children’s Behavioral Health System State Board.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

<sup>3</sup> First Focus: Campaign for Children: A Children’s Agenda for the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Surgeon General Advisory: Protecting Youth Mental Health:

<https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/surgeon-general-youth-mental-health-advisory.pdf>

---

From:

[REDACTED]

To: BCRCCOMMENTS@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Cc:

Bcc:

Subject: Elimination of Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service

Date: Wed Sep 06 2023 18:18:58 CDT

Attachments:

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The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Services is extremely valued by non-profit organizations who help better our state and its citizens' livelihoods. This commission in particular oversees Iowa Americorps, which is vital for our state's already limited and threatened natural resources.

Please do not reduce these Iowa commissions and boards. Thank you.

[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov  
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Volunteer Iowa should be maintained  
Date: Wed Sep 06 2023 21:57:16 CDT  
Attachments:

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The AmeriCorps program and its members have provided valuable services to the communities they serve. A recent recommendation by the Boards and Commissions Review Committee to eliminate the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service, also known as Volunteer Iowa, could lead to a loss in AmeriCorps programs like ours statewide. Over the last 4 years AmeriCorps members have spent 50,000+ hours making eastern Iowa land and habitat better for people, plants and wildlife while gaining the skills they need to go onto careers, many of them right here in the state.

Don't eliminate the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service.

[REDACTED]





Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

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## Elimination of Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service

1 message

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[Redacted]

Thu, Sep 7, 2023 at 8:57 AM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

As a founding member of an all-volunteer nonprofit, the elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would be devastating to our organization. We've spent years building partnerships with AmeriCorps, Conservation Corps, and others to develop a world-class statewide volunteer river cleanup project. The absence of these valuable partners would put an end to this effort as well. I urge you to retain and support the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service.

Respectfully,

[Redacted]

--

[Redacted]



Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

## Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service

1 message

Thu, Sep 7, 2023 at 10:02 AM

To: "bcrccomments@iowa.gov" <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Gentle folk of the Boards and Commissions Review Commission:

The State of Iowa is consolidating some and eliminating other boards and commissions of the state government, for reasons I do not understand. However, we here in Lamoni are concerned about one in particular. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service which is one of the commissions targeted to be eliminated. It is funded by the federal government, and is the liaison, if you will, between federal AmeriCorps funding and our own AmeriCorps program here in Lamoni which serves six counties in southern Iowa. It was through this Volunteer Service Commission that the funding came that allowed our AmeriCorps program to hire me as a VISTA in 2015.

I spent that year doing research and writing a grant--along with 3 other experienced grant writers --which was successful in creating the AmeriCorps Youth Launch program and the \$300,000 to support it for three years. Recently this program has been renewed for its third 3-year term.

In Lamoni the program supports the following activities:

1. They Alley Kids program
  - a. After school program which includes homework help along with recreational activities
  - b. In-school student assistance
  - c. A summer camp program in the building, at the swimming pool, at the public library, and often community-service activities.
2. The Dolly Parton reading program for little ones ages 0-5 years, providing a book a month until the child turns five years old at which point they are in kindergarten.
3. AmeriCorps RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) which engages adults 55 years and older to volunteer their time to children's programs, such as:
  - a. reading to pre-schoolers,
  - b. being Pen Pals with elementary school children
  - c. serving on boards that serve children, such as the Lamoni Public Library
  - d. volunteering at the Lamoni Food Pantry
  - e. serving on the Lamoni SAFE Coalition which is the Board of Directors for The Alley

I understand that there is still a way for us to receive AmeriCorps funding, but it would be circuitous, not efficient, and would reduce the amount of our funding as well as utilize our energies toward continuing funding that could be better spent supporting our children.

I urge you on behalf of the AmeriCorps program here in Lamoni and the six counties it serves, to maintain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service as a free-standing commission.

Sincerely,



Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

## Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board

1 message

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Thu, Sep 7, 2023 at 10:47 AM

Please ensure the **Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board** continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka **Volunteer Iowa**) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an *unintentional* and **devastating** impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

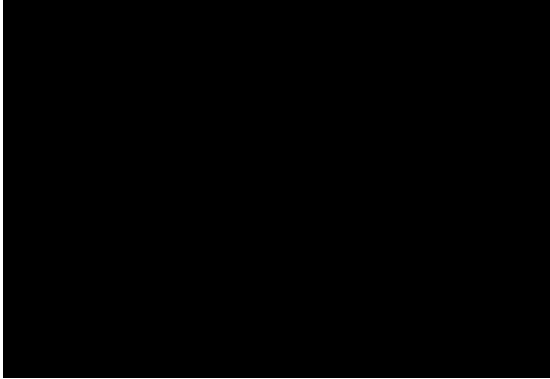
Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with [federal statute](#) required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service [announced 21 grants](#) it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

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**Everybody Wins! Iowa** directly benefits from the Iowa Mentoring Partnership as well as Volunteer Iowa by accessing potential volunteers, volunteer recognition, and low cost training opportunities. Each year, our program serves Central Iowa students (427 student mentees) with 452 volunteer mentors last year. Over the past 20 years we have served 9,775 students with 8,970 volunteers. We have also had over 25 AmeriCorps and VISTA members serve with our nonprofit and each year have RSVP members serving as mentors.

Please **retain** the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations such as **Everybody Wins! Iowa** supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Thank you for your consideration!



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Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

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## Board eliminations

1 message

A black rectangular redaction box covering the sender's name.

Thu, Sep 7, 2023 at 10:53 AM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Good morning,

I would like to call attention to the financial cost to Iowans of 2 Boards set for elimination by the present recommendations of the Boards and Commissions Review Committee. I have a working understanding of the usefulness and critical support that these boards provide to the citizens of Iowa. Eliminating them will reduce the opportunities, funds, and services to Iowa residents.

### **56 Cabinet – DNR Conservation Education Program Board § 455A.21**

The Conservation Education Program (CEP) is a key provision of the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Act of 1989. A five-member board implements the CEP and annually allocates approximately \$350,000 from state funding for conservation education grants in Iowa. Funds are distributed to Iowa entities for projects that directly impact Iowans. These include programs at county conservation boards, institutions of higher learning, and school districts. These carefully administered funds have provided opportunities to the public including students and funded improvements to natural areas around the state.

### **167 Cabinet – HHS Volunteer Service, Iowa Commission on § 15H.2-4 \***

The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with [federal statute](#) required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

Please feel free to contact me for additional information.

Peg

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A large black rectangular redaction box covering the sender's signature and contact information.



Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

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## Volunteer Iowa Commission

1 message

Thu, Sep 7, 2023 at 11:06 AM

To: "BCRCcomments@iowa.gov" &lt;BCRCcomments@iowa.gov&gt;

Please ensure the **Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board** continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka **Volunteer Iowa**) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an *unintentional* and **devastating** impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with [federal statute](#) required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service [announced 21 grants](#) it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

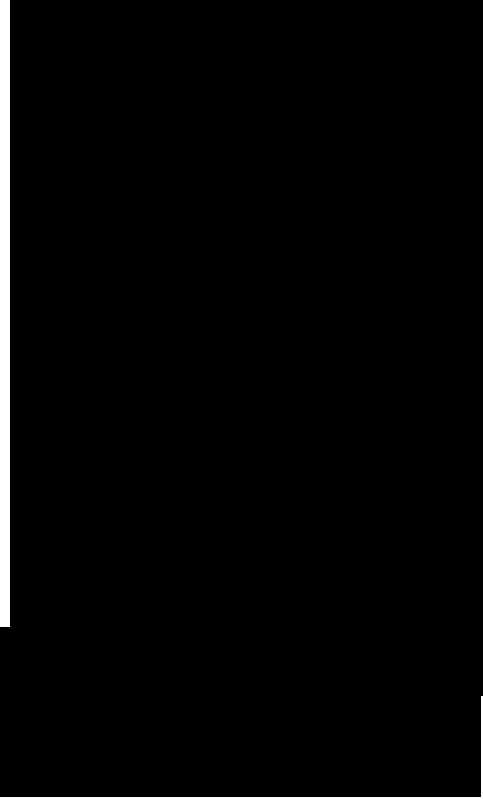
The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to after school programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

**Everybody Wins! Iowa** directly benefits from the Iowa Mentoring Partnership as well as Volunteer Iowa by accessing potential volunteers, volunteer recognition, and low cost training opportunities. Each year, our program serves Central Iowa students (427 student mentees) with 452 volunteer mentors last year. Over the past 20 years we have served 9,775 students with 8,970 volunteers. We have also had over 25 AmeriCorps and VISTA members serve with our nonprofit and each year have RSVP members serving as mentors.

Please **retain** the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and

countless other organizations such as ***Everybody Wins! Iowa*** supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Thank you for your consideration!



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Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

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## Keep Americorps in Iowa!

1 message

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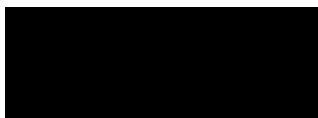
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Thu, Sep 7, 2023 at 11:10 AM

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing to urge your support for keeping Americorps in Iowa. In past 25 years, this program has given many thousands of young people an opportunity to gain work/life experience, contribute to community organizations, and pay back college loans. I have worked with program participants at conservation, social work, and energy efficiency programs and am always struck by how much they bring to organizations. Thousands to millions of hours of work would not get done without the help of these young people, all at bargain prices. Please keep this program healthy here in Iowa, we need it!

Thank you,







Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

## KEEP the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board

1 message

[Redacted]

Thu, Sep 7, 2023 at 11:35 AM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Please ensure the **Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board** continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka **Volunteer Iowa**) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an *unintentional* and **devastating** impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with **federal statute** required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced **21 grants** it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

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Please **retain** the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations such as **Everybody Wins! Iowa** supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Thank you for your consideration!

[Redacted]



Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

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## Please Keep the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board

1 message

Thu, Sep 7, 2023 at 11:37 AM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Please ensure the **Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service Board** continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka **Volunteer Iowa**) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an *unintentional* and **devastating** impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with [federal statute](#) required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service [announced 21 grants](#) it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

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Please **retain** the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations such as **Everybody Wins! Iowa** supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Thank you for your consideration!





Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

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## Iowa commission on volunteer services

1 message

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[Redacted]

Thu, Sep 7, 2023 at 11:42 AM

To: BCRCComments@iowa.gov

As I and my spouse are Iowa volunteers and financial supporters of Table to Table and Bur Oak and RSVP services Meals on Wheels and medical assistance drivers in Iowa City we strongly encourage the state to continue the importance of Americorps service to our state  
Thank you for your service  
[Redacted]

Sent from my iPhone



Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

## Comment to retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service Board

1 message

Thu, Sep 7, 2023 at 11:43 AM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

To whom it may concern,

I am writing today to ask that you ensure the **Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board** continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka **Volunteer Iowa**) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an *unintentional* and **devastating** impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

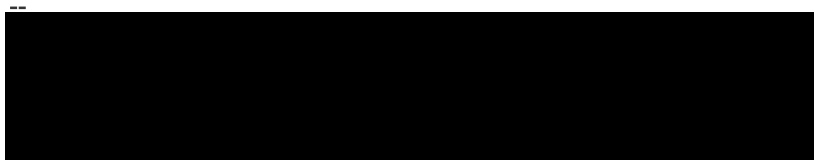
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The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to after school programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

A nonprofit I am directly involved with, **Everybody Wins! Iowa** benefits from the Iowa Mentoring Partnership as well as Volunteer Iowa by accessing potential volunteers, volunteer recognition, and low cost training opportunities. Each year, this program serves Central Iowa students (427 student mentees) with 452 volunteer mentors last year. Over the past 20 years EWI has served 9,775 students with 8,970 volunteers. The organization has also had over 25 AmeriCorps and VISTA members serve with our nonprofit and each year have RSVP members serving as mentors.

I ask that you **retain** the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations such as **Everybody Wins! Iowa** supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Thank you for your consideration!





Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

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## Keep the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Services

1 message

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Thu, Sep 7, 2023 at 11:52 AM

To: "bcrccomments@iowa.gov" <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Governor,

With gratitude to the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Services, **please read the attached letter** asking you to keep the highly impactful Iowa Commission on Volunteer Services. Thank you -



**Keep the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Services** [REDACTED] docx

15K



Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

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## Elimination of Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service

1 message

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Thu, Sep 7, 2023 at 12:15 PM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Dear Board Members,

Hello, I hope you are well. I'm writing to express my concern about the potential Elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Services. If this happens the AmeriCorps program in Iowa will be severely negatively impacted by the loss of federal dollars. Many organizations I care deeply about rely on AmeriCorps volunteers to carry out their missions. Specifically, I'm on the board of directors of a non-profit called "Field to Family" that is working to improve nutrition in our local schools and communities by connecting small farmers to consumers. We rely on Americorps volunteers and the organization would be devastated to have this go away.

I sincerely encourage you to reconsider eliminating the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Services because of its negative impact on so many Iowans.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

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**Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board**

1 message

Thu, Sep 7, 2023 at 12:18 PM

To: "bcrccomments@iowa.gov" &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

Please ensure the **Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board** continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka **Volunteer Iowa**) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an *unintentional* and **devastating** impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

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Please **retain** the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations such as **Everybody Wins! Iowa** supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Thank you for your consideration!








Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

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## Item Number 167 Comments

1 message

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Thu, Sep 7, 2023 at 1:04 PM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Please see the attached memorandum from the Association of RSVP Program Directors regarding proposed item 167.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me,

A black rectangular box redacting contact information.

This communication, along with any attachments, is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed and may contain information that is legally privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure. If you are not the individual or entity to which this communication is addressed, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this message, or any attachment is strictly prohibited. If you have received this message in error, please notify the original sender immediately by return email and delete this message, along with any attachments, from your computer. Thank you.

**RSVPDA Comment - Item Number 167.pdf**

36K

## MEMORANDUM

September 6, 2023

To: Mr. Jacob Nicholson  
Mr. Nate Ristow  
Mr. Kraig Paulsen  
Mr. Larry Johnson  
Mr. David Faith  
Ms. Barbara Sloniker  
Sen. Jason Schultz  
Rep. Jane Bloomingdale  
Sen. Janice Weiner  
Rep. Adam Zabner

Re: Boards and Commissions Review Committee Proposal Number 167

Members of the Boards and Commissions Review Committee:

The Association of Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) Directors provides the following comment to the proposal contained on line 167 of the 11-page spread sheet entitled "Board-Specific Recommendations." That proposal calls for the elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service.

As you may know, 42 US Code 12638 requires each state to designate a state commission to receive federal AmeriCorps funds. Without such a commission, Iowa will not be in compliance with federal rules, and thus not be eligible for Segal Education Awards and AmeriCorps State Program grants, which most recently totaled over \$14 million.

Funding for Iowa Retired and Senior Volunteer Programs is allocated and administered by the Iowa Commission of Volunteer Service. The Commission provides the state's volunteer infrastructure with the necessary support needed to effectively operate all of Iowa's National Service Programs.

According to the State of Iowa, each year, approximately 5,000 RSVP volunteers offer over 350,000 hours of service in our state. This volunteer service is valued at nearly \$8 million, based on the Independent Sector's estimated value of \$22.73 per hour of volunteer time in Iowa.

42 US Code 12638 does allow a state to designate an alternative administrative entity to receive the funds under certain conditions. If it is the desire of this Committee to recommend the elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service, we strongly encourage you to formally designate an alternative administrative entity.

If you have any questions or wish the assistance of this Association, please feel free to contact us at your earliest convenience.



Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

## Remarks from Senator Herman Quirmbach on Board & Commission Reviews

1 message

Thu, Sep 7, 2023 at 2:40 PM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Boards & Commissions Review Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you on September 6. What follows is a review and extension of my remarks.

I offer the following observations as a member of the Tobacco Use Prevention and Control Commission (Tobacco Commission) and of the College Student Aid Commission (CSAC). I have served on both these commissions for approximately twenty years as an ex-officio non-voting member. Both commissions oversee the implementation and administration of critical state programs to protect the public health (Tobacco) and enhance educational opportunities and workforce development (CSAC). Beyond the functioning of existing programs, members of the commissions provide exceptionally valuable expertise to help guide the development of public policy for the future.

On the Tobacco Commission I have served with medical doctors, pharmacists, academic public health experts, frontline addiction recovery workers, youth service agency administrators, and youth representatives. The youth representation is especially important because the vast majority of tobacco addicts start as teenagers or before. If the state had to hire consultants to provide comparable expertise, it would cost many tens of thousands of dollars each year. Currently we get the profound benefit of such expertise for little more than carfare.

The proposed recommendation for the Tobacco Commission is "Consolidate/Merge." Consolidate with whom? Merge with whom? No detail is provided. No rationale is offered. I have yet to find even a single member of the Tobacco Commission who has been consulted by your Review Committee.

The Tobacco Commission already consults and coordinates with many partner agencies. For the record, the Tobacco Commission by law has (non-voting) representatives from the Drug Policy Coordinator, the Attorney General's office, the Department of Education, and the Department of Health and Human Services and regularly works with the Iowa Alcoholic Beverages Division. It is hard for me to imagine any agency that does a better job at working with other related elements of state government.

It is critical to the health of Iowa and especially of its youth that we not blur the focus on tobacco and tobacco-related products. Tobacco is and is likely to remain the single biggest preventable cause of death in Iowa and throughout the nation. The challenges of tobacco are dynamic (e.g., vaping), and the Tobacco Commission has shown a ready ability to adapt to new threats. Other public health problems certainly exist, but to bury the mission of the Tobacco Commission in a larger bureaucracy will inevitably cause that mission to lose emphasis in state priorities. That would be a tragic mistake, one with quite literally life and death consequences.

The College Student Aid Commission plays an equally valuable role in the area of education. Statutorily designated members have included presidents of private and community colleges, members of the Board of Regents, students and parents of students, and licensed K-12 teachers and administrators. All of these voices are crucial, and none should be eliminated. In addition, we have had financial management executives to provide guidance on financing of college expenses and related matters. If anything, we need more members, especially from the business community to advise on workforce development issues.

The tentative recommendation for CSAC is "Reorganize/Other Changes." How to reorganize? What other changes? Again, no detail is provided and no rationale offered. Little if any consultation has been done with the board members.

One thing I can tell you for sure is that the CSAC is and has been a highly adaptive and dynamic organization over many years and has been led by highly competent administrators. Its role in student loan administration has changed dramatically in response to major federal policy changes, and it has acted with great foresight in managing and ultimately divesting its student loan portfolio at great financial savings to the state. At the same time CSAC has undertaken the shaping and administration of a variety of workforce development programs, including the Future Ready Iowa initiatives, the Last Dollar Scholarship program, and several loan forgiveness and incentive programs designed to secure more health care professionals and teachers for the state, especially in rural areas. Based on its expertise, CSAC

is currently providing critical guidance to the federal government regarding changes in the FAFSA procedure for determining student financial need. All of this is being done on top of administering the Iowa Tuition Grant, National Guard educational financial aid, and a variety of other educational scholarship and grant programs.

CSAC and its governing board have done an outstanding job in its areas of responsibility in higher education. I am very skeptical of any significant—and currently undefined—changes. “If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it.” And it sure ain’t broke.

Finally, I must offer some general comments on the current board and commission review process. Let me first acknowledge that the Board & Commission Review Committee has been given a gargantuan task with an impossibly short deadline. The fault for that lies not with you but with those who drafted the mandates in the Legislature. I appreciate your efforts, but the enterprise will of necessity ultimately fall short of what is needed and entails significant risk of great damage to the government and people of Iowa.

I am not opposed to reform. I am sure that there are some boards and commissions that have consistently fallen short of their intended goals and should be dropped and at the same time other boards and commissions that have achieved their specific goals and are no longer needed. Boards and commissions, as well as all other entities of state government, must adapt to the changing needs of the people of Iowa. Many have done that quite well—like the Tobacco Commission and the CSAC—but others may need some reorientation.

That said, the process of reform must proceed far more carefully and judiciously than the current legislative mandate allows. Within the examples given above, and as evidenced by much of the public testimony on September 6, there has been precious little consultation with commission members, staff, and constituency groups with regard to many of the boards and commissions affected. The “Recommendations” listed in the August 29 Subcommittee Recommendations document are often superficial in the extreme, and in no case is any evidence or rationale offered to justify the recommendation. That document provides no basis whatsoever for any legislation.

The superficiality of the analysis so far is no better illustrated than in the case of the Midwestern Higher Education Compact. The recommendation is “Eliminate.” Just one problem: the State of Iowa has no power to do that! The Midwestern Higher Education Compact and the Commission it operates are created by an interstate agreement among twelve states in the Midwest region. The Iowa Legislature can’t abolish that group without the consent of the other eleven compacting states. The BCRC subcommittee making the recommendation apparently did so little investigation as even to learn that simple fact.

The Boards and Commissions authorized by the Code of Iowa play vital roles in implementing existing public programs and in advising the development of future public policies. They are some of the most important avenues by which residents of our state participate in the self-government of Iowa and express their hopes and desires for public policy. The expertise of the volunteers who serve is often irreplaceable and obtained at a de minimis cost.

Any reform must proceed far more carefully than in the current process. I would humbly suggest that your final report not try to address all 259 of the boards in your laundry list. It would be far more helpful if you could pick out, say, a dozen of the most obvious cases for immediate sunset. (Do we have a Buggy Whip Commission?) Then your report could lay out and recommend to the Legislature a more systematic and judicious review process, picking out groups of, say, 15-20 related boards for review each year over the next decade. To do in-depth reviews of even that many in a year would be a substantial workload for a group such as yours but would result in much more thoughtful and useful recommendations than in the current document.

I recognize that there is a politically advantageous short-term reward for an elected official being able to tout a massive reduction in “bureaucracy” at election time. Good public policy, however, goes in a distinctly different direction. Please choose prudence over politics, pruning over clearcutting.

Respectfully submitted,

Senator Herman C. Quirmbach

District 25 - Ames



**Board & Comm Review Comments.docx**

18K



Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

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## Keep Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service

1 message

Thu, Sep 7, 2023 at 4:41 PM

To: "BCRCcomments@iowa.gov" &lt;BCRCcomments@iowa.gov&gt;

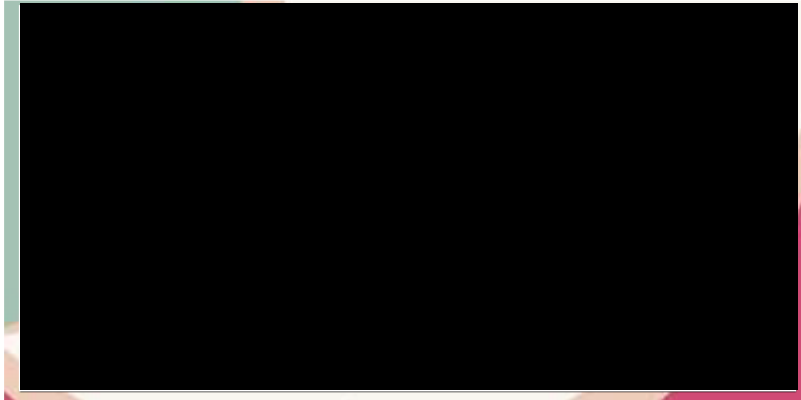
Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with [federal statute](#) required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service [announced 21 grants](#) it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

I have worked alongside Volunteer Iowa as a former leader of United Way of East Central Iowa's Volunteer Center, the President of Iowa's Association of RSVP Directors, and President of Leaders in Volunteerism for over a decade and still consider myself lucky to live in Iowa where we have one of the best state service commissions in the country, trust me I work with many of them in my contract roles with a national foundation and the Association of Leaders in Volunteer Engagement (ALIVE). I watched our commission and volunteerism in the state grow and flourish with the support of federally funded programs. Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa without I am especially fearful of how our state would respond to and recover from disasters let alone how nonprofits will survive this current

financial climate without the capacity building support funded and supported by the commission.



Book time to meet with me





Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

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**Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service**

1 message

Thu, Sep 7, 2023 at 5:03 PM

To: "BCRCcomments@iowa.gov" &lt;BCRCcomments@iowa.gov&gt;

Cc: [REDACTED]

To the Members of the Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee:

In your review of boards and commissions, it is vital for you to ensure that the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (also known as Volunteer Iowa) continues to operate as is, without change or disruption. If you do not, Iowa will become ineligible for federal funding that it now receives, as well as for many future opportunities.

Federal statute requires states to have a board of commissioners on volunteer service in order to receive formula AmeriCorps State funds. Without the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service, our state could lose more than \$14 million in AmeriCorps federal funding alone, as well as other federal funds from such sources as the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA, and RSVP. Volunteer Iowa also certifies mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa, making local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

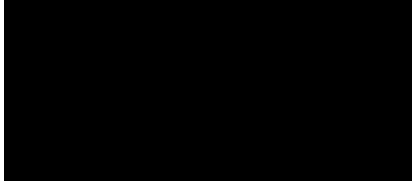
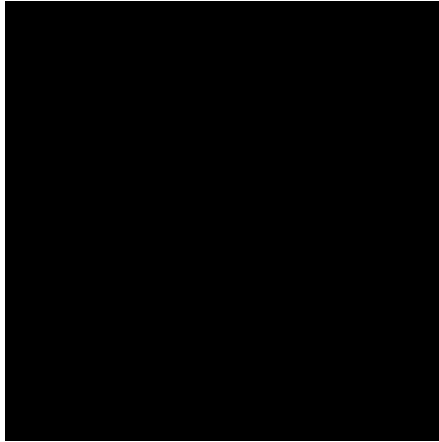
Here in Grinnell, losing the Commission on Volunteer Service would eliminate AmeriCorps and VISTA support for Grinnell's five summer learning programs for youth, which collaborate to engage Summer Learning Corps members in our community's summer enrichment programming. Since 2016, more than 200 AmeriCorps members have served in Grinnell to support kids and families through the nationally recognized Grinnell Education Partnership. Each year, high school students, college students, retired educators, and others have come together to support program staff in reading with children and planning and carrying out enrichment activities. This public-private partnership has been recognized across the state and across the nation for its effectiveness in helping Grinnell's children improve their reading skills, contributing to their overall thriving in and out of the classroom.

We are grateful for how AmeriCorps and VISTA funding has improved the lives of children in our community. We ask you to join us and support our efforts by ensuring the continuation of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service as is. The commission is a critical catalyst for the public-private partnerships across the state that help Iowa's communities thrive.

Sincerely,

A small black rectangular redaction box covering a few lines of text, likely a signature.

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A black rectangular redaction box covering a few lines of text, likely a signature.A large black rectangular redaction box covering a significant portion of the page, likely a signature or a large block of text.



Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

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## Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service Board continues to operate as is

1 message

Thu, Sep 7, 2023 at 9:51 PM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

To Whom It May Concern:

Please ensure the **Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service Board** continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka **Volunteer Iowa**) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an *unintentional* and **devastating** impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with [federal statute](#) required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service [announced 21 grants](#) it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to after school programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

**Everybody Wins! Iowa** directly benefits from the Iowa Mentoring Partnership as well as Volunteer Iowa by accessing potential volunteers, volunteer recognition, and low cost training opportunities. Each year, our program serves Central Iowa students (427 student mentees) with 452 volunteer mentors last year. Over the past 20 years we have served 9,775 students with 8,970 volunteers. We have also had over 25 AmeriCorps and VISTA members serve with our nonprofit and each year have RSVP members serving as mentors.

Please **retain** the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and

countless other organizations such as ***Everybody Wins! Iowa*** supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,





Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

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**Volunteer Iowa**

1 message

Fri, Sep 8, 2023 at 6:21 AM

To: "bcrccomments@iowa.gov" &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

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## Government Realignment

1 message

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Fri, Sep 8, 2023 at 8:06 AM

To: "bcrccomments@iowa.gov" <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Please ensure the Volunteer Commission is preserved. Thank you, [REDACTED]



Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

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**MAINTAINING BOARDS AND PANELS IN OUR STATE**

1 message

Fri, Sep 8, 2023 at 8:26 AM

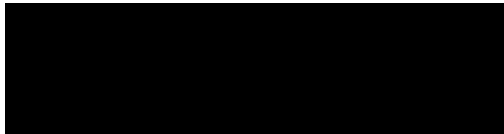
To: "bcrccomments@iowa.gov" &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

Dear Ms. Reynolds,

I've reviewed the proposed cuts and mergers and I'm worried about how our state government represents people like me, my friends, and my family. As you look to improve efficiencies, please ensure that boards and panels like;

- Athletic Training Board
- Volunteer Commission (needed to keep federal funds for Americorps)
- Child Care Advisory Committee
- Commission on Homelessness
- HAWKI Board ( kids' healthcare would get lost in the larger HHS Medicaid shuffle)
- Nursing Home Administrator's Board

are preserved. As important as it is to improve and review government, it is just as important to ensure the needs and priorities of all Iowans are taken into account. Many of these panels improve life for Iowans and address critical issues in our state that would otherwise be lost or ignored. Please work to ensure that this effort does not concentrate power, but ensures all Iowans are represented and considered when decisions are made by our state government. Sincerely,





Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

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## Volunteers

1 message

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Fri, Sep 8, 2023 at 5:21 PM

To: "bcrccomments@iowa.gov" <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Please consider keeping volunteers like Americorps in Iowa. If it were not for volunteers, many places would not be able to survive. I know Bur oak land Trust has done so much to preserve land and bring it where Iowans can enjoy the outdoors going on nature hikes, bird watching, fishing and just enjoying being among the Native plants and flowers on the land. They are so appreciative to the volunteers of Americorps. It is great for families to enjoy the outdoors. We need to preserve land in Iowa and stop it all from being bought up by farms and building sites.. Volunteers are very essentials in many aspects across Iowa. I hope you will take the heart of Iowans in your decision. Thank you.





Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

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## Elimination of Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service

1 message

Sat, Sep 9, 2023 at 7:47 AM

[REDACTED]

To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>  
Cc: "Zach.Wahls@legis.iowa.gov" <Zach.Wahls@legis.iowa.gov>, "Janice.Weiner@legis.iowa.gov" <Janice.Weiner@legis.iowa.gov>

To Whom It May Concern:

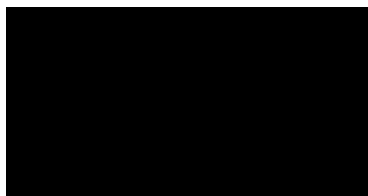
I am writing as a past-president of the Bur Oak Land Trust which is based in Iowa City. The mission of the Trust is to "advance biodiversity in eastern Iowa by protecting resilient landscapes and connecting people to nature."

I have recently been made aware that the Boards and Commissions Review Committee has proposed to eliminate the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service. This Commission oversees Americorps programs in Iowa. The Bur Oak Land Trust has had an extraordinarily successful Americorps team in place since 2019. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would mean the Trust's Americorps team would be eliminated also. This action, if implemented, would make it very difficult, if not impossible to complete the mission of the Trust.

Since its inception, Bur Oak Land Trust's Americorps team has trained fifty-two members who have gone on to successful careers in conservation work all across the country. The team provides land stewardship to over four hundred acres of critical endangered habitat in over nineteen counties in eastern Iowa. The team has logged over fifty-five thousand hours of work not only on field work, but on environmental education of adults and children. And all of this is under threat of elimination.

I beg of you to please reconsider this recommendation and permit the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service to continue its vital mission. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,





Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

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## Support for Volunteer Iowa!

1 message

Sat, Sep 9, 2023 at 12:32 PM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with [federal statute](#) required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service [announced 21 grants](#) it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Sincerely,

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Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

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## Please allow Iowa's Commission on Volunteer Service to Continue As Is

1 message

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[Redacted]

Sun, Sep 10, 2023 at 7:40 AM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

BCRC members,

Given that AmeriCorps has wide bipartisan support and Governor Reynolds has appeared to support Iowa's AmeriCorps program in the past, for example declaring a week in March as AmeriCorps week, I was surprised at the recommendation to eliminate the Commission on Volunteer Service, which would in turn eliminate or greatly weaken Iowa's AmeriCorps program.

Eliminating the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of over \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities in every county across Iowa. AmeriCorps volunteers have been critical in responding to local disasters such as the 2020 derecho; AmeriCorps provides the leadership and resources to quickly galvanize over 7,000 volunteers as needed. When there isn't a disaster to respond to, they are helping with community needs such as after school programming, tutoring, and building housing.

[Redacted]



Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

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## Please allow Commission on the Status of African Americans, Latino Affairs Commission, Commission of Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs, and Commission of Native American Affairs to Continue As Is

1 message

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**Kristine Nemec** <kristinenemec14@gmail.com>

Sun, Sep 10, 2023 at 8:19 AM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

BCRC members,

Please allow the Commission on the Status of African Americans, Latino Affairs Commission, Commission of Asian and Pacific Islanders, and Commission of Native American Affairs to Continue As Is. Each of these racial and ethnic groups has distinct histories and challenges and asking them to merge into one committee would make them less effective in serving the needs of their communities. It would dilute the lived experiences of the members of each commission. Iowa will be more economically viable if it shows a commitment to respecting diversity. Doing so can prevent African American, Latino, Asian and Pacific Islander, and Native American residents and companies that value having diverse viewpoints among their employees from leaving the state. Allowing each of these racial groups to maintain their undiluted voice in government serves all Iowans by making the state a place where everyone has the "Freedom to Flourish."





Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

## Input on Boards & Commissions

1 message

[Redacted]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Sun, Sep 10, 2023 at 10:25 AM

Committee Members:

Thank you in advance for all of the work that you have put into reviewing the boards and commissions in our great state! I understand that this is a large task and you have undoubtedly been met with resistance on a number of boards and commissions.

I am writing in support of your recommendation to keep the Early Childhood Iowa State Board and the elimination of the Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholders Alliance. I believe the ECI State Board has a unique and important role in government, not only as a bridge across agencies in regard to early childhood services and initiatives, but also from local to state government. The ECI State Board is capable of managing the duties of the Stakeholders Alliance, so its elimination will not have a detrimental effect on services, service delivery or decision-making.

Thank you for your time and attention toward more efficient government operations in Iowa.



Association of Early Childhood Area Iowa Boards and Advocates.



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ASSOCIATION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA  
AREA BOARDS AND ADVOCATES  
ADVOCATING FOR IOWA'S FUTURE



Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

## Support for the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (Volunteer Iowa)

1 message

Mon, Sep 11, 2023 at 10:40 AM

To: "BCRCcomments@iowa.gov" &lt;BCRCcomments@iowa.gov&gt;

To the Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee:

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Volunteer Iowa and the services it provides has had a tremendous impact on me as a professional volunteer engagement specialist and on the organizations I have worked with and for. I would not be in the position I am in, nor have the support and vast skillset, without Volunteer Iowa.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Thank you,  
Taylor

--

**Iowa State University Foundation**

351 Catt Hall

[2224 Osborn Drive](#)

[Ames, Iowa 50011](#)





Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

## Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board

1 message



Mon, Sep 11, 2023 at 12:26 PM

To: "BCRCcomments@iowa.gov" <BCRCcomments@iowa.gov>

To whom it may concern:

Please take action to maintain the current operations of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board. The potential elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service, aka Volunteer Iowa, could have severe consequences for the nonprofit sector in Iowa.

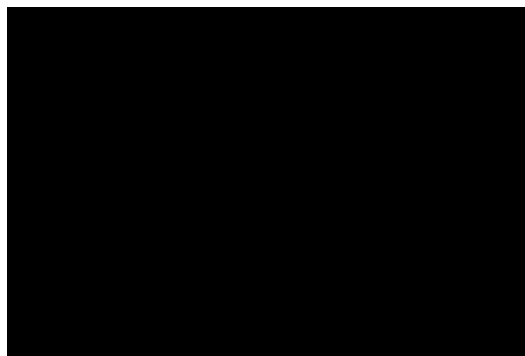
Without this commission board, Iowa would risk non-compliance with federal statutes required to secure its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced that it had awarded 21 grants to new and ongoing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa, amounting to \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards, totaling \$14.3 million in federal funding. This figure does not include local private matching funds.

Eliminating the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding for local nonprofits and public entities, but also other federal funds administered by the Commission, such as the Volunteer Generation Fund, 9/11 Day of Service grants, VISTA, and RSVP.

As an employee of the Mason City Youth Task Force and current One on One Mentoring Coordinator, I have been a member of MENTOR Iowa (Iowa Mentoring Partnership) since 2004. Over the years, the dedicated staff members and volunteers have been instrumental in helping us expand our program and reach more youth in the North Iowa area.

Additionally, our City department has greatly benefited from hosting VISTAS and partnering with our local RSVP site.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa address a wide range of critical community needs, including afterschool programs, tutoring for reading and math, low-income housing development, disaster response, and services for refugees. These programs serve every county in the state, making the Commission's work invaluable to the entire Iowa community.



NOTICE: Subject to the requirements of the Iowa Open Records Act, this message and accompanying documents are covered by the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, 18 U.S.C. Subsection 2510-252, as amended, and contains



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Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

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**Retain Volunteer Iowa!**

1 message

Mon, Sep 11, 2023 at 1:02 PM

To: "BCRCcomments@iowa.gov" &lt;BCRCcomments@iowa.gov&gt;

Dear Friends:

**Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is.** The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with [federal statute](#) required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service [announced 21 grants](#) it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds.

The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs, including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

I've had the great honor of working with AmeriCorps programs in this state for the past 14 years. AmeriCorps members build much-needed capacity for mission-focused organizations and, even more importantly, do good and important work that positively impacts Iowans across the state each and every year. Any risk to that is concerning. **Eliminating the highly effective and efficient organization that makes all of that possible would be devastating.**

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Sincerely,



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Virus-free [www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)



Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

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**Comment**

1 message

Mon, Sep 11, 2023 at 2:03 PM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

To whom it may regard,

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with [federal statute](#) required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service [announced 21 grants](#) it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Our organization has recently secured an Americorps member who has become an intricate member of our team. If the funding is cut, we won't have access to them in the future which could literally mean the difference between if our organization continues to grow or not and meet the needs of our fellow Iowans. We plead with you not to cut these services.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and

countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.



| [www.manupiowa.com](http://www.manupiowa.com) |

| <https://www.facebook.com/ManUplowa/> |

***"Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle". ~ Plato***

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Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

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## Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service

1 message

Mon, Sep 11, 2023 at 3:10 PM

To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov

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Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with [federal statute](#) required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service [announced 21 grants](#) it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.









Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

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## Americorps

1 message

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[REDACTED]

Mon, Sep 11, 2023 at 3:17 PM

To: "BCRCcomments@iowa.gov" <BCRCcomments@iowa.gov>

Service through Americorps can be a first step from college to the working world. Our son worked as an Americorps volunteer through the DNR after college and before getting a job with DNR. It gave him experience and practical knowledge that helped him get a job with MN DNR. I implore you to think about taking away funding for this program through the Iowa government reorganization.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

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## Fwd: Scanned from BBBS Copier

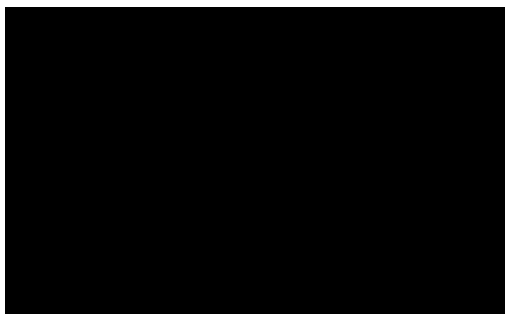
1 message

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Mon, Sep 11, 2023 at 5:08 PM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Attached you will find my comments concerning the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Services recommendations for elimination.



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 **Xerox Scan\_09112023163550.pdf**  
1281K



31 South 1st Street • Marshalltown, IA 50158 • 641-753-6370

September 11, 2023

Dear Governor Reynolds and Committee;

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with [federal statute](#) required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service [announced 21 grants](#) it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

Iowa is number two in the nation for volunteering. This commission is a key part in making that happen. Volunteers provide vital services in each county and the individuals who volunteer are healthier, happier and staying in Iowa!

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. Following the tornado strike in Marshalltown in July of 2018 and the derecho in August of 2020 we saw first hand the community need for disaster cleanup. These programs reach every county in the state and Marshall County appreciated the support in our time of need.

Heart of Iowa Big Brothers Big Sisters is a non-profit mentoring agency that benefits from grant funding, training and professional guidance from the Volunteer Commission. We are also held to a state of excellence due to the criteria to be an approved mentoring agency in the State of Iowa. The grant funds assist us in supporting what we do to provide professional mentoring support, rather than most grants that only want to fund new projects. Our small agency has also benefitted from AmeriCorps staff to fill our staffing needs. Heart of Iowa Big Brothers Big



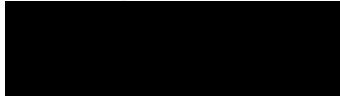
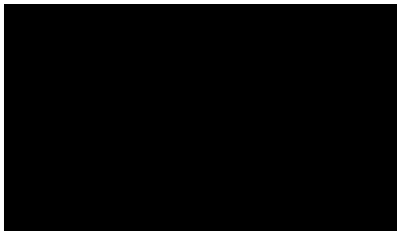
TOGETHER, WE ARE DEFENDERS OF POTENTIAL



Sisters has been providing mentoring services for 51 years. This would not be possible without the commission's support.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa. Without this funding – Iowa loses vital services that provide fabulous results that make a positive impact on the future of our state AND its people!

Sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.A large black rectangular redaction box covering the contact information of the sender.

[heartofiwamentoring@gmail.com](mailto:heartofiwamentoring@gmail.com)

[www.heartofiwabigs.org](http://www.heartofiwabigs.org)

[www.yourlifeiowa.org](http://www.yourlifeiowa.org)



Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

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**Volunteer commission**

1 message

Mon, Sep 11, 2023 at 5:43 PM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Please don't deny lowans federal money to support services the state legislature does not!

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would have unintended consequences for the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with [federal statute](#) required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service [announced 21 grants](#) it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs at a time when the state is decreasing funding for support services.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa

Sent from my iPhone



Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

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## Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service

1 message

Mon, Sep 11, 2023 at 6:05 PM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with [federal statute](#) required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service [announced 21 grants](#) it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

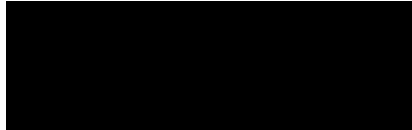
Having worked for and with multiple organizations that have benefited from the terrific and important work of the Commission on Volunteer service and, specifically, the programs Iowa would no longer quality for, I cannot stress enough how important this is to hundreds and hundreds of organizations across the state. And, of course, the impact on the thousands upon thousands of volunteers who make so many things happen in our state would be incredibly counter-productive.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

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Inspiring all girls  
to be strong,  
smart, and bold







Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

## Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service Board

1 message

Mon, Sep 11, 2023 at 6:55 PM

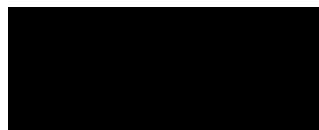
To: "BCRCcomments@iowa.gov" <BCRCcomments@iowa.gov>

Cc: [Redacted]

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with [federal statute](#) required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service [announced 21 grants](#) it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state. My employer provides services to many of the organizations providing these critical needs. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would cause a domino effect that would impact our business and cause possible RIFs and/or layoffs. This is not a good move for Iowa!





Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

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## Volunteer Iowa

1 message

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Mon, Sep 11, 2023 at 10:20 PM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

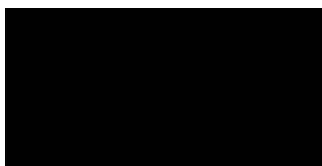
Hello Boards & Commissions Review Committee,

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with [federal statute](#) required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service [announced 21 grants](#) it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.





Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

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**Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service Board**

1 message

Mon, Sep 11, 2023 at 11:07 PM

To: "BCRCcomments@iowa.gov" &lt;BCRCcomments@iowa.gov&gt;

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this comment out of deep regret that there is a proposed recommendation to eliminate Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service Board, which could result in a \$14 million loss of federal funds for communities in need.

My own history as a volunteer is in RSVP, 4H outreach, and Foster Grandparent Program in Boone, Iowa, spanning 13 years, and prior to residing in Boone I spent two Americorp Vista Volunteer stints first in Las Cruces, New Mexico teaching at a Charter high school, and a few months later, in a Northern suburb near Jacksonville Florida, developing and facilitating a Healthcare curriculum in 24 afterschool programs. I considered it an honor and a privilege to volunteer within these communities; it is more than earning money; it's a heart changing experience; a path of human connection, especially for elders and youth, who find meaning, well being, new skills, ways of giving back and living one's values in action, where strangers become friends for the common good.

Volunteering has the characteristics of Quilting: use of solids or splattering of colors, and patterns, some high contrast with areas of low contrast, at times expansive negative space or minimal, can be improvisational or traditional piecing with various textured materials. A quilt has three layers like the three layers, as I see it, of volunteering: The top, the batting and the backing: the volunteers, the people of a community in which one serves and the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service Board, who oversee the federal funding through Americorps programs for Iowans.

I apologize for not being able to find nor use the proper template comment.

Respectfully, [REDACTED]



Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

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**IA Commission on Volunteer Service**

1 message

Tue, Sep 12, 2023 at 5:32 AM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

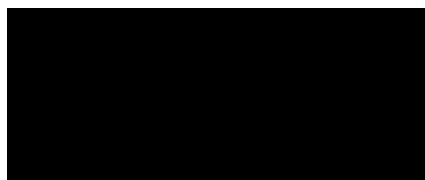
Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with [federal statute](#) required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service [announced 21 grants](#) it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

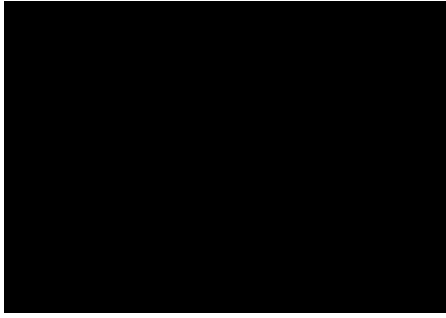
The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,







Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

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## Volunteer Iowa commission

1 message

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[REDACTED]

Tue, Sep 12, 2023 at 7:04 AM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Please retain the volunteer Iowa commission. While many others will make the argument about federal dollars flowing into the state they are forgetting that a huge number of volunteers in Iowa are getting no federal money but are essential to our communities and are asking for limited support. Volunteer police & fire departments, meals on wheels, cleaning up our parks & rivers, reading at schools, and the list goes on. It's what makes our high schoolers competitive when applying to Ivy League schools and it gives joy and purpose to our seniors. The ability to freely give your time should not be impaired or unrewarded by our communities. This commission affects every Iowan and is important to our well being. I appreciate saving money consolidating commissions like highly specialized licensures for the medical industry or the trades, but the volunteer commission is healthy the way it is.



Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

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**volunteerism**

1 message

Tue, Sep 12, 2023 at 8:05 AM

To: "BCRCcomments@iowa.gov" &lt;BCRCcomments@iowa.gov&gt;

**Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is.** The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with [federal statute](#) required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service [announced 21 grants](#) it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

I have worked in the nonprofit world my entire professional career of over 25 years, and have seen how important volunteerism is. As the daughter of an elderly disabled veteran, I have seen firsthand how important volunteer programs such as Meals On Wheels are, maintaining the nutritional needs of elderly and making sure that they haven't fallen in their home.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and

countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.







Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

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## Please save the Iowa Commission on Volunteer service

1 message

Tue, Sep 12, 2023 at 8:10 AM

To: "BCRCcomments@iowa.gov" &lt;BCRCcomments@iowa.gov&gt;

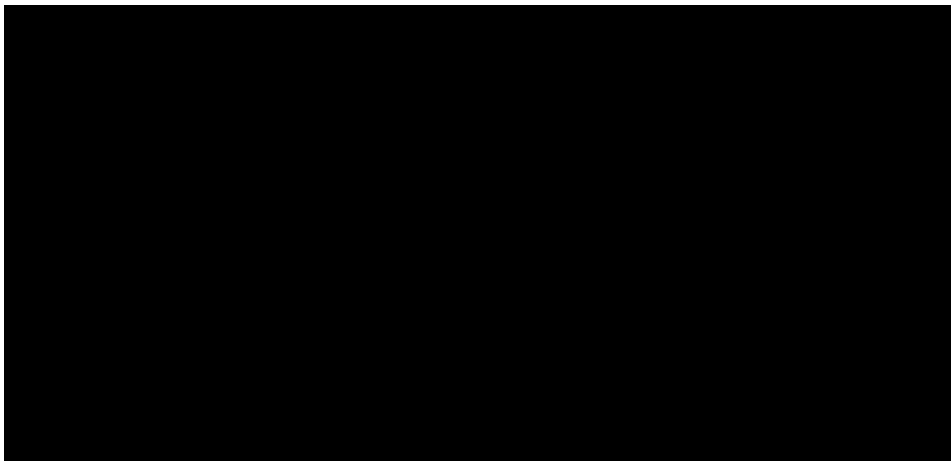
Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with [federal statute](#) required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service [announced 21 grants](#) it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

At Community Foundations, we work with emerging nonprofits and organizations that are trying to increase their capacity to do more. Volunteers and specifically, AmeriCorp volunteers provide the human resources needed as a nonprofit is getting started or as they are expanding programming. Also, in the nonprofit world, we are seeing a crisis of fewer volunteers stepping into the roles held by our baby boomer generation. I hold hope that the young people who have experience in the AmeriCorps system will be more likely to volunteer on boards, committees, etc. as they mature.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.



Confirmed in Compliance with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations

This message, including attachments, may be confidential. If you believe the message was sent to you in error, do not read the contents and please reply to the sender that you have received the message in error. If you are not the intended recipient, retention, dissemination, distribution, or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. Our company accepts no liability for the content of this email, or for the consequences of any actions taken on the basis of the information provided, unless that information is subsequently confirmed in writing.



Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

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**Public Comment: Volunteer Iowa**

1 message

A black rectangular box redacting the name of the sender.

Tue, Sep 12, 2023 at 8:19 AM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Dear committee members:

I am writing to submit public comments regarding the proposed elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (ICVS) board. Enclosed, please find a letter outlining the significant concerns and potential consequences associated with this proposed action.

I believe that retaining the ICVS board is crucial for our community and the state of Iowa as a whole. The Commission's work is instrumental in supporting nonprofits, empowering volunteers, and securing essential funding for critical programs that benefit our residents.

I kindly request that you review the attached letter of public comments as part of your deliberations. If you require any additional information or have questions regarding the content of the letter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of the sender.

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 **icvs letter.docx**  
16K



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

## SAVE the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service

1 message

Tue, Sep 12, 2023 at 8:27 AM

To: "BCRCcomments@iowa.gov" <BCRCcomments@iowa.gov>

Dear Committee Members,

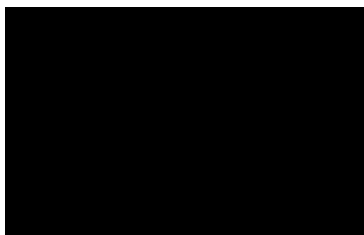
Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with [federal statute](#) required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service [announced 21 grants](#) it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

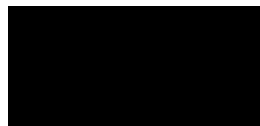
Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Kind regards,



[Des Moines Public Library Foundation](#)

[1000 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa, 50309](#)



Library Bill of Rights <https://tinyurl.com/2p8rcpvn>





Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

## Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service

1 message

Tue, Sep 12, 2023 at 9:32 AM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with [federal statute](#) required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service [announced 21 grants](#) it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

--  
[Redacted signature block]





Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

## Fwd: FW: Children's Behavioral Health System State Board

1 message

[Redacted]

Tue, Sep 12, 2023 at 10:14 AM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Cc: jon@lobbyiowa.com

Can you please verify that my emails below along with the attached comments have been received?

Thank you.

[Redacted]

**From:** [Redacted]

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 6, 2023 6:15 PM

**To:** BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

**Cc:** Jon Murphy <jon@lobbyiowa.com>

**Subject:** FW: Children's Behavioral Health System State Board

Can you please verify that my emails below along with the attached comments have been received?

Thanks.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

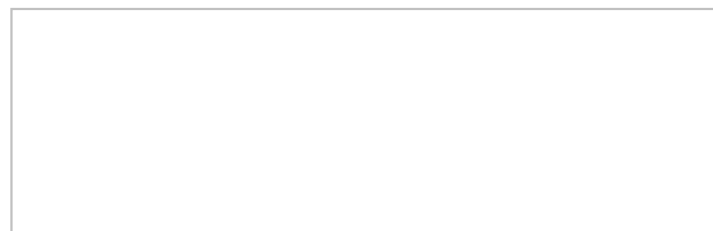
Coalition for Family & Children's Services in Iowa

1111 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 235

Des Moines, Iowa 50314

[Redacted]

[www.iachild.org](http://www.iachild.org)





**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 5, 2023 6:04 PM  
**To:** [BCRCcomments@iowa.gov](mailto:BCRCcomments@iowa.gov)  
**Cc:** Jon Murphy <[jon@lobbyiowa.com](mailto:jon@lobbyiowa.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Children's Behavioral Health System State Board

Attached please find my written submission to be considered at the Boards & Commissions Review Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

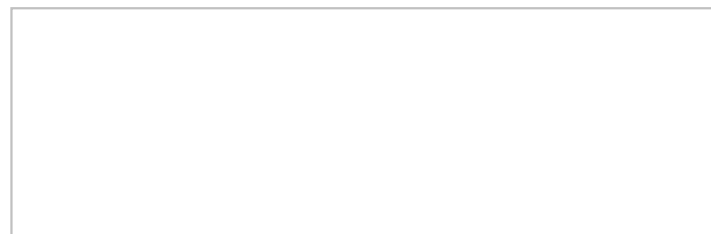
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Coalition for Family & Children's Services in Iowa

1111 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 235

Des Moines, Iowa 50314

[REDACTED]  
[www.iachild.org](http://www.iachild.org)



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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 29, 2023 2:20 PM  
**To:** [BCRCcomments@iowa.gov](mailto:BCRCcomments@iowa.gov)  
**Cc:** Jon Murphy <[jon@lobbyiowa.com](mailto:jon@lobbyiowa.com)>  
**Subject:** Children's Behavioral Health System State Board

I would like to have time at the September 6<sup>th</sup> meeting to discuss the impact of the proposed change to the Children's Behavioral Health System State Board.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]



Coalition for Family & Children's Services in Iowa

1111 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 235

Des Moines, Iowa 50314



[www.iachild.org](http://www.iachild.org)



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**2 attachments**



**The Coalition**  
Coalition for Family and Children's Services in Iowa

**image001.jpg**  
866K



**Iowa Boards Commissions written submission.pdf**  
115K



# The Coalition

Coalition for Family and Children's Services in Iowa

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input. My name is [REDACTED] I am the Executive Director of the Coalition for Family & Children's Services in Iowa. The Coalition's alliance of agencies provides the safety net to all children and youth with mental health or substance abuse needs, as well as children and youth who have been, or are now, in danger of being abused, neglected, or delinquent.

We advocate for children and families and for the people who provide services to children and families. The Coalition believes in a public/private partnership and works closely and well with the Department of Health and Human Services.

We commend the Governor and the Iowa legislature for reviewing the efficiency and effectiveness of all Iowa's board, commissions and other similar entities creating in Iowa law and making recommendations for the continuation, elimination, consolidation, or reorganization.

However, we are concerned that this process did not include issue experts outside of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Child welfare is asking the question: "Are families better off because HHS is involved?"

I would like you to ask yourself the question: "Are the youth with substance use and mental health needs going to be better off with the Children's Behavioral Health System State Board being consolidated/merged?"

In 2018, Governor Reynolds signed Executive Order Number Two and established the Children's System State Board because there was not a state board dedicated to the children's mental health system. In 2019, the Iowa legislature codified the Children's behavioral health system state board.

That was five years ago, but we know true system change takes at least three to five years. In addition, the pandemic occurred during this five-year period.

According to reports from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, children's emergency room visits for mental health issues increased significantly during the pandemic and continue to be a concern.<sup>1</sup>

Did you know? <sup>2</sup>

- 90% of teenagers who die by suicide suffer from a psychiatric disorder, such as depression, anxiety or substance abuse.
- Suicide is the second-leading cause of death in high school and college students.
- Youth suicide rates are higher in rural areas than in urban areas.

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<sup>1</sup> Georgetown University Health Policy Institute Center for Children and Families

<sup>2</sup> Foundation2 Crisis Services Statistics: <https://foundation2.org/suicide/suicide-statistics/>

According to a 2020 election eve poll conducted by Lake Research partners, there is tremendous “tripartisan” support for making significant progress on children’s issues. This support includes ensuring that the “best interests” of children govern decision making involving them. There was also support in establishing a federal independent Children’s Commissioner “to protect and improve the care and well-being of children.”<sup>3</sup>

What is the responsibility of the members of the Children’s Behavioral Health System State Board? The website states: *The Children’s Behavioral Health System State Board is the single point of responsibility in the implementation and management of a Children’s Mental Health System...*”

However, in reality, Iowa Code 225C.52 the following duties are described:

1. Advise the administrator on the administration of the children’s behavioral health system.
2. Provide consultation services to agencies regarding the development of administrative rules for the children’s behavioral health system.
3. Identify behavioral health outcomes and indicators for eligible children with a serious emotional disturbance to promote children living with their own families and in the community.
4. Submit a written report on each year. The U.S. Surgeon General Advisory Protecting Youth Mental Health confirmed that mental health challenges were a leading cause of disability and poor life outcomes in young people even before the COVID-pandemic.<sup>4</sup>

The Children’s System State Board does not have responsibility for the implementation and/or the management of a Children’s Mental Health System.

Since our children and youth do not vote, we want to make sure that the consolidated and merged Children’s System State Board does not lead us to have them treated as an afterthought.

The Coalition would like to volunteer to be involved in the strategies of the consolidation/merger of the Children’s Behavioral Health System State Board.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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<sup>3</sup> First Focus: Campaign for Children: A Children’s Agenda for the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Surgeon General Advisory: Protecting Youth Mental Health:

<https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/surgeon-general-youth-mental-health-advisory.pdf>



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

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## Commission on Volunteer Services

1 message

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[Redacted]

Tue, Sep 12, 2023 at 10:15 AM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Please keep!

Sent from my iPhone



Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

## Comments on Consolidation of Commissions

1 message

Tue, Sep 12, 2023 at 10:28 AM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] I am a lifelong resident of Iowa and an AmeriCorps alumni.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed cut of the Volunteer Iowa commission, as well as others I will detail below. This action would make it much more difficult for AmeriCorps programs and the communities they serve to receive federal funding, and likely cause them to compete with state and national nonprofits for funding.

My year with AmeriCorps was life-changing for me in such a positive way. It makes it possible for younger people to see their (or another) community up close and truly get involved and serve it in every way they can. I am not able to serve in the military due to a disability, so AmeriCorps provided me a chance to serve my country in another way. To see this program even considered to be cut off from funding and put in a more difficult position to serve our communities is mind-boggling to me.

In addition to the Volunteer Iowa commission, I strongly disagree with eliminating boards and commissions such as the Soil Conservation and Water Quality Committee, the Sustainable Agriculture Advisory Board, and others that are vitally important to Iowa citizens having input and information about their environment and corporate agricultural practices. Our water and land are already suffering from an extreme lack of oversight and action against large agricultural farming habits and does not need any further damage done, especially in giving more power to those who push illegal and immoral land practices.

We deserve boards and commissions like these in order to participate in our government; as the president of the Sustainable Agriculture Advisory Board put it, "(elimination) would mean fewer opportunities for ordinary people to interact with important state agencies." Keeping these boards and commissions is essential to keep our state government in check and allow for citizens to maintain participation in decisions that can and will affect their lives immensely.

Thank you for your time, and I hope you consider recommending to keep these critical boards and commissions for the sake of our people and land in Iowa.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]



Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

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## Iowa Commission on Community Action Agencies

1 message

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**Niki Conrad** <Niki.Conrad@webstercountyia.org>

Tue, Sep 12, 2023 at 11:25 AM

To: "BCRCcomments@iowa.gov" &lt;BCRCcomments@iowa.gov&gt;, "taryn.frideres@governor.iowa.gov"

&lt;taryn.frideres@governor.iowa.gov&gt;

Cc: [REDACTED] &lt;[REDACTED]&gt;, "director@dhs.state.ia.us" &lt;director@dhs.state.ia.us&gt;, "Easter, Lorie" &lt;lorie.easter@iowa.gov&gt;, "kraig.paulsen@iowa.gov" &lt;kraig.paulsen@iowa.gov&gt;, "Meyer, Ann [LEGIS]" &lt;Ann.Meyer@legis.iowa.gov&gt;, "tim.kraayenbrink@legis.iowa.gov" &lt;tim.kraayenbrink@legis.iowa.gov&gt;

September 12, 2023

Governor Kim Reynolds

Office of the Governor

Iowa State Capitol

[1007 East Grand Ave.](#)[Des Moines, IA 50319](#)

Dear Governor Reynolds &amp; the Board &amp; Commissions Review Committee:

After reviewing the preliminary recommendations made by the Boards & Commissions Review Committee tasked with streamlining the Boards and Commissions for the State of Iowa, the Community Action Agency Commission is disappointed that the Committee would recommend the elimination of this body, particularly with no context or reasoning to accompany the recommendation.

It is the Community Action Agency Commission's position that the elimination of this body takes the public further away from the work of Community Action - which is not in the best interest of individuals and families experiencing low income. We need and want Iowans to know what is happening with the work that we do and provide input - it is in fact central to the mission of Community Action and part of its founding principles. We believe that having this representation at the State level helps hold State Government **and** Community Action Agencies accountable and is a key component to the success of Community Action programming. Most importantly, the citizen voices of low-income families should retain their seat at the table to be part of decision making that affects them.

From Amanda Petersen, Commissioner from Le Mars, IA and representing the voice of low-income constituents:

“As a newcomer to the commission, I've been deeply inspired by the collective dedication towards this cause. I believe that our combined efforts have the potential to create positive change in countless lives. Having experienced the benefits of these programs firsthand, I am eager to share my personal journey to shed light on the tangible impact such initiatives can have. I believe that by sharing real stories, we can bring a human element to the data and statistics, making our mission even more relatable and impactful.

Furthermore, I'd like to emphasize that my experience has provided me with valuable insights into how these programs can be tailored to better suit the needs of our communities. I am committed to contributing my perspectives and ideas to enhance the effectiveness and reach of our initiatives.”

In the interest of the Governor's intentions for making State Government more streamlined, the Network would propose the following efficiency: to fold the existing Family Development and Self-Sufficiency (FaDSS) Council under the Community Action Agency Commission. Of the providers who offer FaDSS programming, Thirteen (13) of the Fifteen (15) are Community Action Agencies. In fact, the FaDSS program was born out of pilot programming in the Community Action Network. The mission of FaDSS and Community Action are in lockstep and most families who are utilizing FaDSS Services are also accessing other services provided by Community Action Agencies. We believe the Community Action Agency Commission and the FaDSS Council would benefit from the expertise and diversity that exists on the Council and Commission today.

Community Action Agencies served over 290,000 Iowa households experiencing low-income last year. Iowa is recognized nationally for its effective administration of Community Action Agency run programs such as Weatherization, LIHEAP and CSBG. This is in large part due to the tri-partite board structure (equal representation from public, private and low-income constituencies) that is utilized at each agency and by the Commission.

By eliminating the Community Action Agency Commission, you are eliminating citizen voices: their experience, their advocacy, and the accountability they bring to State Government and the programs and agencies that serve them.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss this further with the Governor, any of her staff or the Committee.

Sincerely,

**Niki Conrad**  
**Commissioner**  
**Fort Dodge, IA**



**Niki Conrad**

**Webster County Supervisor – District 4**

701 Central Avenue | Fort Dodge, IA 50501

cell phone: (515) 570-3228

email: [niki.conrad@webstercountyia.org](mailto:niki.conrad@webstercountyia.org)

website: <http://www.webstercountyia.gov/>





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Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

## Preserve Funding for AmeriCorps in Iowa

1 message

[Redacted]

Tue, Sep 12, 2023 at 1:32 PM

to: BCRCComments@iowa.gov

Hello,

For goodness sakes, please ensure that the **Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board** continues to operate as is! The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) has been preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with [federal statute](#) required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service [announced 21 grants](#) it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Sincerely,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[www.compeerjohnsoncountyiowa.org](http://www.compeerjohnsoncountyiowa.org)





Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

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## Continue Iowa Volunteer Commission

1 message

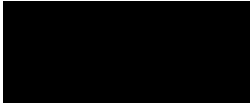
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[Redacted]

Tue, Sep 12, 2023 at 2:33 PM

To: BCRCComments@iowa.gov

Please do keep this commission operating as the Board has tangibly helped Iowans in need. The Americorps volunteers are welcome and needed! Thank you for this consideration.



Sent from my iPhone



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

## SAVE the AmeriCorps program in Iowa

1 message

[Redacted]

Tue, Sep 12, 2023 at 3:04 PM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with [federal statute](#) required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service [announced 21 grants](#) it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

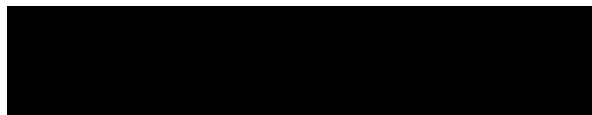
The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to after school programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Seed Savers Exchange and the Decorah area have benefited from the Americorp program for the last three years connecting Iowans to healthy food and improving environmental stewardship at our 890 acre organic seed farm that is open to the public year round.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Respectfully yours,

Cindy Goodner



[LinkedIn](#)

[3094 North Winn Road, Decorah, Iowa 52101](#)

Office hours Monday-Friday 8AM-4:30PM CT





Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

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## Retention of Iowa Commission on Volunteer Services

1 message

[REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Tue, Sep 12, 2023 at 4:49 PM

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with [federal statute](#) required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service [announced 21 grants](#) it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

I volunteer for F.L.Y, a program based in Marion that feeds lunches to school age youth during the summer months in areas that have a high percentage of students who get free or reduced-cost school lunches. This program relies on AmeriCorps volunteers.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]



Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

## Keep and Sustain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board

1 message

Wed, Sep 13, 2023 at 7:32 AM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Good Morning Members of the State's Boards and Commissions Review Committee,

I am writing to ask that your committee ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Our non-profit, the Cedar Rapids Parks Foundation (CRPF) is focused on solutions for park needs not met by the city of Cedar Rapids budget. Our work has benefited greatly from the talent and energy of two former AmeriCorps members, Emma Berger and Dina Haveric, now employees of Trees Forever AND young board members of CRPF. They have and will continue to make great contributions in our efforts to improve access and sustainability practices in our Cedar Rapids parks. Without their help and expertise, our work would not be where it is today. We would not have met and known them if not for AmeriCorps programs in our region of the state.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with [federal statute](#) required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service [announced 21 grants](#) it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to after school programming, environmental conservation, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. **These programs reach every county in the state. We need them, serving young and old in this state.**

Thank you for listening to our request,

  
Cedar Rapids Parks Foundation

[crparkfoundation.org](http://crparkfoundation.org)  




Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

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## Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service

1 message

Wed, Sep 13, 2023 at 8:51 AM

  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Good morning,

I am writing to ask that your committee ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Our non-profit, the Cedar Rapids Parks Foundation (CRPF) is focused on solutions for park needs not met by the city of Cedar Rapids budget. Our work has benefited greatly from the talent and energy of two former AmeriCorps members, Emma Berger and Dina Haveric, now employees of Trees Forever AND young board members of CRPF. We would not have met and known them if not for AmeriCorps programs in our region of the state.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with [federal statute](#) required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service [announced 21 grants](#) it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.



The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to after school programming, environmental conservation, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees.

Thank you for listening to our request,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Cedar Rapids Parks Foundation

[crparkfoundation.org](http://crparkfoundation.org)



Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

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## Please Keep the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service Board

1 message

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Wed, Sep 13, 2023 at 9:39 AM

[REDACTED]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Hello,

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service announced 21 grants it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

I personally was an Americorps service member and have since worked with Americorps members. Americorps was the foot in the door I needed to begin my career and it has been crucial in sustaining the operations of many organizations that I have worked with-- including youth services and services that battle food insecurity.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]



Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

## Eliminating the Community Action Agency Commission is eliminating citizen voices

1 message

Wed, Sep 13, 2023 at 9:56 AM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

September 13, 2023

Iowa State Capitol

[1007 East Grand Avenue](#)

Des Moines, IA 50319

Sent via Email to: [BCRCcomments@iowa.gov](mailto:BCRCcomments@iowa.gov)

Dear Boards &amp; Commissions Review Committee:

After reviewing the preliminary recommendations made by the Boards & Commissions Review Committee tasked with streamlining the Boards and Commissions for the State of Iowa, I am deeply disappointed that the Committee would recommend the elimination of the Community Action Agency Commission, particularly with no context or reasoning to accompany the recommendation.

It is NEICAC's position that the elimination of the Community Action Agency Commission takes the public further away from the work of Community Action - which is not in the best interest of individuals and families experiencing low income. We need and want Iowans to know what is happening with the work that we do and provide input - it is in fact central to the mission of Community Action and part of its founding principles. We believe that having this representation at the State level helps hold State Government **and** Community Action Agencies accountable and is a key component to the success of Community Action programming. Most importantly, the citizen voices of low-income families should retain their seat at the table to be part of decision making that affects them.

In the interest of the Governor's intentions for making State Government more streamlined, NEICAC supports the recommendation of the Iowa Community Action Association's proposal to fold the existing Family Development and Self-Sufficiency (FaDSS) Council under the Community Action Agency Commission. Of the providers who offer FaDSS programming, thirteen (13) of the fifteen (15) are Community Action Agencies. In fact, the FaDSS program was born out of pilot programming in the Community Action Network. The mission of FaDSS and Community Action are in lock-step and most families who are utilizing FaDSS Services are also accessing other services provided by Community Action Agencies. NEICAC believes the Community Action Agency Commission and the FaDSS Council would benefit from the expertise and diversity that exists on the Council and Commission today.

NEICAC served 10,299 individuals within its seven-county service area this past year. The collective effort of Community Action Agencies around Iowa has led to Iowa being recognized nationally for its effective administration of programs such as Weatherization, LIHEAP and CSBG. This is in large part due to the tripartite board structure (equal representation from public, private and low-income constituencies) that is utilized at each agency and by the Commission.

By eliminating the Community Action Agency Commission, you are eliminating citizen voices: their experience, their advocacy and the accountability they bring to the State Government and the programs and agencies that serve them.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss this further with you.

Sincerely,



Northeast Iowa Community Action Corporation



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

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## Iowa Commission on Volunteer Services

1 message

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[Redacted]

Wed, Sep 13, 2023 at 11:10 AM

To: BCRCComments@iowa.gov

I urge the state to maintain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Services so that Iowa nonprofits can continue to benefit from Americorps volunteers. It makes NO SENSE at all to abolish this agency thereby forfeiting the federal dollars available.

--  
[Redacted]



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

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## Keep Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service!

1 message

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[Redacted]

Wed, Sep 13, 2023 at 12:45 PM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Dear Iowa Boards and Commission Review:

I am a volunteer with Table to Table, a food-rescue nonprofit in Iowa City, and I am writing to urge you to keep the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service.

The commission plays a vital role in directing federal funds to Table to Table and other nonprofits in Iowa. Without the commission, Table to Table would lose its Americorps volunteers and a significant amount of funding, both of which are critical to Table to Table's ability to provide food for those in need.

As a volunteer, I have seen firsthand how much this federal funding benefits Table to Table, its partner organizations and our community. Losing it because the commission was discontinued would be a great detriment to those we serve and the ongoing effort to reduce food insecurity.

Please keep the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service!

Thank you.

[Redacted]



Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

---

**Iowa needs the Volunteer Commission**

1 message

Wed, Sep 13, 2023 at 1:05 PM

To: "bcrccomments@iowa.gov" &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

To Whom It May Concern,

I am aware that there is currently a proposal to eliminate the Iowa Commission for Volunteer Service. Doing so would be a serious mistake. These volunteer programs, especially those associated with AmeriCorps, are extremely beneficial to our state. These programs provide valuable work and educational opportunities to young people, and their contributions to the community are noteworthy.

From 2020 to 2021, I served as an AmeriCorps member in Iowa. During this time, I participated in the disaster relief following the 2020 Derecho. My team worked in elderly and underserved areas, providing valuable assistance for Iowa residents.

Please reconsider the decision to eliminate the Iowa Volunteer Commission. Iowa needs volunteers.

Sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.



Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

---

**Volunteer Iowa**

1 message

Wed, Sep 13, 2023 at 2:59 PM

To: "BCRCcomments@iowa.gov" &lt;BCRCcomments@iowa.gov&gt;

Good Afternoon,

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with [federal statute](#) required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service [announced 21 grants](#) it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.





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Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

## Retain Iowa Commission on Volunteer Services

1 message

Wed, Sep 13, 2023 at 3:02 PM

To: "BCRCcomments@iowa.gov" &lt;BCRCcomments@iowa.gov&gt;

Hello,

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with [federal statute](#) required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service [announced 21 grants](#) it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Best,



Shuttleworth & Ingersoll, P.L.C.

314 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street

Waterloo, IA 50703

General: (319) 365-9461



Website: [www.shuttleworthlaw.com](http://www.shuttleworthlaw.com)

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Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

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**Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service**

1 message

Wed, Sep 13, 2023 at 4:07 PM

To: "BCRCcomments@iowa.gov" &lt;BCRCcomments@iowa.gov&gt;

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with [federal statute](#) required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service [announced 21 grants](#) it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state. I have served on our local Volunteer Center of Cedar Valley Board of Directors for several years and have seen the tremendous impact this organization has had on our community.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.



777 Isle of Capri Blvd. | Waterloo, IA 50701  
Isle Casino Hotel Waterloo  
[www.caesars.com](http://www.caesars.com)



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

## Please keep Volunteer Iowa

1 message

Wed, Sep 13, 2023 at 4:44 PM

To: "BCRCcomments@iowa.gov" <BCRCcomments@iowa.gov>

Please find the attached letter asking the review committee to keep the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service.

Thank you.

Lisa



Habitat for Humanity of Iowa

809 8th Street SW, Suite F

Altoona, IA 50009



 **Habitat\_VolunteerIowa\_Comment\_2023.pdf**  
63K



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

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## Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service

1 message

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[Redacted]

Wed, Sep 13, 2023 at 4:56 PM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

[Redacted]



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

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## Concern for state reorganization

1 message

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[Redacted]

Wed, Sep 13, 2023 at 5:21 PM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

**Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.**

**The nonprofit community provides incalculable service to our state that cannot be equaled by governments or for-profit entities. We cannot afford to lose those valuable contributions.**

**Thank you -**

[Redacted]





Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

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**Please!**

1 message


Thu, Sep 14, 2023 at 8:35 AM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with [federal statute](#) required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service [announced 21 grants](#) it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.





Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

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## Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service

1 message

Thu, Sep 14, 2023 at 10:00 AM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

To whom it may concern:

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with [federal statute](#) required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service [announced 21 grants](#) it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

I am the treasurer of the Decorah Community Food Pantry. We benefited greatly from the services of an AmeriCorps member this summer. She helped us forge closer relationships with food producers and distributors in a way that makes our community stronger and better able to address hunger. I would hate to think that such an opportunity would not be available to us or similar organizations in the future.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Regards,





Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

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## Protect Commission on Volunteer Service - support for Food Pantries

1 message

[Redacted]

Thu, Sep 14, 2023 at 10:12 AM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

**Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.**

**Cutting the Volunteer Service board will cut Federal funding to the Decorah Food Pantry, a much needed community service.**

**Kind thanks,**

[Redacted]



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

## Retention of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board

1 message

[Redacted]

Thu, Sep 14, 2023 at 10:16 AM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Hello.

I understand that the Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee has recommended the elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service. As a retiree and volunteer under the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of Northeast Iowa, I strongly request a reevaluation of this recommendation. In northeast Iowa alone, RSVP services have a significant impact on myriad outreach programs and services in Decorah and surrounding communities. These volunteer support programs include but are certainly not limited to food pantries serving low income families and seniors, mentoring programs for at-risk youth, meal and grocery delivery to the needy, teaching skills classes such as basic computer and smart phone skills to seniors, and many, many more.

Federal statute requires Iowa to have a state volunteer commission to remain eligible for these funds, which are distributed to address "critical community needs," from construction of low-income housing to after-school programming to local disaster response. Elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would mean the loss of eligibility of up to \$14 million dollars in federal funding to keep these programs active. In addition, this would also mean the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP.

The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service has traditionally had strong bipartisan support from the governor's office. Please continue supporting the Volunteer Service Commission so that critical federal dollars supporting dozens of life-impacting community programs will continue.

[Redacted]



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

## Volunteer Iowa

1 message

[Redacted]

Thu, Sep 14, 2023 at 10:43 AM

To: "BCRCcomments@iowa.gov" <BCRCcomments@iowa.gov>

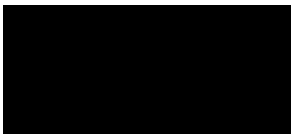
Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with [federal statute](#) required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service [announced 21 grants](#) it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

[Redacted]



**MercyOne.org**



**MercyOne Waterloo Medical Center**

3421 West Ninth Street

Waterloo, IA 50702

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Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

## IAA Supports Volunteer Iowa

1 message

Thu, Sep 14, 2023 at 11:33 AM

To: "BCRCcomments@iowa.gov" <BCRCcomments@iowa.gov>



September 14, 2023

To Whom it May Concern,

We are writing to convey our unwavering support for Volunteer Iowa and its exceptional mission to "improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement through service, volunteering, and mentoring." The Iowa Afterschool Alliance (IAA) deeply values the contributions that Volunteer Iowa makes to our great state and recognizes its critical role in building thriving, vibrant communities.

The mission of Volunteer Iowa resonates profoundly with our organization's vision. We, too, are dedicated to enhancing the lives of Iowans and creating communities that are strong, inclusive, and filled with opportunities for growth and development. Afterschool programs play a pivotal role in this endeavor by providing safe, enriching environments for children and youth during out-of-school hours.

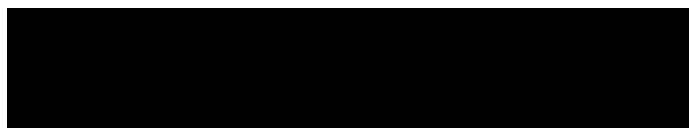
Volunteer Iowa's commitment to service, volunteering, and mentoring aligns seamlessly with our belief in the power of mentorship and community engagement to transform young lives. The impact of volunteer-driven mentoring programs within afterschool settings is immeasurable. These programs not only nurture academic and personal growth in children and youth but also instill a sense of civic responsibility that can last a lifetime.

Furthermore, Volunteer Iowa's support for volunteerism and community engagement has ripple effects that extend far beyond the individuals directly involved. By promoting a culture of service, Volunteer Iowa helps cultivate a generation of young leaders who are committed to making positive contributions to their communities, thereby ensuring a brighter future for Iowa.

Volunteer Iowa's mission is not just about volunteering; it's about building a stronger, more connected Iowa. We believe that our collective efforts can help create a brighter future for all Iowans.

Sincerely,

The Iowa Afterschool Alliance



9/14/23, 2:21 PM

State of Iowa Mail - IAA Supports Volunteer Iowa

2910 Westown Parkway, STE 302

West Des Moines, IA 50266

 IAA Website

*Follow IAA on Facebook*





Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

## Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service

1 message

[Redacted]

Thu, Sep 14, 2023 at 12:38 PM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on volunteer groups in Iowa. I STRONGLY urge you to NOT ELIMINATE the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Services!!

[Redacted]

Dept of Economics and Business, Luther College  
Home: 510 North Street, Decorah, Iowa

<https://rowman.com/isbn/9781538119181>

[https://www.luther.edu/vocation/voices/?story\\_id=460204](https://www.luther.edu/vocation/voices/?story_id=460204)

"We should not write so that it is possible for the reader to understand us, but so that it is impossible for him to misunderstand us." -Quintilian (Marcus Fabius Quintilianus), rhetorician

"It ain't what you don't know that will get you in trouble, it's what you know for sure that just ain't so." – Mark Twain



Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

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## Elimination of Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service

1 message

Thu, Sep 14, 2023 at 5:40 PM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Hello,

I understand that the Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee has recommended the elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service, a step which would precipitate the loss of AmeriCorps opportunities in Iowa. Since this would have a devastating effect on the state's non-profit organizations and opportunities for young Iowans, I oppose the elimination of the Commission and request that you reconsider.

Since retiring to Iowa City, 7 years ago, I have volunteered for three non-profits, Iowa City Compassion, Table to Table, and Bur Oak Land Trust. Their participation in the AmeriCorps program has allowed them to expand their services, support more vulnerable families, and protect more land for future generations. Were they to lose these volunteers, more low income residents, including hungry children, and precious biodiverse habitats would fall through the giant cracks left behind.

In addition, Iowa's young people would lose the incredible opportunity to accumulate marketable skills, develop mentoring relationships, and launch themselves on a career track, all while giving back to Iowa and Iowans.

Iowa has stagnant population growth and a brain drain of college graduates. In September 2022, news outlets reported that our ability to hang on to college graduates was the 10th worst in the country. AmeriCorps attracts thoughtful, smart young people with a social conscience, those who want to make a difference--just the type of citizens we need to lead us in the future. If AmeriCorps ceases to operate in Iowa, it would encourage many of our brightest to go out of state to seek that experience.

AmeriCorps is win-win-win-win: It benefits, non-profits, their clients, the volunteers, and the communities they serve, so, again, I urge you to reconsider the proposal to eliminate the Commission on Volunteer Service. We all have too much to lose.

Sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

## Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service

1 message

Fri, Sep 15, 2023 at 8:15 AM

To: "BCRCcomments@iowa.gov" <BCRCcomments@iowa.gov>

Please see a letter attached regarding the State Service Commissions decision to recommend the dismantling of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service.

Need to meet with me? Please schedule at [REDACTED]

Please excuse brevity and potential typographical errors, some messages sent with Siri.

I understand your work hours may differ from mine. Please do not feel obligated to respond outside your normal working hours.

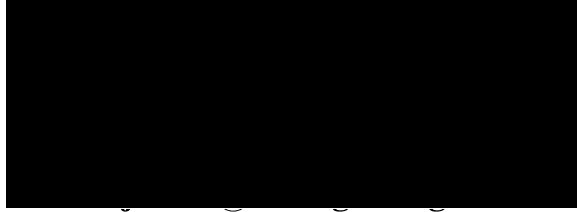


"The people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones who do."

-Steve Jobs



 **State Service Commission Letter.pdf**  
106K



RE: Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service

Dear Members of the State Board and Commissions Review Committee,

I am writing to you today not just as a concerned citizen, but as someone who has spent a considerable portion of my career nurturing the spirit of volunteerism that pulses through the heart of our great state of Iowa. In my roles as the Director of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program sponsored by Graceland University, an AmeriCorps VISTA member with Decatur County Development Corporation, Executive Director for Creston Arts, consultant, and a RISE/RIVA AmeriCorps member, I have witnessed firsthand the irreplaceable benefits that service and volunteer programs bring to our communities.

As the author of *Calling all volunteers: New ideas for recruiting and managing* I wish to express the impact that a combination of past education, work experience and mental health (quality of life) have on the selection of volunteers and the development of nonprofit organizations in our state. For students in high school and college using past education to then gain new skills and practical experience through AmeriCorps service is an invaluable asset to these dedicated individuals and to our state as we build our future.

In light of the recent recommendations to eliminate the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service, I feel compelled to express my deep concerns regarding the potential repercussions this decision could carry. I firmly believe that negating the commission would not only disrupt our compliance with federal statute, which is a requisite to secure AmeriCorps State funding, but would also stifle the remarkable progression we have achieved in enhancing the lives of Iowans through volunteer services.

As recent as May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service proudly announced 21 grants it awarded, channeling a significant amount of \$14.3 million in federal funds, inclusive of \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards, into new and continuous AmeriCorps State programs within our state. This funding has not just served as a financial cornerstone, but also as a catalyst for positive change, community development, and fostering unity. Eliminating the commission would inadvertently cease the influx of these vital resources that bolster our non-profits and communities, not to mention the accompanying local private matching funds that augment the influence of these grants manifold.

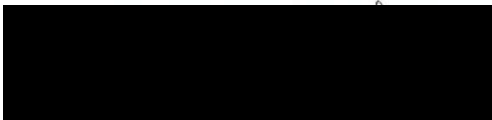
Furthermore, I would like to emphasize that volunteerism is not just a tool for community growth, but a potent means to enhance individual well-being. Research consistently illustrates that engaging in volunteer work increases longevity, elevates happiness levels, and is associated with numerous other health benefits. The priceless value of volunteerism in enriching lives cannot be underscored enough.

At this critical juncture, I urge you to rethink the implications of the recommendation at hand. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service is not just a conduit of federal grants, but a beacon of hope, collaboration, and community building. I fervently request that you reverse the recommendation to dismantle the commission, allowing Iowa not only to remain in federal compliance but to continue fostering a vibrant, unified, and forward-moving state.

Our state has a long-standing tradition of community service, a tradition that molds resilient, empathic, and civic-minded individuals. Let us not waver in our commitment to nurturing this legacy for the generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration. I am hopeful that together, we can continue to champion the spirit of volunteerism and camaraderie that defines Iowa.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.



Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

## Elimination of Iowa Commission of Volunteer Service

1 message

Fri, Sep 15, 2023 at 9:07 AM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

9-15-2023

To the Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee,

**Please make sure that the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service Board continues to operate as is. Disbanding this Board would cause an unintentional and intensely negative effect on the nonprofit community. Without a commission board, the state of Iowa would not be in compliance with the federal statute required to receive Americorps funding.** I live in Grinnell. In our community, Americorp volunteers provide many vital services that would end without Americorp funding. They include: afterschool programs for needy children, math and reading tutoring for students, and several programs that help to provide food for food insecure children and families. Americorp funding is providing volunteers to serve in these vital services in our community. The Americorp crews from Bur Oak Land Trust, a conservation organization the serves 19 counties, have contributed 55,156 service hours since 2019. In the aftermath of the derecho, they immediately began recovery work in Cedar Rapids, on the Meskwaki Settlement, and on Bur Oak owned natural areas. Without the immediate response of Americorp crews that disaster response and recovery would have taken much longer. Trained Americorp crews respond quickly to disasters in Iowa. Bur Oak crews continuously do important management of over 400 acres of natural areas in eastern Iowa annually. I live next to one of the natural areas that Bur Oak Americorp crews manage and am amazed at the wonderful work these dedicated young people do for our state. Without Americorp funding, much of the important conservation work the Bur Oak Land Trust does would not be possible. **I am counting on you to continue the vital work of Americorp volunteers in Iowa by keeping the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service Board as a part of Iowa State Government. Please do not disband this Board as you reorganize our government.**

Thank you,



Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

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## Elimination of Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service

1 message

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[REDACTED] Fri, Sep 15, 2023 at 11:11 AM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

I was recently made aware of an attempt to eliminate the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Services, which runs the AmeriCorps program in Iowa. AmeriCorps is federally funded, but one of the requirements is that each state has a board that oversees the use of the funds in the state. Elimination of Volunteer Iowa would therefore mean that no AmeriCorps programs could operate in the state of Iowa, which would have a massive impact on several local organizations.

I am submitting this email to voice my request that the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service is NOT removed from the list of Iowa Commissions.

Sincerely,  
[REDACTED]



Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

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**Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board - do not eliminate**

1 message

Fri, Sep 15, 2023 at 1:00 PM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with [federal statute](#) required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service [announced 21 grants](#) it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

I appreciate and support the Governor's efforts to improve efficiency by reducing the complexity of the state government's structure. I hope that the proposed elimination of this board was as an oversight. It is easy to lose track of important details in the midst of a large project.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

thanks,  






Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

## Supportive Comments: Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board

1 message

Fri, Sep 15, 2023 at 2:10 PM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with [federal statute](#) required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service [announced 21 grants](#) it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

I am a Green Iowa AmeriCorps site supervisor at Northeast Iowa Community College. I've had the amazing opportunity to partner with the University of Northern Iowa Center for Energy and Environmental Education to host Green Iowa AmeriCorps service members since early 2021. The program has benefited our community college, helping to bring in nearly \$30,000

additional grant funding in just 2.5 years. One of their notable efforts was to secure an Urban Water Quality Initiative grant through Iowa Department of Agriculture Land Stewardship to improve soil and water quality on campus by decreasing stormwater runoff through native prairie plants and trees. Our members have researched and implemented ways of reducing our campus waste, as well as reducing our energy use. Their programming has included contributing to the planning processes at our Dairy and Agriculture Foundation to help reach an industry standard of being carbon neutral. Our members have provided numerous environmental science lessons/activities to all ages and helped strengthen community partnerships that have enriched our campus community. The members have been such an asset to our community college and broader community at large!

As an AmeriCorps alumna (2009-2010), I can attest to what a valuable professional development opportunity this experience was. As a newly minted Luther College graduate, I helped build capacity for more walkable/bikeable communities, as well as helped build a more vibrant local food system in NE Iowa. This experience forever shaped me and helped me chart my future goals and aspirations. AmeriCorps is an incredible opportunity for a gap year, for those just out of college questioning the next step, or someone who is looking to switch careers, etc. The mentorship that comes with being placed at an organization to serve and uplift those in-need, builds life-long skills and character development. These are such important opportunities to help to attract and retain Iowa's talented workforce, many of whom are youth!

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

--

[Redacted address line 1]

Northeast Iowa Community College  
Calmar, IA 52132

[Redacted address line 2]

*"Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?"*

*-Mary Oliver*

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Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

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## Funding our communities

1 message

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Fri, Sep 15, 2023 at 4:22 PM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Cc: MK Iowa <mkummer2016@gmail.com>

To the Iowa Boards and Commissions Committee:

As a long-time resident in Iowa City, I urge you to retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer service that will direct much-needed federal level funds to organizations in Iowa. Towns like Iowa City and many rural areas have greatly benefitted from resources, Americorps volunteers and other personnel to keep our neighbourhoods growing and caring. This motivates local residents to be involved which makes the organizations and Iowa stronger.

Thank you for this opportunity to give input,





Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

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## Iowa Volunteer Commission

1 message

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[Redacted]

Fri, Sep 15, 2023 at 9:24 PM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

I would like to register my support for keeping the Volunteer commission in the state of Iowa so we can continue to receive the funding for programs that are so badly needed.

Centralizing makes sense when there is too much overlap between organizations, or when a particular org isn't doing well financially, but with the loss of federal funding if the Volunteer commission is dismantled, it doesn't make financial sense to collapse it in the name of saving money.

Please keep the Volunteer Commission that does so much good for Iowan citizens.

Thank you,

[Redacted]



Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

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**DO NOT eliminate the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service**

1 message

Sat, Sep 16, 2023 at 11:35 AM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Please!

My wife and I and two of our children volunteer with organizations we became aware of through Volunteer Iowa, which receives Federal funding because this Commission exists. This recommendation seems like short sighted thinking.

**Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.**

████████████████████

"We all do better when we all do better"



Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

## Comment on the ill-advised recommendation to eliminate the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board

1 message

Sat, Sep 16, 2023 at 2:28 PM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Dear Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee:

I am writing this letter in support of volunteerism from the local and state level all the way up to national and international levels, and I ask that you please ensure that the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. I have heard that the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination, and I feel that this would be misguided as volunteers provide for local fire fighter and other local emergency management services, they aid for building capacity to help nonprofits to provide for community services for youth; low-income folks that need food, housing, and other assistance; and help assist with wildlife habitat restoration projects, understanding and working to improve water quality, as well as monitoring wildlife populations.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with [federal statute](#) required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. In May 2023, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service [announced 21 grants](#) it awarded to new and continuing AmeriCorps State programs in Iowa totaling \$9.45 million in federal grants and \$4.85 million in Segal Education Awards for a total of \$14.3 million in federal funding, not including the local private matching funds. The elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service would result in the loss of not only \$14.3 million in funding to local nonprofits and public entities, it would also result in the loss of other federal funds administered by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service including but not limited to the Volunteer Generation Fund and 9/11 Day of Service grant, VISTA and RSVP. The Commission is also responsible for certifying mentoring programs through MENTOR Iowa that makes local youth programs eligible for various state and federal funding opportunities.

I was born in Pocahontas, Iowa, where I still have many relatives, and went to school and obtained degrees from Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and Upper Iowa University in Fayette. At Kirkwood, I was involved in multiple community projects with regard to habitat restoration restoring native prairie and restoring wetlands along the Cedar River in Linn County for flood protection, water quality, and wildlife habitat. At Upper Iowa University, I got involved with the Environmental Science club where we picked up litter as part of the State's Roadside Adoption litter cleanup program, vegetative management around the campus and town of Fayette, managing the campus recycling program, and helping with campus prairie restoration. In addition, I also started a Midwinter Bald Eagle survey route along the Turkey River where data contributed to a national monitoring effort and helped with the decision process to delist the species off the Endangered Species list. In 2001 I became one of Iowa's proud recipients of the Governor's Volunteer Award. Also, during my time at Upper Iowa, I helped with a study along the Mississippi River to better understand how nesting Bald Eagles respond to anthropogenic disturbances within a range of distances, and as a volunteer I gained another appreciation award from the Upper Mississippi National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. Even now, I continue as a strong volunteer helping to clean up litter along roadside ditches, public parks and accesses, and in streams and rivers. I help with mussel blizzards to search and identify the presence and abundance of mussels in Iowa rivers, as they help filter water and improve Iowa's water quality, and I help with invasive species removal projects as well.

This represents some of what I've done and continue to do as a volunteer, but I should also mention the training that I and others undertake, such as species identification, training in National Wildland Fire Fighting, which includes Incident Command training where it is possible to become part of crew fighting forest fires around the country, and potentially internationally. And as one develops within firefighting and gains other certifications, one could get asked to participate in other national incident command emergency response and management events. These trainings also provide proper safety and hands-on training and development using various hand and power tools, CPR/First Aid (at the very least), and of course whatever else training volunteers need for projects being asked to do. This is where I have to really question why a state leader, or any leader, would discourage local and national level volunteerism, and the shared cost between local, state, federal and other entities it takes to develop volunteers, especially in terms of emergency response.

Interestingly, when I lived in Louisa County, Iowa this past spring, the supervisors were complaining because they didn't have enough local volunteerism vs. forking out the budget to pay county employees. I find this highly ironic. What kind of leadership works to get rid of the pride of volunteerism in a community! Volunteerism is the essence of community service. And what kind of leadership doesn't take advantage of important training and development opportunities for their citizens, especially for the future of their communities!

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

Iowa Native, but presently live in Boonville, Missouri





Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

## Statement of the Iowa Council on Homelessness

1 message

Sun, Sep 17, 2023 at 9:48 AM

To: "Comments, BCRC" &lt;BCRCcomments@iowa.gov&gt;

Dear Boards and Commissions Review Committee:

At its meeting this past Friday, September 15, the Iowa Council on Homelessness unanimously passed the following statement and recommendation:

We, the Iowa Council on Homelessness, wish to be on record with the Boards & Commissions Review Committee as opposing dissolution of the Iowa Council on Homelessness (ICH) as proposed in the Committee's preliminary "Subcommittee Recommendations," dated August 29 of this year. We strongly believe our work, as the only official body charged with providing counsel to the governor and legislature on policies to address homelessness in Iowa, should continue. Here are just a few reasons that eliminating the ICH is not in the best interest of Iowa, especially those Iowans experiencing or at risk of homelessness and those who now or in the near future will be facing critical need for affordable housing, including those in need of supportive or workforce housing:

- State staffing to address homelessness is limited and spread across multiple agencies. The Council is uniquely constituted in that it includes representatives of state agencies engaged in addressing homelessness. Without the ICH, there would be no forum for coordinating communication and resources, leaving Iowa open to missing opportunities for much-needed federal resources.
- Governance and funding streams for HUD programs in Iowa are currently divided among four different units (Continuums of Care). The Council provides a venue for statewide planning and coordination leading to more efficient and effective use of limited resources.
- The ICH has undergone extensive revision of structure and code in the past 3 years. These changes were designed to streamline the process for action, including expansion and coordination of resources. Eliminating the Council before it has a real chance to demonstrate added value under the new structure does not make sense.
- The ICH creates a platform for individuals with lived experience to engage and be active participants in developing and recommending solutions to addressing homelessness in our state.
- Bimonthly Council meetings are attended not only by the 20 appointed members; typical attendance is usually at least twice that number. Other attendees include homeless service providers and individuals with lived experience. The ICH is unique in its purpose ensuring a regular convening of statewide stakeholders to collaboratively problem solve.

In summary, the Iowa Council on Homelessness is neither redundant nor obsolete. The issues we address and the Iowans we serve have no other discussion forum at a time when needs for safe, affordable housing are increasing rapidly. We therefore respectfully but strongly urge the Boards & Commissions Review Committee to change its recommendation for the Iowa Council on Homeless from "Eliminate" to "Continue."

Sincerely,





Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

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## Volunteer Iowa

1 message

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[Redacted]

Sun, Sep 17, 2023 at 3:28 PM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

I have been a resident of Iowa since 1983 and am writing to comment on the recommendation to eliminate the Volunteer Iowa commission.

It's my understanding that this would eliminate the funding for the Americorps program in Iowa because of the difficulties and barriers of alternative access to these federal funds.

I am against this. Why wouldn't we want access to the federal funds for volunteer programs? I have known many young adults who want to explore careers in public service or retired adults who want to give back while earning some money to give to their grand children for college.

You should reconsider any recommendation to eliminate this commission.

[Redacted]



Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

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**Re: Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service**

1 message

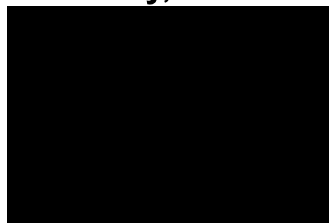
Sun, Sep 17, 2023 at 5:07 PM

To: "BCRCcomments@iowa.gov" &lt;BCRCcomments@iowa.gov&gt;

**Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.**

**I volunteer Monday through Friday each week with the community Food Pantry in Decorah. The need is great for our services, and I worry about potential decreases in the financial support our mission receives. Please keep the Commission on Volunteer Service board intact so we can count on the resources we need to feed those in need.**

**Sincerely,**





Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

## Letter re: recommendation regarding Deaf Services Commisison of Iowa

1 message

[Redacted]

Sun, Sep 17, 2023 at 7:17 PM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Good evening,

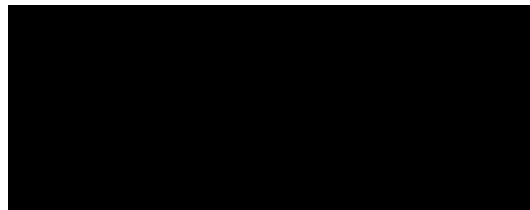
Attached please find a letter from the Iowa Association of the Deaf, signed not only by this association but also 8 other organizations that serve the community, as well as 140 Deaf Iowa citizens and their allies.

In short, we ask that the Committee reconsider their recommendation that the Deaf Services Commission of Iowa be merged into the larger Human Rights Board. Each culturally specific commission previously under the Department of Human Rights focuses on issues specific to their population; to merge them means that the needs of historically excluded groups of citizens will be sidelined and lost within the larger group. Deaf Services Commission of Iowa, in partnership with the Iowa Association of the Deaf and the Iowa State Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, has an enormous impact on the Deaf community's ability to have a voice in their own government.

Please don't hesitate to contact the Iowa Association of the Deaf at this address with any questions or requests for clarification or assistance.

Sincerely,

The Iowa Association of the Deaf Executive Board



Letter to Boards and Commissions Review Committee.pdf  
95K



To the Boards and Commissions Review Committee:

We, as members of the Deaf community (and their allies) in Iowa, are very concerned about the news that all of the individual Commissions within the Community Advocacy and Services of the Iowa Department of Human Rights (now under the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services) are to be merged or consolidated. This includes, of course, the Deaf Services Commission of Iowa (DSCI). Your recommendations for several other commissions and boards will also impact the Deaf community; we will list those below.

Since the Office of Deaf Services ceased to have any full-time staff (instead being staffed at  $\frac{1}{3}$  of a FTE by a person who was unable to communicate directly with the Deaf community due to knowing no American Sign Language - ASL), the services and representation the community desperately needs has taken an enormous hit.

Prior to the resignation (and death) of longtime director Kathryn Baumann-Reese in 2010, the community was assured of having not only representation but also actual boots on the ground services provided primarily by Deaf staff, or hearing staff who were ASL-fluent. DSCI was a fully-functioning commission with budget and mission oversight. Hundreds of Deaf Iowans were provided services and access through the Division of Deaf Services - which was later downgraded to an Office in 2010 during a massive organization of the entire department.

Fast forward to today, where the Commission is the sole representation for this community at the state government level. While the Office of Deaf Services has been functionally vacant for, at minimum, four years, there has been no move to hire a staff person. There has been discussion about cross-agency partnership with Iowa VRS Deaf VR Counselors, prior to the announcement of IVRS and Iowa Workforce Development merging.

However, none of this has come to pass; this, again, leaves DSCI as the sole voice inside state government to advocate for the needs and rights of and access for the Deaf community. The Boards and Commission Review Committee's comments suggested that the duties of the boards and commissions that were being eliminated or merged would be undertaken by staff of their respective connected agencies; without staff in the Office of Deaf Services, this will not happen.

DSCI has struggled to get their commissioners seated; it was only this spring (March 2023) that there was finally a full commission. That commission has been active and involved, creating a detailed strategic plan and work plan for the next five years. Several of the goals included in that strategic plan will be impacted severely by the loss of focus that would come from the consolidation/merger to the larger Human Rights Board. As it stands, the Human Rights Board is currently made up of representatives from each of the Community Advocacy and Services commissions as well as several public members and ex officio members from the Legislature. If this Board, already purporting to represent all of these varied communities, is unable to complete the work that each Commission does (including the 5-year strategic plan for DSCI), then these communities, including the Deaf community, will suffer for it.

As well, several other proposed eliminations, merger/consolidations, and reorganizations have the potential to dramatically impact the community, depending on the action that is taken:

- Board of Sign Language Interpreters and Transliterators - reorganize/other changes
- Mental Health and Disability Services Commission - consolidate/merge
- Board of Hearing Aid Specialists - eliminate
- Iowa Civil Rights Commission - consolidate/merge
- Area Education Agency Advisory Group - eliminate
- Dual Party Relay Council - reorganize/other changes
- Iowa State Civil Rights Commission - reorganize/other changes
- Human Rights Board - reorganize/other changes

In summary, these changes would significantly impact a community that already is underrepresented in State government, and create additional barriers for Deaf citizens and taxpayers to fully engage and interact with Iowa's government. The interests and perspectives of the Deaf community are best represented and captured by members of that community. It is crucial to have services focused on issues specific to the Deaf community, staffed with Deaf and ASL fluent people. These aforementioned Commissions and Boards, in particular DSCI, are a critical piece of the government to ensure that Deaf Iowans don't get left behind. We urge you to keep DSCI intact so they can carry out their strategic plan initiatives and continue giving voice to Iowa's Deaf community.

The undersigned organizations provide advocacy and support to the Deaf community in various ways; all of them know how critical DSCI is to the continued ability of Deaf Iowans to fully participate in the governance of their state and find success in their life goals.

*Iowa Association of the Deaf*

*Iowa State Registry of Interpreters  
for the Deaf*

*Hands Up Communications*

*Deaf Dome*

*Northeast Iowa Interpreting*

*Quad Cities Deaf Club*

*Iowa Illinois Center for  
Independent Living*

*Des Moines Association of the Deaf*

*Life Interpretation, Inc.*

The undersigned, as Deaf citizens of Iowa and their allies, add their signature in support of this letter.

<u>Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>City</u>
	Coralville		DeWitt, Iowa
	Gilmore City		Lansing, Iowa
	Gilmore City		Wellsburg
	Gilmore City Iowa		Wellsburg
	Des Moines		Marion
	Ankeny		Moline
	Ankeny		Altoona
	Gilmore City		Manchester
	Des Moines		Tipton
	Iowa City		Waterloo
	Ankeny		Evansdale
	Davenport		Monticello, IA
	Des Moines		Urbandale
	Fort Dodge		Iowa City
	Des Moines		Davenport, IA
	Des Moines		Traer
	Bettendorf		Moorland, IA
	Davenport		Moorland, IA
	Bondurant		Waterloo
	Iowa City		Cedar Falls
	Wilton		Cedar Falls
	Des Moines		Council Bluffs
	Des Moines		Davenport
	Fort Dodge		Marion
	Dallas Center		Waterloo
	Ely		Graettinger
	Dubuque		Waterloo, IA
	West Des Moines		Decorah IA
	Urbandale		Cedar rapids
	Des Moines		Davenport
	Cedar Rapids		Des Moines
	Gilmore city		Dubuque
	Des Moines		Urbandale
	Knoxville, IA		Council Bluffs
	Durant		Waterloo
	Des Moines		Waukee
	Cedar Rapids		Council Bluffs
	Bettendorf		Superior
	Waterloo		Waterloo
	Ankeny		Cedar Rapids
	Silver city		LeClaire
	Evansdale		Bettendorf
	Ely, Iowa		Cedar Rapids Iowa
	West Des Moines		Grand Mound
	Des Moines		Ankeny
	Des Moines		Cedar Rapids



Name

City

Name

City



Elk Run Heights, ia  
Waverly  
Grimes  
Danville, IA  
Hudson Iowa  
Waterloo  
Montevallo, AL  
Cedar Rapids  
Clutier Iowa  
Waterloo  
Monticello, IA  
Waterloo  
Packwood ia  
Evansdale  
Rockwell City, IA  
Davenport, IA  
Van Meter  
Tipton  
Des Moines  
Marshalltown  
Dallas Center  
Omaha, NE  
Des Moines  
Anamosa,iowa  
Tama Iowa  
Tama, Iowa  
Omaha  
Council Bluffs  
Des Moines Iowa  
Clinton  
Muscatine  
Cedar Falls  
Council bluffs  
Adel  
Des Moines  
Cedar Rapids  
Des Moines  
Rock Island, IL  
Des Moines, Iowa  
Anamosa  
Des moines  
Port Saint Lucie  
Waterloo



Des Moines, IA  
Council Bluffs  
Council Bluffs  
Iowa City  
Urbandale



Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

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## Elimination of Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service

1 message

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Sun, Sep 17, 2023 at 8:59 PM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Dear members of the Board and Commission Review Committee,

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

**I am the Secretary for the Bur Oak Land Trust Board of Directors. I have seen first-hand the impact of having AmeriCorps members has had on our organization. Members have supported the Trust to conduct high-quality conservation work on their properties and other Iowa landscapes, teach community members how to safely operate chainsaws, and lead community efforts to remove invasive species and collect seeds for desirable plants to better support Iowa's ecosystems. In addition, we now have our second former AmeriCorps member on our Board of Directors. This pipeline to non-profit leadership in the state is incredibly valuable, especially since they bring their lessons learned in their community-focused volunteer experience into their leadership roles.**

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]  
Iowa City



Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

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**Re Board and Commission:Deaf Sevices Commission of Iowa**

1 message

Sun, Sep 17, 2023 at 9:03 PM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

I write to you, the committee members overseeing the board and Commission. I urge the committee to consider the intended purpose of the Deaf Services Commission of Iowa and ask yourself since the last reorganization of DSCI being moved to Iowa Department of Human Rights, did DSCI succeed its intended purpose under this agency?? With much review you will see it did not. Purpose of the Deaf Services Commission of Iowa is to educate, advocate, promote awareness of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Individuals Rights under the laws. IA DHR has failed to educate the deaf community, has failed to advocate the deaf community and has failed to promote awareness within the deaf community. Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deafblind Individuals have suffered, have been ignored and disregarded their civil rights. IA DHR has not Staffed anyone to work in this area to oversee the DSCI. Because of that DSCI Commission has not been adequate and complying with its current bylaws. It has not kept up with keeping a full Commission board, and have regular quarterly meetings. Again the deaf community has suffered and received the short end of the stick. I urge the committee to do not eliminate Deaf Services Commission of Iowa and to make this agency independent from IA DHR, and to hire adequate staff to oversee its operations so it can once again flourish its intended purpose under the law as it was originated under. Before 2010 DSCI was outreaching into the deaf community promoting awareness, educating, and advocating for deaf people Rights. They even went a step further to create a summer leadership program for the deaf and hard of hearing youths, then the State chose to eliminate funding for this special program and not Outreach to our younger generation. Why must the Deaf Community Members suffer at the hands of the State of Iowa?? It is time to change to a better Iowa stance of the Rights for the deaf and people with disabilities. Also I urge the committee members review the intended purposes of all commissions and boards for people with disabilities and review to see if IA DHR has succeeded its purposes, responsibilities, and commitments to the disabled community. Again the disabled community is suffering at the hands of IA DHR because it does not prioritize and value people with disabilities and the deaf community. Again, I urge you not to eliminate or merge or reorganize any Commission and Board that was created by law to serve these communities.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Community member and Advocate.



Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

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**Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service**

1 message

Sun, Sep 17, 2023 at 9:06 PM

To: "BCRCcomments@iowa.gov" &lt;BCRCcomments@iowa.gov&gt;

To Whom It May Concern,

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

AmeriCorps State programs have a large impact on my local nonprofit community. They have allowed nonprofits organizations to continue and expand the work. The AmeriCorps program has provided much needed resources for some organizations to better help their community and work with volunteers to expand their efforts. Specifically in my community Bur Oak Land Trust has been able to better maintain their properties. Which in turn provides better and more accessible green spaces for the public to access. These areas are crucial for animal and plant habitats that are much needed in the area. They also provide much needed access to those same animals & plants that a lot of people may never get. The AmeriCorps program has also greatly helped reach out to the public to generate volunteers and public interest in their mission. Please allow the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service to continue operating as normal so that nonprofits may continue to benefit from the AmeriCorps program. While also providing a wonderful learning experience for people who participate. These programs also bring people to our community who often stay and become engaged community members.

The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Thank you &amp; Regards,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.



Comments, BCRC &lt;bcrccomments@iowa.gov&gt;

## Concern about the Deaf Community of Iowa

1 message

Sun, Sep 17, 2023 at 9:07 PM

To: "BCRCcomments@iowa.gov" &lt;BCRCcomments@iowa.gov&gt;

As a friend of the Deaf community in Iowa, I am very concerned about the news that all of the individual Commissions within the Community Advocacy and Services of the Iowa Department of Human Rights (now under the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services) are to be merged or consolidated. This includes, of course, the Deaf Services Commission of Iowa (DSCI). Your recommendations for several other commissions and boards will also impact the Deaf community; we will list those below.

Since the Office of Deaf Services ceased to have any full-time staff (instead being staffed at 1/3 of a FTE by a person who was unable to communicate directly with the Deaf community due to knowing no American Sign Language - ASL), the services and representation the community desperately needs has taken an enormous hit.

Prior to the resignation (and death) of longtime director Kathryn Baumann-Reese in 2010, the community was assured of having not only representation but also actual boots on the ground services provided primarily by Deaf staff, or hearing staff who were ASL-fluent. DSCI was a fully-functioning commission with budget and mission oversight. Hundreds of Deaf Iowans were provided services and access through the Division of Deaf Services - which was later downgraded to an Office in 2010 during a massive organization of the entire department.

Fast forward to today, where the Commission is the sole representation for this community at the state government level. While the Office of Deaf Services has been functionally vacant for, at minimum, four years, there has been no move to hire a staff person. There has been discussion about cross-agency partnership with Iowa VRS Deaf VR Counselors, prior to the announcement of IVRS and Iowa Workforce Development merging.

However, none of this has come to pass; this, again, leaves DSCI as the sole voice inside state government to advocate for the needs and rights of and access for the Deaf community. The Boards and Commission Review Committee's comments suggested that the duties of the boards and commissions that were being eliminated or merged would be undertaken by staff of their respective connected agencies; without staff in the Office of Deaf Services, this will not happen.

DSCI has struggled to get their commissioners seated; it was only this spring (March 2023) that there was finally a full commission. That commission has been active and involved, creating a detailed strategic plan and work plan for the next five years. Several of the goals included in that strategic plan will be impacted severely by the loss of focus that would come from the consolidation/merger to the larger Human Rights Board. As it stands, the Human Rights Board is currently made up of representatives from each of the Community Advocacy and Services commissions as well as several public members and ex officio members from the Legislature. If this Board, already purporting to represent all of these varied communities, is unable to complete the work that each Commission does (including the 5-year strategic plan for DSCI), then these communities, including the Deaf community, will suffer for it.

As well, several other proposed eliminations, merger/consolidations, and reorganizations have the potential to dramatically impact the community, depending on the action that is taken:

Board of Sign Language Interpreters and Transliterators - reorganize/other changes

Mental Health and Disability Services Commission - consolidate/merge

Board of Hearing Aid Specialists - eliminate

Iowa Civil Rights Commission - consolidate/merge

Area Education Agency Advisory Group - eliminate

Dual Party Relay Council - reorganize/other changes

Iowa State Civil Rights Commission - reorganize/other changes

Human Rights Board - reorganize/other changes

In summary, these changes would significantly impact a community that already is underrepresented in State government, and create additional barriers for Deaf citizens and taxpayers to fully engage and interact with Iowa's government. The interests and perspectives of the Deaf community are best represented and captured by members of that community. It is crucial to have services focused on issues specific to the Deaf community, staffed with Deaf and ASL fluent people. These aforementioned Commissions and Boards, in particular DSCI, are a critical piece of the government to ensure that Deaf Iowans don't get left behind. I urge you to keep DSCI intact so they can carry out their strategic plan initiatives and continue giving voice to Iowa's Deaf community.

  
Cedar Rapids



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

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## Elimination of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service

1 message

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To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Sun, Sep 17, 2023 at 9:45 PM

To whom it may concern:

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (Volunteer Iowa) board continues to operate on behalf of the people of Iowa. The current recommendation for elimination would create an unintentional and devastating impact on nonprofit organizations across the state of Iowa as programs funded by Volunteer Iowa help meet a range of critical community needs. These programs reach every county in the state and improve the lives of countless Iowans.

I am a board member and long time supporter of the nonprofit organization Bur Oak Land Trust which utilizes AmeriCorps State funding to support programs including land stewardship, environmental education and at times emergency preparedness / response. The AmeriCorps funding provided through Volunteer Iowa is critical to the operations and outreach of our organization and allows us to continue to serve our community.

Three of my children raised in Iowa and now young adults have worked in AmeriCorp positions for various nonprofit organizations. In addition, to the community service they have provided through these positions, they have learned valuable job and life skills beyond those which they learned at home and school. It is essential that the state continue to support the work of Volunteer Iowa and the multiple AmeriCorps programs which depend on it to ensure fundings.

Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the organizations and Iowans that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Sincerely,





Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

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## Do Not eliminate the Iowa commission on volunteer services

1 message

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[Redacted]  
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Tue, Sep 19, 2023 at 8:15 AM

I am sending this message in support of maintaining the Volunteer Iowa program.

**Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.**

[Redacted]

Sent from my iPhone