



## National Service in Nebraska



### MEETING COMMUNITY NEEDS IN NEBRASKA

More than 4,100 people of all ages and backgrounds are helping to meet local needs, strengthen communities, and increase civic engagement through national service in Nebraska. Serving at more than 420 locations throughout the state, these citizens tutor and mentor children, support veterans and military families, provide health services, restore the environment, respond to disasters, increase economic opportunity, and recruit and manage volunteers.

This year, the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) will commit more than \$6,680,000 to support Nebraska communities through national service initiatives. CNCS invests in cost-effective community solutions--working hand in hand with local partners to improve lives, expand economic opportunity, and engage citizens in solving problems in their communities. Serving in many of the state's most impoverished communities, CNCS provides vital support to schools, food banks, homeless shelters, community health clinics, youth centers, veterans service facilities, and other nonprofit and faith-based organizations at a time of growing demand for services. Through a unique public-private partnership, this federal investment will leverage an additional \$2,660,000 in other resources to strengthen community impact, build local support, and increase return on taxpayer dollars.

**AmeriCorps:** This year AmeriCorps will provide more than 320 individuals the opportunity to provide intensive, results-driven service to meet education, environmental, health, economic, and other pressing needs in communities across Nebraska. Most AmeriCorps grant funding goes to the ServeNebraska - Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission, which in turn awards grants to nonprofit groups to respond to local needs. Most of the remainder of the grant funding is distributed by CNCS directly to multi-state and national organizations through a competitive grants process. Other individuals serve through AmeriCorps VISTA, whose members help bring individuals and communities out of poverty by serving full-time to fight illiteracy, improve health services, create businesses, and increase housing opportunities, and AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps), a 10-month, full time residential program for men and women between the ages of 18 and 24. In exchange for their service, AmeriCorps members earn an education award that can be used to pay for college or to pay back qualified student loans. Since 1994, more than 5,700 Nebraska residents have served more than 9 million hours and have qualified for Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards totaling more than \$20,630,000.

**Senior Corps:** More than 3,800 seniors in Nebraska contribute their time and talents in one of three Senior Corps programs. Foster Grandparents serve one-on-one as tutors and mentors to more than 1,600 young people who have special needs. Senior Companions help more than 190 homebound seniors and other adults maintain independence in their own homes. RSVP volunteers conduct safety patrols, renovate homes, protect the environment, tutor and mentor youth, respond to natural disasters, and provide other services through more than 110 groups across Nebraska.

The Corporation for National and Community Service is a federal agency that improves lives, strengthens communities, and fosters civic engagement through service and volunteering. CNCS annually engages more than five million Americans in service to meet local needs through Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and national days of service; improves communities through the Social Innovation Fund, and leads President Obama's national call to service initiative, United We Serve. To learn more visit [NationalService.gov](http://NationalService.gov) or [Serve.gov](http://Serve.gov) or call 202-606-5000 or TTY 1-800-833-3722.

# Nebraska At a Glance

<b>AmeriCorps</b>	Projects	Service Locations	Participants <sup>1</sup>	Education Scholarships <sup>2</sup>	Program Funding
AmeriCorps National	8	7	22	\$243,064	\$264,072 <sup>3</sup>
AmeriCorps State Competitive	2	30	59	\$276,769	\$568,686
AmeriCorps State Formula	13	47	216	\$661,958	\$1,350,016
AmeriCorps Tribes/Territories	1	4	12	\$67,740	\$169,625
AmeriCorps VISTA	6	13	20	\$114,005	\$325,400
<b>AMERICORPS TOTAL (Current Projects Only)</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>\$1,363,536</b>	<b>\$2,677,799</b>
<b>Senior Corps</b>	Projects	Service Locations	Participants	Education Scholarships	Program Funding
Foster Grandparent Program	7	203	539	-	\$1,717,218
RSVP	7	110	3,190	-	\$372,992
Senior Companion Program	1	15	90	-	\$266,820
<b>SENIOR CORPS TOTAL (Current Projects Only)</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>3,819</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$2,357,030</b>
<b>Other Funding</b>	Projects	Service Locations	Participants	Education Scholarships	Program Funding
State Commission Operations Support	1	-	-	-	\$285,724
<b>OTHER FUNDING TOTAL (Current Projects Only)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$285,724</b>
<b>PROGRAM TOTALS</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>429 <sup>4</sup></b>	<b>4,148</b>	<b>\$1,363,536</b>	<b>\$5,320,553</b>
<b>TOTAL CNCS FUNDING (including Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards)</b>					<b>\$6,684,089</b>
<b>TOTAL LOCAL PROGRAM SUPPORT (Non-CNCS Resources)</b>					<b>\$2,665,269 <sup>5</sup></b>
<b>TOTAL CNCS FUNDING + TOTAL LOCAL PROGRAM SUPPORT</b>					<b>\$9,349,358</b>

Notes: The data shown represents a snapshot in time. CNCS project sites, participants, and funding change throughout the year, so the data may not reflect current conditions.

- This figure represents the number of awarded positions available to be filled in the 2014 - 2015 program year. For AmeriCorps VISTA, this represents the actual number of VISTA members in active service.
- This figure represents the maximum potential value of Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards that can be earned by AmeriCorps members serving in Nebraska. The award can be used in any state to pay for college, graduate school, vocational training, or to pay back student loans. The education award total is included in total CNCS funding.
- AmeriCorps National figures may include national programs headquartered in the state and/or operating sites of national programs that are headquartered in other states. Funding reflects the estimated proportionate share of the national grant associated with operating sites in this report. Some national organizations do not report operating site data, or it was not available at time of publishing, so figures may not reflect current conditions.
- The service location total may contain multiple counts of unique locations where multiple CNCS programs are operating.
- As part of its public-private partnership approach, CNCS requires grantees to leverage additional resources to strengthen community impact and increase the return on the federal investment. This figure reflects non-CNCS cash and in-kind resources that CNCS grantees and project sponsors have committed to raise to support their programming activities across the state.



Since 1994, more than 5,700 Nebraska residents have served more than 9 million hours and have qualified for Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards totaling more than \$20,630,000.

## AmeriCorps State

YWCA Adams County AmeriCorps deploys AmeriCorps members to address community-identified needs in Adams, Nuckolls, Clay, Kearney and Webster counties. At the YWCA and throughout these counties, the AmeriCorps members serve afterschool programs, provide one-on-one training and job interview opportunities for women, assist Adult Education Instructors by providing instruction in English as a Second Language, and help connect homeless or near homeless with services. In 2014-2015 AmeriCorps members assisted more than 300 women with career services, in which 55 women found employment. Members also assisted 128 youth with homework and served 3,421 meals through food programs. Also the past year, AmeriCorps members helped 228 adults with classroom instruction, and 86 adults receiving GED preparation.

Nebraska Economic Opportunity Corps is an AmeriCorps State program of Lutheran Family Services. The program's mission is to improve the economic opportunities of at-risk youth, new Americans, and veterans through education and employment programs that empower individuals toward self-sufficiency. AmeriCorps members serve through 25 programs operated by Lutheran Family Services and 12 partner nonprofit agencies. Members work to improve the economic prospects of clients as measured on a Self-Sufficiency Matrix. In the 2013-2014 program year, there were 1,400 beneficiaries of AmeriCorps services with members reporting 644 beneficiaries displaying a 25 percent improvement in self-sufficiency.

## AmeriCorps National

College Possible Omaha, serving 2,000 high school and college students, is closing Nebraska's degree divide and building a competitive workforce for the future. By 2020, 71% of jobs in Nebraska will require a post-secondary education, but only 8% of low-income students nationally earn a college degree by age 24. College Possible Omaha's AmeriCorps coaches guide low-income students through all aspects of preparing for, applying to and enrolling in college, and support students all the way through college graduation. Ninety-eight percent of College Possible students earn admission to college, and they are ten times more likely to graduate from college than their low-income peers. A 2013 Harvard randomized controlled trial confirmed the impact of College Possible's AmeriCorps-based program model, finding that students in the program had a significant positive increase in four-year college enrollment. By harnessing the power of national service, College Possible creates better futures for all Nebraskans.

## AmeriCorps VISTA

AmeriCorps VISTA members serving with the City of South Sioux City are improving the city's capacity to better serve its residents and provide economy opportunities for low-income residents. The VISTAs assist with economic and workforce development, housing, and grant writing. In their first year, the VISTAs secured nearly \$500,000 in cash resources and \$80,000 in non-cash resources. The VISTAs secured almost \$8,000 to start a small business incubator and business toolkit to inform low- to-moderate-income individuals. They cultivated partnerships with the College Center, SCORE, and the Rural Enterprise Assistance Project's Hispanic Business Center. They also adapted a funding resource guide for small businesses. To address the lack of affordable housing in South Sioux City, VISTAs identified 11 areas where homes can be built for low- to moderate-income families to purchase. At the end of the first year, eight homes had been built and sold. The program also conducted an area wide assessment of 100 homes that need rehabilitation. More than \$500,000 was secured to help the owners return these homes to safe and habitable living conditions.

More 208,000 people in Nebraska are living in poverty and food insecurity according to the USDA. Food Bank for the Heartland AmeriCorps VISTA members in Omaha are building relationships in 77 of the 93 counties to ensure that each person living in poverty and food insecurity will receive at least 37 pounds of nutritious food. During the first year of the project, VISTA member partnerships have resulted in 12 new counties becoming food secure by offering mobile food pantries, the distribution of pantry boxes and distribution of benefits information to pantry providers.

## AmeriCorps NCCC

An AmeriCorps NCCC team worked with ServeNebraska, Nebraska's Volunteer Service Commission, in responding to tornadoes in the spring of 2014. ServeNebraska coordinates and supports community involvement by Nebraskans that address the needs of our communities. The first AmeriCorps NCCC team that aided in disaster relief, coordinated and sorted donations, and assisted in managing the donation distribution center. They helped meet the area's needs by allowing the center to remain open for extended hours, which would have otherwise not been possible. The team also spent two days assisting volunteers with the coordination effort and debris cleanup. The second team spent four weeks cleaning up and rebuilding after the devastation from a tornado. They assisted homeowners through repair and reconstruction efforts; clearing water-damaged debris from businesses and homes. The team assisted with reconstruction activities throughout the disaster area by scrapping and repainting buildings, installing rafters and siding, and performing roof repair. In addition, Corps members organized two disaster response trailers and fixed and repositioned seven tombstones in the community's cemetery.

## AmeriCorps NCCC

The Forest Service's mission is Caring for the Land and Serving People. This mission is to achieve quality land management under the sustainable multiple-use management concept to meet the diverse needs of people. During the summer of 2014, an AmeriCorps NCCC team helped them advance this mission by completing 5.5 miles of the Pine Ridge trail to clear, mark, or reroute damaged areas by installing 140 poles and 70 posts. Members also installed 30 water bars to prevent trail erosion and cleared seven dams, totaling an area of over 1200 feet, which involved moving 12 piles of wood to locations that would not damage the dams. In addition, Members assisted the education and research center, Hudson-Meng, by weeding landscaped areas and a trail, cleaning exhibits and building rooms, and replacing worn signs leading to the center. The work completed by AmeriCorps NCCC members improved public safety and access to the natural areas, provided sustainable maintenance for historic and public infrastructure, and improved the status of earthen dams. Members contributed to healthier fire regenerative grasslands and forest ecosystems.

## Senior Corps Foster Grandparent Program

The Senior Action, Inc. Foster Grandparent Program in Hastings has been responding to the Nebraska Department of Education School Report Card Data that some students in the service area are scoring below the state standards in reading. Foster Grandparents are placed in the schools to serve one-on-one with these students. Twenty Foster Grandparent volunteers helped 118 children with activities to improve their reading vocabulary, comprehension, and general reading grade level. Fifty-one percent of students who received tutoring assistance showed improvement in areas of need identified by the classroom teacher and at the completion of the school year, and 78 percent of the students served were reading at or above grade level.

## Senior Corps RSVP

Northwest Community Action Partnership of Nebraska RSVP program has been serving the community for 26 years. When disaster affected the community, RSVP volunteers responded. Natural disasters (forest fires in 2006 and 2012 and a blizzard in 2013) swept through rural Northwest Nebraska and drastically impacted the local economy and food pantries were stretched to their limits. Volunteers responded by providing support and collecting and distributing food to area pantries. More than 650 individuals have been helped in the past year. Ninety-five percent of the individuals served reported increased food security. To increase the amount of food collected, RSVP recruited Chadron State College students and the Chadron and Crawford local schools to join a one day effort in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. which collected more than 1,400 non-perishable food items for the area pantries. In an area where limited services are available, RSVP volunteers continue to address those critical community needs.

## Senior Corps Senior Companion Program

The Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging engages 75 Senior Companions to serve the counties of Cass, Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy and Washington counties. Senior Companions provided more than 65,000 hours of companionship and non-medical in-home care services to 191 clients during the past year. Senior Companions assisted with activities including transportation to medical appointments, home safety checks, referring clients to needed community resources, activities of daily living, recreational activities, encouraging therapy and redirecting potentially stressful situations. Eighty-five percent of the clients served reported increased social ties/perceived social support and were able to remain independently living in their own home as a result of the Senior Companion services. In an effort to have the most qualified Senior Companions serving clients, the program has partnered with the Respite Resource Center to provide Respite Education Support Tools Certification Training to 21 Senior Companion volunteers.



AMERICORPS TOTALS	PARTICIPANTS	PROGRAMS/PROJECTS
CURRENT (as of March 12, 2015)	329	30
COMPLETED (within last 12 months)	150	16

Primary City	Program/Project Name Sponsor Organization	Number of Participants	Program Type
Beatrice	Homestead National Monument (May 8 - June 12, 2014) Homestead National Monument	9	AmeriCorps NCCC In-State Projects
Beatrice	SCA Nebraska (Current) Student Conservation Association, Inc.	-	AmeriCorps National
Beaver Crossing	ServeNebraska- Beaver Crossing 2014 (July 14 - August 9, 2014) ServeNebraska	10	AmeriCorps NCCC In-State Projects
Chadron	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (October 8 - November 7, 2014) Nebraska Game & Parks Commission-Western Region	8	AmeriCorps NCCC In-State Projects
Chadron	Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands (June 30 - August 24, 2014) Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands	8	AmeriCorps NCCC In-State Projects
Fairbury	BVCA AmeriCorps (Current) Blue Valley Community Action Inc.	9	AmeriCorps State Formula
Fairbury	Rural Youth Development (Current) Blue Valley Community Action Inc.	4	AmeriCorps VISTA
Fairbury	Veteran Support Corps (Current) Blue Valley Community Action Inc.	5	AmeriCorps VISTA
Gering	Successful Transitions for Economic Progress (STEP) (Completed) Community Action Partnership of Western Nebraska	-	AmeriCorps VISTA
Grand Island	Central Nebraska AHEC (Current) Northwestern Connecticut AHEC	1	AmeriCorps National
Hastings	YWCA Adams County AmeriCorps Program (Current) YWCA Adams County	15	AmeriCorps State Formula
Ithaca	UNL Extension AmeriCorps (Current) University of Nebraska-Lincoln	12	AmeriCorps State Formula
Kearney	Rural Corps of South Central Nebraska: An AmeriCorps Program (Current) Kearney Public Schools Foundation	19	AmeriCorps State Formula
Kimball	South Platte Natural Resource District (September 8 - September 27, 2014) South Platte Natural Resources District	-	AmeriCorps NCCC In-State Projects
Lewellen	Healthy Rural Communities (Current) Volunteers of America, Lewellen, Nebraska Inc.	8	AmeriCorps State Formula
Lincoln	Capacity Building Project (Current) Provider's Network, Inc.	2	AmeriCorps VISTA
Lincoln	Lincoln Public Schools Federal Programs (Completed) Lincoln Public Schools	-	AmeriCorps VISTA
Lincoln	NE - University of Nebraska Lincoln (Completed) University of Denver (Colorado Seminary)	19	AmeriCorps National
Lincoln	Nebraska Campus Compact AmeriCorps Service Scholars (Completed) University of Nebraska-Lincoln	26	AmeriCorps State Formula
Lincoln	Providing Resources Opportunity & Hope (PROH) AmeriCorps (Current) Center for People in Need	15	AmeriCorps State Formula
Lincoln	Reach for the Stars (Current) City of Lincoln	21	AmeriCorps State Formula
Lincoln	Rural Improvement for Schooling and Employment (RISE) (Current) Nebraska State Probation	22	AmeriCorps State Formula
Lincoln	Youth on the Move (Completed) City of Lincoln	34	AmeriCorps State Formula
Macy	Bright Futures AmeriCorps Team (Current) Omaha Tribe	12	AmeriCorps Indian Tribes
Niobrara	Santee AmeriCorps Program (Completed) Santee Sioux Nation	11	AmeriCorps Indian Tribes
Omaha	SCA AmeriCorps National Direct Nebraska (Current) Student Conservation Association, Inc.	-	AmeriCorps National
Omaha	Boys Hope Girls Hope Links of Nebraska (Completed) Boys Hope Girls Hope	-	AmeriCorps National





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CURRENT (as of March 12, 2015)	329	30
COMPLETED (within last 12 months)	150	16

Primary City	Program/Project Name Sponsor Organization	Number of Participants	Program Type
Omaha	City of Omaha, Cities of Service VISTA Project (Completed) City of Omaha	-	AmeriCorps VISTA
Omaha	College Possible Omaha (Current) College Possible	20	AmeriCorps State Competitive
Omaha	Expanding the Ability to End Hunger in Nebraska (Current) Food Bank for the Heartland	3	AmeriCorps VISTA
Omaha	Heartland Family Service (Current) University of Maryland Center on Aging	-	AmeriCorps National
Omaha	Heartland Family Services (Current) University of Maryland Center on Aging	-	AmeriCorps National
Omaha	Lauritzen Gardens (September 28 - November 7, 2014) Lauritzen Gardens	9	AmeriCorps NCCC In-State Projects
Omaha	LFS VetSuccess AmeriCorps (Current) Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska	2	AmeriCorps State Formula
Omaha	LFS VISTA (Current) Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska	4	AmeriCorps VISTA
Omaha	Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska (Current) Points of Light Foundation	5	AmeriCorps National
Omaha	MCC*Corps Program (Current) Metropolitan Community College	18	AmeriCorps State Formula
Omaha	MMI AmeriCorps (Current) University of Nebraska Medical Center (MMI) Sponsored Programs	28	AmeriCorps State Formula
Omaha	Nebraska Economic Opportunity Corps (Current) Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska	39	AmeriCorps State Competitive
Omaha	Omaha, HFH of (Current) Habitat for Humanity International, Inc.	14	AmeriCorps National
Omaha	University of Nebraska, Omaha (Current) University of Nebraska, Omaha	2	AmeriCorps State Formula
Omaha	Visiting Nurse Association (Current) Share Our Strength	2	AmeriCorps National
Omaha	YouthBuild Omaha AmeriCorps (Current) Goodwill Industries, Inc. (Omaha)	45	AmeriCorps State Formula
Sidney	South Platte Natural Resource District (September 8 - September 27, 2014) South Platte Natural Resources District	8	AmeriCorps NCCC In-State Projects
South Sioux City	City of South Sioux City VISTA Project (Current) City of South Sioux City	2	AmeriCorps VISTA
Wisner	ServeNebraska - Pilger 2014 (June 24 - July 14, 2014) ServeNebraska	8	AmeriCorps NCCC In-State Projects

Notes: If there are programs with identical names in separate entries, they are different grants to the same organization. If no members are shown, either the grant is for planning or technical assistance, or enrollment data was not available at the time of printing.

The city column refers to the location of the sponsor organization. AmeriCorps members may be serving in other locations than the city listed.

# Senior Corps in Nebraska



SENIOR CORPS TOTALS	PARTICIPANTS	PROGRAMS
CURRENT (as of March 12, 2015)	3,819	15
COMPLETED (within last 12 months)	95	1

Primary City	Program Name Sponsor Organization	Number of Participants	Program Type
Alliance	Box Butte County RSVP (Current) City of Alliance	343	RSVP
Beatrice	Pioneer FGP (Current) Blue Valley Community Action Inc.	85	Foster Grandparent Program
Chadron	Chadron FGP (Current) Northwest Community Action Partnership	31	Foster Grandparent Program
Chadron	Dawes & Sioux County RSVP (Current) Northwest Community Action Partnership	308	RSVP
Gering	Community Action Partnership of Western Nebraska (Current)	147	Foster Grandparent Program
Hastings	Adams/Webster Counties RSVP (Current) Senior Action Inc.	432	RSVP
Hastings	Senior Action Foster Grandparent Program (Current) Senior Action Inc.	69	Foster Grandparent Program
Hastings	Senior Action, Inc. Foster Grandparent Program (Current) Senior Action Inc.	69	Foster Grandparent Program
Lincoln	Lincoln/Lancaster FGP (Current) Aging Partners	43	Foster Grandparent Program
Ogallala	Ogallala City/Keith County RSVP (Current) City of Ogallala	290	RSVP
Ogallala	Ogallala City/Keith County RSVP (Current) City of Ogallala	295	RSVP
Omaha	Eastern Nebraska FGP (Completed) Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging	95	Foster Grandparent Program
Omaha	Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging (Current)	95	Foster Grandparent Program
Omaha	Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging RSVP (Current) Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging	761	RSVP
Omaha	Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging RSVP (Current) Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging	761	RSVP
Omaha	Senior Companion Program (Current) Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging	90	Senior Companion Program

Note: The city column refers to the location of sponsor organization. Volunteers may be serving in other locations than the city listed.