

# CHOOSING TO SERVE IN AN IOWA AMERICORPS PROGRAM



	AmeriCorps State	AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America)	AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps)
<b>PROGRAM FOCUS</b>	Members serve in groups or individually at local community-based organizations. Members solve problems primarily through direct service. Service areas include Education, Veterans, Healthy Futures, Environmental Stewardship, Increasing Opportunity for Economically Vulnerable Populations, Disaster Services and Green/Youth Corps.	Members serve through nonprofit agencies, addressing issues related to poverty – such as education, housing, access to health care services and employment – by developing and mobilizing resources that create long-term sustainable benefits at a community level. Key VISTA principles include: anti-poverty focus, capacity building, sustainable solutions, and community empowerment.	Members live in a campus environment and serve in teams to meet urgent community needs in the areas of natural and other disasters, infrastructure, environmental stewardship and conservation, energy conservation, and urban and rural development. Teams work on projects with non-profit organizations, state and local agencies, and other community and faith-based groups.
<b>ELIGIBILITY</b>	Applicants must be at least 17 years old and a U.S. citizen, U.S. national, or lawful permanent resident alien of the U.S. (Some programs may enroll 16 year-old members). FBI, State and Sex Offender background checks are conducted.	Applicants must be at least 18 years old and a U.S. citizen, U.S. national, or lawful permanent resident alien of the U.S. FBI, State and Sex Offender background checks are conducted.	Applicants must be 18 to 24 years old while they serve and be a U.S. citizen, U.S. national, or lawful permanent resident alien of the U.S. FBI, State and Sex Offender background checks are conducted.
<b>SKILL REQUIREMENTS</b>	All skills levels are needed, depending on the program. Each program establishes the minimum requirements for their service positions.	All skills levels are needed, but a bachelor's degree or three years of related volunteer/job experience is preferred.	All skill levels are needed.
<b>TERM OF SERVICE</b>	Full and part-time opportunities, serving various durations of up to one year, depending on the program.	Full-time for one year (365 days). No part-time service opportunities available.	Full-time for 10 months (corps member) and 11 months (team leader). No part-time service opportunities available.
<b>LIVING ALLOWANCE</b>	Most programs provide a modest living allowance. Minimum living allowance amounts for full time members are established each year.	A poverty-level living allowance is paid biweekly. Members live at the poverty level to relate to the community members they serve.	A modest living allowance is paid biweekly; this living allowance is adjusted to account for the room and board provided to members.
<b>ROOM AND BOARD</b>	Members are responsible for covering their own housing and meal expenses. Members may hold other jobs while serving to help cover living expenses.	Members are responsible for covering their own housing and meals from their living allowance. No other outside employment is allowed.	Members are provided with housing/meals and live in residence hall style housing on one of five campuses.
<b>RELOCATION EXPENSES</b>	Members are responsible for their own relocation expenses to their service site.	Members who relocate over 50 miles to serve may be eligible for relocation assistance.	Members are provided with transportation to and from their campus.
<b>HEALTH AND CHILD CARE BENEFITS</b>	Full-time members receive health coverage and may qualify for childcare assistance.	Members receive health coverage and may qualify for childcare assistance. Members have the option of purchasing life insurance.	Members receive health benefits as well as some assistance with off-campus child care expenses. (Children are not allowed to reside on campus with members.)

**[www.americorps.gov](http://www.americorps.gov) | (800) 942-2677 | TTY (800) 833-3722**

# CHOOSING TO SERVE IN AN IOWA AMERICORPS PROGRAM

	AmeriCorps State	AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America)	AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps)
<b>STUDENT LOANS</b>	Members may qualify for a forbearance (or postponement of the repayment) of their student loans.	Members may qualify for a forbearance (or postponement of the repayment) of student loans.	Members may qualify for a forbearance (or postponement of the repayment) of their student loans.
<b>EDUCATION AWARD/END OF SERVICE STIPEND</b>	Upon successful completion of service, full-time members receive a \$5,350 education award to help pay for college, graduate school, education at G.I. bill institutions, or to pay back qualified student loans. Part-time members receive a prorated ed. award based on the length of their service term. Members age 55 and older at the time of enrollment may transfer their award to a child, grandchild or foster child.	Upon successful completion of service, members have a choice of a \$5,550 education award (adjusts annually to match the Pell grant) to help pay for college, graduate school, or to pay back qualified student loans OR members may choose a \$1,500 cash stipend in lieu of the education award.	Upon successful completion of service, members receive an education award \$5,550 (adjusts annually to match the Pell grant) to help pay for college, graduate school, or to pay back qualified student loans.
<b>PROJECT LOCATIONS</b>	Program sites are located throughout Iowa. Visit <a href="http://www.volunteeriowa.org">www.volunteeriowa.org</a> for a list of current programs and their sites. Prospective members are encouraged to contact programs directly for additional information.	Program sites are located throughout Iowa. Search <a href="http://www.americorps.gov">www.americorps.gov</a> for a list of current program sites.	Members live on one of five campuses, located in Denver, CO; Perry Point, MD.; Sacramento, CA; Vicksburg, MS; and Vinton, IA. NCCC teams serve on 4-6 different projects in different communities during their service.
<b>TRAINING</b>	Members receive orientation, in-service training, and end of service training as determined by each program. All members must be trained in communication, citizenship, and Life After AmeriCorps.	Members attend a pre-service orientation prior to starting service, and receive ongoing training as determined by each program.	Members receive training when they arrive on campus and during their service for specific projects. All members receive training in CPR, first aid, disaster relief, leadership, team building, and citizenship.
<b>WHEN/HOW TO APPLY</b>	While applications are accepted year-round, full-time opportunities start in the fall. Visit <a href="http://www.americorps.gov">www.americorps.gov</a> to apply or call programs directly for more information. Visit <a href="http://www.volunteeriowa.org">www.volunteeriowa.org</a> for program contact information.	Applications are accepted year-round. Apply at <a href="http://www.americorps.gov">www.americorps.gov</a> or call programs directly to inquire about opportunities.	Deadline for applications is March 1, 2011 for the fall session and August 1, 2011 for the winter. Apply online at <a href="http://www.americorps.gov">www.americorps.gov</a> .
<b>CONTACT</b>	Contact the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service at 800-308-5987 or <a href="mailto:icvs@iowa.gov">icvs@iowa.gov</a> .	Please contact the CNCS Iowa State Office at 515-284-4816 or <a href="mailto:ia@cns.gov">ia@cns.gov</a> .	Please contact Angela Sarrels at <a href="mailto:asarrels@cns.gov">asarrels@cns.gov</a> or visit <a href="http://www.americorps.gov/nccc">www.americorps.gov/nccc</a>

**www.americorps.gov | (800) 942-2677 | TTY (800) 833-3722**

