

AMERICORPS MEMBER POSITION DESCRIPTION



CONNECTIONS COORDINATOR

Member Name: TBD
Program Name: Iowa Community Corps
Host Site: Claude W and Dolly Ahrens Foundation
Service Location: Grinnell, IA

Start Date: 9/25/2026
End Date: 5/6/2027
Member Term: Quarter Time
Living Allowance amt: \$6,000

Position Summary

The Iowa Community Corps AmeriCorps program is a statewide effort to strengthen communities through increased access to resources to support health and wellbeing. AmeriCorps members serve directly with local organizations to expand their ability to reach and support the people they serve, while gaining professional training to launch or grow a career in community health.

At the Claude and Dolly Ahrens Foundation, the AmeriCorps Connections Coordinator will play an important role in supporting students in the Grinnell-Newburg Community School District. This position helps address two challenges that impact youth success: food insecurity and barriers that make it difficult for students to stay fully engaged in school. By expanding access to food resources and connecting students with school and community supports, the member will contribute to a strong foundation for academic success and overall well-being. This role is part of the Youth Mental Health Corps (YMHC), a national initiative helping improve youth mental health in schools while offering members a meaningful pathway into behavioral health careers.

Schedule: Member will serve approximately 16 hours per week, Monday through Friday, between 9am-5pm.

AmeriCorps Member Activities

Training & Orientation

- Participate in on-site training with school and foundation staff
- Learn about school policies, food safety practices, and resource programs
- Become familiar with the Tiger Packs program, the Food Market, and referral processes

Student Resource Navigation and Support

- Talk with students to understand their unique needs and challenges
- Help students explore resources and supports available through the school and community
- Provide youth mental health outreach and support to promote well-being and connection
- Connect students and families with organizations offering food assistance, mental health services, financial support, and other helpful programs
- Meet with students throughout the year to check in and adjust support plans

Food Access & Community Partnerships Capacity Building

- Assist with school-based food access programs that provide nutritious items for students and families
- Research best practices in food security, student support, and resource navigation
- Identify ways to strengthen coordination among schools, nonprofits, and food partners
- Build relationships with staff and community organizations to expand resource and referral networks
- Share recommendations that help improve service delivery and close gaps in support
- Support data collection and evaluation efforts to guide future program planning

Desired Skills/Qualifications:

- Ability to lift 30lbs
- Strong communication skills
- Strong organizational skills
- Attention to detail
- Interest in mental health, food security, and community service