

# Leveraging Disaster Volunteers



CENTRAL IOWA  
**RSVP**  
Connecting People To Purpose



**LAP-AID**  
LINN AREA PARTNERS ACTIVE IN DISASTER

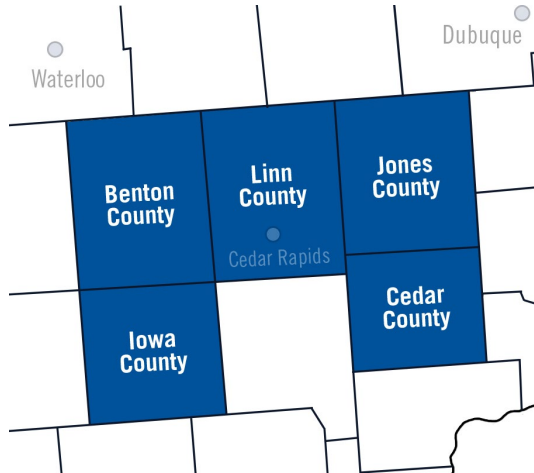


volunteer  
**IOWA**

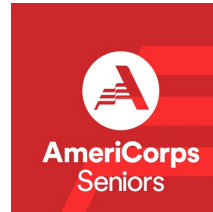


United Way  
of East Central Iowa

## Footprint



## Funding Sources



Retired &  
Senior  
Volunteer  
Program



## Past Experience

- Flash flooding in low income neighborhood
- Wind storm (Prairieburg)
- Pandemic
- Derecho (Linn & Benton)
- Flooding
- Flood threat
  - Anamosa
  - Cedar Rapids/Palo
  - Central City

# Approach & Challenges

- If only 3 things
  - a. Self-care/transparency
  - b. Cross train
  - c. Divide and conquer
- Do what you are uniquely qualified to do and leverage the skills and unique talents of others



# Relationship Building

- Build your network; START TODAY!
  - Skills
  - Geography
  - Organization Types
  - People
  - Focus Areas
  - Knowledge Base
- Ask not “What can I do?”, but “What can my network do?”



# Successful Partnerships

## Public

- County EMA
- Iowa Homeland Security
- Board of Supervisors
- Cities
- Volunteer Iowa
- Schools and Colleges

## Private

- Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Companies
- Service Groups
- Clubs & Associations
- Communities of Faith

## Agencies

- COAD
- VOAD (national & local)
- Health & Human Services
- DOVIA
- RSVP
- Volunteer Center



# Fail Forward & Lessons Learned

- All staff responsible for disaster coordination efforts need to be trained and ready within 90 days of employment
- Quarterly or bi-annually update lists and maintain connections
- Create open office hours daily for VOADs during response
- Train and drill often
- Connect with others outside of your area
- Train 3 deep





CENTRAL IOWA  
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- Engage volunteers to respond in disasters and emergencies
- Not required to meet typical RSVP age requirements
- Have several contracts with agencies in the county to provide assistance
  - Story County Emergency Management Agency
  - City of Ames
  - Story County Public Health
  - Story County Sheriff's Office

# Story County Emergency Management and City of Ames Partnership

- Began in 2006
- RSVP Role:
  - Provides pre-trained volunteers for Volunteer Reception Center and/or non-emergency phone bank
  - Manage online registration system
  - Identify areas in county that can be designated sites for VRC
  - Phone bank is set up at Ames City Hall
  - Training and exercise VRC annually





# Story County Public Health Partnership

- Began in 2009
- RSVP's Role:
  - Provide pre-trained volunteers to fulfill non-medical need at Points of Distribution (PODs).
- Annual training at Mary Greeley with both medical and non-medical volunteers



# Story County Sheriff's Office Partnership

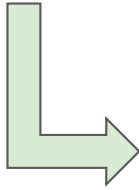
- Began in 2013
- RSVP's Role:
  - Missing/Abducted Person Incident
  - Staff Tip Hotline
  - Manage staging area
- Volunteers attend trainings 1-2x per year



# RSVP Activation

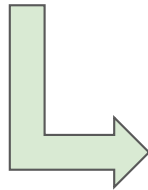
RSVP  
Activated

- Agency in need contacts RSVP coordinator
- Gives detail on needs and timeframes



Volunteers  
Activated

- RSVP coordinator notifies volunteers of needs
- Sign ups and schedules are sent out



RSVP  
Deactivated

- Activating agency notifies RSVP when needs are sufficiently met
- RSVP coordinator demobilizes volunteers



# AmeriCorps National Service During Times Of Disaster

Michael Rojas: Disaster Program Officer

Volunteer Iowa

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# MICHAEL ROJAS

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- Habitat for Humanity of Iowa Mobile Response Team: AmeriCorps Member
  - 2018 Marshalltown Tornado: Recovery Efforts
  - 2019 Southwest Iowa Floods: Response
- Habitat for Humanity of Iowa: County Coordinator
  - 2020 COVID -19 Pandemic: Response
    - Food Insecurity; Food Banks
  - 2020 Derecho: Response
    - Incident Commander FEMA MA: 5 A -DRT's Deployed
- Volunteer Iowa: Disaster Program Officer

# What are the A-DRT's?

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## AmeriCorps Disaster Response Team

- Opportunity for programs to expand their services
- National Service Leaders in Disaster
- IOWA A-DRT's
- Disaster Response Cooperative Agreement
  - Not a grant
  - Reimbursement process





# IOWA A-DRTs in Action

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- 2008 Iowa Floods
- 2012 Hurricane Sandy event (side note here but related, driving a minivan through NYC and Queens and on the interstates is not as fun as it might sound...drive aggressively is the key!)
- 2013 Yukon River Flooding (Alaska)
- 2015 South Carolina Flooding
- 2016 Missouri Floods
- 2017 Hurricane Maria (US Virgin Islands)





# 2019 Southwest Iowa Floods

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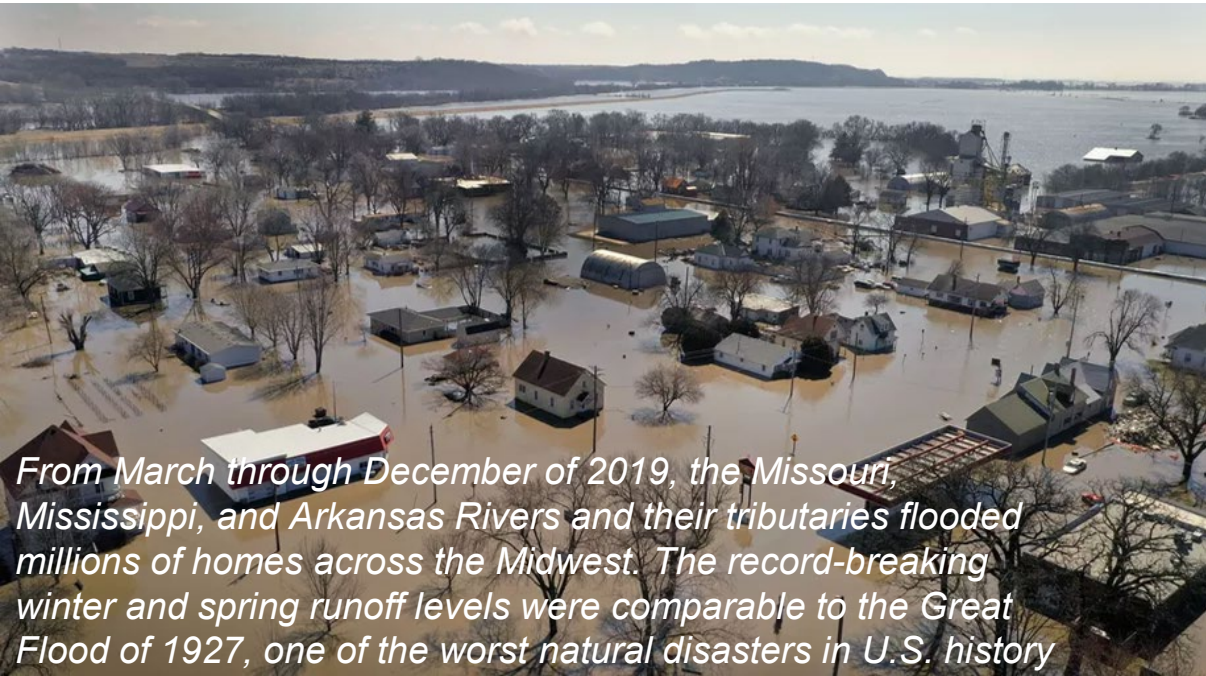
Mission Quantifiable: 81 Total Work Orders Completed

618 Volunteers Leveraged at 2 VRC's, 129 Damage Assessments, 91 Homes Mucked and Guttered, 33 Homes Provided with Emergency Mold Suppression, 484 Wellness/Safety Checks Conducted, 2988 cubic yards of debris removed, 874,061 pounds of donation collected or distributed, 420,332 pounds of donations sorted, over 680 Survivors Assisted, 618 Volunteers Registered and/or supervised.

8 A-DRT Programs deployed over the 4 months of the Mission Assignment lifetime

130 Total A-DRT Members and Staff Deployed, contributing over 19,422 hours of service

5 AmeriCorps Disaster Cadre Deployed (Formerly CNCS)



*From March through December of 2019, the Missouri, Mississippi, and Arkansas Rivers and their tributaries flooded millions of homes across the Midwest. The record-breaking winter and spring runoff levels were comparable to the Great Flood of 1927, one of the worst natural disasters in U.S. history*





# 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic

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Main activity was sorting and boxing food for distribution, for backpack programs, mobile food pantries, etc.

17 AmeriCorps Members were deployed to River Bend Foodbank and Northeast Iowa Foodbank

Pounds of Food Collected or Distributed: 287,821

Hours Served: 1,914

0 Cases of COVID-19



# 2020 DERECHO RESPONSE

On August 10<sup>th</sup> 2020, severe thunderstorms with long track damaging winds, otherwise known as a derecho, impacted the Midwest, causing widespread power outages across the region and significantly impacting large portions of Iowa.

- **Mission Priority:** Disaster debris removal, and chainsaw work to ensure survivors return home. Significantly reduce the immediate need across impacted counties, clearing the path for long-term recovery.
- **A-DRT Field Deployments:** 6 Crews deployed over the course of this Mission Assignment from Volunteer Iowa, ACE Texas, Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa (CCMI), and the North Central NCCC campus.
- **27 AmeriCorps Members** made up these teams. 3 Staff Members deployed over the course of this Mission Assignment 6,317 Member service hours
- **Mission Quantifiable:** 60 Work Orders Completed a "work order" refers to a single address; there can be multiple jobs under one work order. 90 Damage Assessments Completed 4,953 Cubic yards of debris cleared 367 Hazardous Trees Removed 162 Wellness and Safety Checks

0 Cases of COVID-19



# Any Questions?

Please submit your question(s) in the chat box, and we will try to address them. Thank you!

# Contact Information

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