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# NEWS RELEASE

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## Dubuque AmeriCorps Program Awarded Grants

DUBUQUE, Iowa – The City of Dubuque’s Partners in Learning AmeriCorps Program was recently notified of two grant awards that will fund 79 AmeriCorps members in Dubuque for the 2009-2010 year.

It was announced today by the Corporation for National and Community Service that the Dubuque AmeriCorps Program has been awarded a grant through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Dubuque’s award is one of three in the state of Iowa. It will provide a one-time 2009-2010 stimulus grant of \$186,201 to hire 30 additional AmeriCorps members. These members will provide for increased staffing at Dubuque’s Multicultural Family Center through community and cultural liaisons and for start-up positions with the Four Mounds YouthBuild Program.

The program was also recently notified that it was awarded continuation for the second year of a competitive, three-year grant for \$203,919. This grant will support a total of 49 AmeriCorps members who will meet vital needs in Dubuque working with at-risk children and families in area schools and organizations by providing educational enrichment activities.

“We are thrilled to be selected and eager to start getting things done,” said Penny Ehlinger, director of the Dubuque AmeriCorps Program. “In this time of economic hardship, service and volunteering is more important than ever. These AmeriCorps members and the volunteers they mobilize will help us expand our reach and impact.”

The organizations receiving funding were selected in a highly competitive process. The funding is for the second year of a three-year grant cycle. On a national level, AmeriCorps will support nearly 75,000 positions through regular 2009 funding, plus an additional 13,000 positions funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Most positions will start in the summer and fall.

AmeriCorps is a national service program that engages Americans of all ages and backgrounds in service to meet critical needs in education, the environment, public safety, and other areas. Its members serve in thousands of nonprofit and faith-based organizations in rural and urban communities throughout the nation. Among other activities, AmeriCorps members tutor and mentor youth, build affordable housing, teach computer skills, clean parks

and streams, run after-school programs, help communities respond to disasters, and recruit and train volunteers. Since 1994, more than 574,000 men and women have provided more than 718 million hours of service to their communities and country through AmeriCorps.

Last month President Obama signed the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, landmark legislation that will increase opportunities for Americans of all ages to serve, put AmeriCorps on a path to grow from 75,000 to 250,000 annual positions by the year 2017, and strengthen social innovation and volunteer generation in America's nonprofit sector.

AmeriCorps is recruiting now. Applicants can choose from a wide variety of positions in the Dubuque community. Benefits include a living allowance, health care, training and career skills, and a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award worth up to \$4,725 to pay for college or to pay off student loans. Interested individuals can learn about available opportunities and apply online by visiting [www.cityofdubuque.org/amicorps](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/amicorps) or by calling 563-584-8644.

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