

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

99-560

SYNOPSIS -

AGENDA:

To approve Grant Agreement with the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service for the 2000 AmeriCorps program.

DECEMBER 20, 1999

FISCAL IMPACT -

SUBJECT:

\$10,000 grant award

2000 AMERICORPS
GRANT
AGREEMENT

RECOMMENDATION -

TYPE:

Approval of Grant Agreement with the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service for the 2000 AmeriCorps contract.

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

BACKGROUND -

SUBMITTED BY:

On March 22, 1999, the Des Moines City Council approved the submittal of a grant Application to the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service to manage the 2000 AmeriCorps program. The City of Des Moines has been awarded the grant for the 2000 AmeriCorps program.

DONALD M. TRIPP
PARK AND
RECREATION
DIRECTOR

The \$10,000 grant award is broken down into the following categories to support member development.

- Travel \$1,500
- Supplies \$3,000
- Equipment \$4,000
- Other \$1,500

The City of Des Moines will be required to submit monthly requisitions (financial) reports, quarterly progress and financial reports and a final report and audit.

The City, at its discretion may offer stipends to encourage applications for members at a minimum rate of \$5.15 per hour. Other wise members can be recruited for the educational award only, provided by the Corporation for National Service Trusts

upon completion of 1,700 service hours.

The Park and Recreation Department is requesting a service level change to the Des Moines City Manager / City Council to offer stipends and add one Recreation Supervisor to manage volunteer recruitment and retention for the entire department, including the AmeriCorps program. This position will also be required to generate \$50,000 to support AmeriCorps member stipends. The total cost for the requested service level change is \$85,000 for the revised 1999/2000 operating budget and \$157,000 for the recommended 2000/2001 budget.

In 1998, the City of Des Moines entered into an agreement with the Des Moines Independent School District to retain ten (10) AmeriCorps members to assist the department in meeting its goal of clean, safe and beautiful parks.

The AmeriCorps program has been described as an urban Peace Corps. Members are recruited to provide service projects totaling 1,700 hours over a 12-month period. In exchange, members receive development training and can earn an educational award, provided by the Corporation for National Service Trusts, to be placed toward future education expenses or payment toward student loan debts.

The primary objectives for the AmeriCorps program are:

- To recruit and coordinate volunteer efforts in bringing members of the community into the City of Des Moines' park and open space system to enhance the quality of life and leisure experiences of the residents of Des Moines.
- To develop members in identification of environmental and beautification strategies within the City of Des Moines that have not/can not be addressed by City employees.
- To expand partnerships with local neighborhoods in cooperation with Des Moines Independent School District for educating and assisting with neighborhood community gardens.
- To conserve, restore, and sustain parks, recreation facilities, and services provided to the community.
- To develop individual members through service projects and training, to further their educational opportunities or become gainfully employed.

This first year of service has been a success with over 25 community gardens, 11 adopted parks (minimum of one-year commitment towards maintenance), over 40 single day service

projects, and summer recreation programming at Evelyn K. Davis Park, all resulting in over 11,000 volunteer hours through September 30, 1999.

The AmeriCorps program also generated over \$100,000 of in-kind services and \$15,800 in grants to operate the Bates and Evelyn K. Davis Summer Park programs. This neighborhood-based service provided three meals a day, drug awareness programs, cultural opportunities and field trips to over 150 individuals 5 days a week. Other significant accomplishments include:

- \$37,000 in grants for member recruitment (member stipends).
- Translation services to the Neighborhood Based Service Delivery teams.
- Drake neighborhood clean up and Farmer Market organization.
- Creation and management of the Partners In Parks Adopt A Park program.
- Senior programming and health screenings at Southeast Community Center.
- Over 20,000 member service hours within the park system.