



**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

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

00-225

SYNOPSIS -

AGENDA:

Submittal of AmeriCorps grant application for \$10,000 to the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Services for the management and coordination of 20 members at 1,700 hours per member.

MAY 15, 2000

SUBJECT:

FISCAL IMPACT -

AMERICORPS
GRANT
APPLICATION

Approximately \$157,000 for supervisor salary and benefits and living stipend for 20 members.

- \$157,000 Approved Operating Budget (General Fund).
- \$100,000 Gifts and grants.

TYPE:

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

RECOMMENDATION -

Approval to submit AmeriCorps grant application to the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Services.

SUBMITTED BY:

BACKGROUND -

DONALD M. TRIPP
PARK AND
RECREATION
DIRECTOR

On December 22, 1999, by Roll Call No. 99-3804, the City Council approved the grant agreement with the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Services for the 2000 AmeriCorps program.

The AmeriCorps program is comparable to an Urban Peace Corps. Members are recruited to provide 1,700 hours over a 12-month period. In exchange, members receive development training and will earn an educational award, which is provided by the Corporation for National Service, to be placed toward future education expenses or payment toward student loan debts.

The primary objectives for the AmeriCorps grant are:

- To recruit and coordinate volunteer efforts in bringing members of the community into the City park and open space system to enhance the quality of life and leisure experiences for the residents of Des Moines.
- To develop members in identification of environmental and beautification strategies within the City park and open space system to address problems inherent within the system.
- 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 provide educational and enrichment activities to youth ages 5 to 17 at various parks within the enterprise community. Services will be supported through a collaborative effort by various civic and non-profit agencies.

In 1999, the AmeriCorps program succeeded in providing support to 25 community gardens, 11 parks through the Partners In Parks program (minimum of one-year commitment towards maintenance), and over 40 single-day service projects. AmeriCorps members conducted summer recreation programs at Evelyn K. Davis and Bates Parks. All efforts resulted in over 11,000 volunteer hours.

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 service provided three meals a day, educational programs, cultural opportunities, and field trips to over 150 individuals five days a week. Other significant accomplishments include:

- \$37,000 in grants for member stipends
- Translation services to the Neighborhood Based Services 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

· Environmental clean up at Hubbell Tract using 34 volunteers to collect over 600 abandoned tires with free disposal

Staff anticipates that during the 2000 grant program, the City will double the number of Partners In Parks and the volunteer hours from the previous year. In addition, AmeriCorps members will continue to build partnerships with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Iowa, Girl Scouts of America, local civic organizations, and neighborhood associations.

It should be noted that the budget for the 20 members includes gifts and grants of \$100,000. If less than \$100,000 is raised, a proportionate number of AmeriCorps members will be contracted. The City will maintain a balanced approved budget while providing in excess of 17,000 hours of service to the Des Moines park and open space systems.