

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

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

00-518

SYNOPSIS -

AGENDA:

To approve grant agreement with the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service for the 2001 AmeriCorps program.

NOVEMBER 6, 2000

FISCAL IMPACT -

SUBJECT:

Revenue in the amount of \$10,000 to the City from the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service.

AMERICORPS
GRANT
APPLICATION

RECOMMENDATION -

TYPE:

Approval.

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

BACKGROUND -

SUBMITTED BY:

On May 15, 2000, by Roll Call Number 00-1424, the City Council approved the submittal of the 2001 AmeriCorps grant application to the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Services. The City of Des Moines has been awarded the grant for the 2001 AmeriCorps program.

DONALD M. TRIPP
PARK AND
RECREATION
DIRECTOR

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

· Travel	\$1,500
· Supplies	\$7,000
· Other	\$1,500

The City of Des Moines will be required to submit monthly requisition (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. Otherwise, members can be recruited for the educational award provided by the Corporation for National Service Trusts upon completion of 1,700 service hours.

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 Trust, to be placed toward future educational 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' property 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/cannot be addressed by City employees.
- To expand partnerships with local neighborhoods in cooperation with the 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.

The second year of service has been a tremendous success with over 40 community gardens (an increase of 38%), 25 adopted partners (an increase of 56%) (a minimum of one-year service commitment), over 50 single service day projects, and summer recreation programming at Evelyn K. Davis and Bates Parks. The AmeriCorps program also generated over \$50,000 of in-kind services and \$15,000 in grants this past fiscal year.

Outside revenue sources such as the Keep Des Moines Beautiful Initiative (\$50,000), Blank Park Zoo Foundation (\$20,000), and the Bright Foundation (\$10,000) for a total of \$80,000 will support

member stipends in 2001.

Some of the major accomplishments this past year include:

- Volunteer coordination to remove over 600 tires and illegally dumped materials at Hubbell Track.
- Serving over 180 youth daily at the Bates and Evelyn K. Davis summer programs.
- Volunteer support and cash donation to complete the installation of new playground equipment at Laurel Hill Park.
- Coordinated over 400 volunteer maintenance hours at McHenry Park over a two-day period with the Texas Youth Group Missions.
- Secured weekly volunteer support from the Fifth Judicial District completing a variety of projects on an annual basis.
- Recognized by the Governors' Office and the Iowa Commission of Volunteer Services for outstanding contributions to the Des Moines community.