

The Peace Corps Community in Iowa

Iowa Peace Corps Volunteers Through the Years

IOWA VOLUNTEERS SINCE 1961	2,551	2020: 84	2017: 69
		2019: 82	2016: 78
2025 IOWA VOLUNTEERS	20	2018: 75	1966: 216

5 Things to Know about the Peace Corps Community in Iowa

1

Among lesser populated states, Iowa currently ranks tied for 6th in the nation, sending approximately 20 Peace Corps Volunteers overseas. Historically among small colleges and universities, Grinnell College ranks 6th in the nation, producing 370 Peace Corps Volunteers since 1961.

2

The Peace Corps has educational partnerships with Iowa State University and St. Ambrose University. Both schools participate in the Peace Corps Prep program through which the schools offer areas of study to prepare students for service.

3

Amy Kassem, hired in 2024 as Director of Alumni Relations at the University of Iowa College of Law, was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Benin from 2011–13. Kassem previously worked nearly seven years with the University of Iowa Center for Advancement.

4

Following Peace Corps service in Romania, Brian Crowe has worked for nearly twenty years in business and economic development, including positions with the Greater Des Moines Partnership, the Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance, and the Iowa Economic Development Authority.

5

The late Paul Johnson, who represented Winneshiek County in the Iowa state legislature in the 1980s and headed the Iowa Department of Natural Resources in the 2000s, served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Ghana in the 1960s.

*Based on data from Peace Corps, National Peace Corps Association, and other news sources.