

# 2020 IMPACT REPORT





Dear friends,

**2020 was a challenging year for everyone, with unprecedented and unpredictable disruptions at every turn. I am pleased to report that despite the many hurdles, 2020 was a productive and worthwhile year at Conservation Corps Minnesota and Iowa (CCMI).**

We are deeply grateful to our members, staff, partners, and donors. Your commitment and dedication exemplifies our mission and vision.

Faced with the uncertainties of COVID-19, CCMI provided meaningful service opportunities for 273 corps members. At the outset of the pandemic, we took an extended pause to develop COVID safety procedures, adapt operations, extend training on-line, and put new social-distancing practices in place to protect our members and partners. We relaunched an abbreviated field program, suspended youth programs for the season, and limited other field programming to ensure participant wellbeing.

In 2020, we also saw growth in our Increasing Diversity in Environmental Careers (IDEC) program, where 32 Fellows participated in skill-building and networking experiences with peers and professional mentors. Operated in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Pollution Control Agency, and the Board of Water and Soil Resources, IDEC creates career pathways for under-represented students (women, ethnic and racial minorities, and individuals with disabilities) who are pursuing degree programs in environmental or natural resource fields at schools within Minnesota.

2020 was also a year of reckoning with the racial disparities we see within communities in which we serve and live. The murder of George Floyd reinforced the necessity to put our values to work and commitments to Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) into practice. In 2020, Conservation Corps developed a [JEDI statement](#) to guide this work and set criteria for holding ourselves accountable to advance our JEDI commitments now and into the future.

While 2021 began under the cloud of the ongoing pandemic, today we are optimistic as our programs are largely returning to normal. Despite disruptions, we are back on track with our long-term strategic priorities to:

- Improve our capacity to develop young leaders in natural resource and environmental stewardship.
- Increase equitable access to nature and programming for participants from BIPOC communities.
- Create new partnerships to expand opportunities for the youth and young adults we serve.

*Thank you for your hard work and dedication in service to our public lands,*

— **Mark Murphy**  
Executive Director





## OUR MISSION

Conservation Corps  
Minnesota & Iowa engages  
youth and young adults  
in meaningful service,  
leadership development, and  
environmental stewardship.

## OUR VISION

A world where everyone has  
equitable access to nature, is  
equipped to succeed in career  
and life, and is empowered  
to make a difference in  
conserving natural resources.

## OUR CORE VALUES

- › Safety
- › Service
- › Respect
- › Equity
- › Community



*The most personally meaningful part of my experience as an IDEC fellow is connecting with my cohort about environmental and social issues.*

– Emma Vanhdy

## 32 FELLOWS

participated in the Increasing Diversity  
in Environmental Careers program  
receiving scholarships, mentorships,  
and internships in partnership with  
the Minnesota Department of Natural  
Resources, Pollution Control Agency,  
and Board of Water & Soil Resources.



273 AmeriCorps members served

# 240,852 HOURS

10 youth served

# 796 HOURS



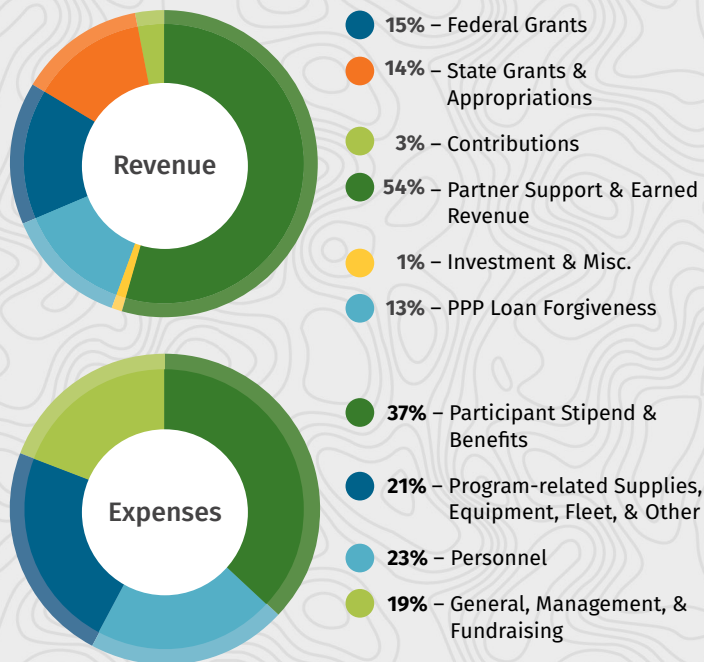


# FINANCIALS

For the year ended December 31, 2020

Support and Revenue	Total
AmeriCorps Grants	\$1,254,226
Contributions	\$297,073
State Appropriations	\$1,156,083
Partner Support and Earned Revenue	\$4,636,460
PPP Loan Forgiveness	\$1,144,600
Investment and Miscellaneous	\$48,338
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<b>\$8,536,780</b>
Expenses	Total
Programs	\$6,105,714
General, Management, and Fundraising	\$1,397,697
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$7,503,411</b>
Organizational Tools	Total
Change in Net Assets	\$1,084,091
Beginning Net Assets	\$4,466,688
<b>Ending Net Assets</b>	<b>\$5,500,057</b>

View our latest audited financial report and 990 online at [conservationcorps.org/about/impact/](https://conservationcorps.org/about/impact/)



PROUD MEMBER OF  
**The CorpsNetwork**  
Strengthening America through  
service and conservation



## SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITIES IN CRISIS

To support our communities during COVID-19 and natural disasters, Corps members stepped up to make a difference.

In May 2020, our members were called upon to support our communities by responding to COVID-19 emergency needs. Iowa crews spent 1,250 hours serving with the River Bend Foodbank in Davenport and the Northeast Iowa Foodbank in Waterloo helping to package food donations. Crews collected and distributed over 239,819 pounds of food at local food banks and served side-by-side with the Iowa National Guard to ensure Iowans continued to have access to healthy food.

In September 2020, Conservation Corps deployed an Iowa Field Crew to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and the greater Linn County area in partnership with Volunteer Iowa and AmeriCorps Disaster Response Teams. The members served a 30-day disaster deployment in response to the derecho, or “land hurricane” that hit Iowa and other Midwestern states in August 2020. Crew members cleared downed and hazardous trees from impacted neighborhoods. Crews cleared more than 4,000 cubic yards of debris and more than 400 hazardous trees were removed.



*Iowa-based AmeriCorps members support our communities during their time of need*



**38,620**

trees/shrubs/forbs  
planted

**16,870 ACRES**

improved and restored,  
included 12,882 acres improved  
through invasive species management



**75%**

reported being  
better prepared  
for their next job

**86%**

developed  
workforce  
readiness skills



**90%**

more knowledgeable  
about the environment

**781 MILES**



miles of trail constructed or  
maintained, including water  
trail improvement

**27,726 EDUCATION HOURS**

included personal development  
training, technical skills training,  
and professional networking



**99**

project  
partners

See our 2020 project partners at  
[conservationcorps.org/partner/our-partners/](https://conservationcorps.org/partner/our-partners/)

## HE MNI CAN - BARN BLUFF RESTORATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Conservation Corps, in partnership with the City of Red Wing and Prairie Island Indian Community completed long-term trail enhancement and habitat restoration project on He Mni Can (Barn Bluff). In 2020 Corps members concluded three years of bluff prairie and oak savanna restoration, which entailed cutting and clearing and performing prescribed burns. Corps members carefully rerouted public trails around cultural resources, improving areas of the trail damaged by erosion, setting limestone steps, and installing a wood/rope-rail system near overlooks.



Conservation Corps crews restore He Mni Can (Barn Bluff)



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purposes only



*I joined the Conservation Corps  
to find a sense of direction in my  
personal and professional life  
and that is exactly what I found  
here at the Conservation Corps.  
Through working outside and  
with others, I have a better view  
of where I want my life to go.*

– Kayla Wagner

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