

**What is the AmeriCorps NCCC:** The AmeriCorps NCCC, or National Civilian Community Corps, a federally-funded, residential, team-based national service program for 18-24 year olds.

**What is the mission of the AmeriCorps NCCC:** To strengthen communities and develop leaders through direct, team-based national service.

**How long has the AmeriCorps NCCC been around:** The idea for AmeriCorps and the NCCC were initiated during the administration of the first President Bush as part of his Points of Light campaign. It began serving during the Clinton administration and continued to do so during the second Bush administration. In 2009 it was expanded and made permanent by the Serve America Act.

**What does the AmeriCorps NCCC do:** NCCC operates in two tracks – the NCCC and the NCCC FEMA Corps. NCCC operates primarily in a 10-state region in the north central US doing work with various sponsors in five different areas of service including disasters, environmental, urban and rural development, energy conservation and infrastructure. The FEMA Corps track works directly with FEMA exclusively on disaster response, preparedness and recovery projects. Members may serve anywhere in the US.

**Where is the AmeriCorps NCCC located:** The headquarters is in Washington DC with five regional campuses in Baltimore, Vicksburg, Denver, Sacramento and Vinton.

**How long has the NCCC been in Vinton:** They opened the campus in June, 2008 just a week prior to the flood. They began their long service to the community and area when the first group of team leaders suspended training to run a shelter at the Braille School for the Red Cross.

**What projects has the NCCC performed in Vinton or Benton County:** There are too many to list them all, but some include re-roofing the train depot, building the Veteran's Memorial, building Fischer Pavilion, helping with Celebration Park, clean-up after the wind-storm and tornado, sand-bagging and clean-up after both floods, assisting the schools, assisting Vinton Parks and Rec and the Benton County Parks, etc. In all the NCCC has performed over 30,000 hours of service in Vinton since opening the campus in 2008.

**How many people does the AmeriCorps NCCC employ in Vinton:** The NCCC has a full time staff of 25 members, most who also live, shop, volunteer and educate their children in our community.

**How much of the Braille School does the AmeriCorps NCCC rent:** They lease approximately 60% of the facility to include all of Palmer and Rice Halls, the Cottage and the maintenance building. They also share use of space with the State of Iowa of space in Old Main and in the Recreation Building.

**How long is the lease:** The AmeriCorps NCCC has one option year remaining to exercise on its current five year lease.

**How many members serve in Vinton:** The campus currently runs two classes each year of up to 240 members per class.

**How long so members serve:** The program is about 10 months in length. Members travel from all over the US to train and deploy from the Vinton campus.

**Are NCCC members ever directed to serve as part of a court order:** No. In fact all members undergo and must pass a federal background investigation and a National Sex offender Registry check.

**How is the AmeriCorps NCCC funded:** The NCCC receives its funding through the annual appropriation process just like all federal agencies. Congress passes a budget or continuing resolution that the President signs.

**The article in the newspaper said AmeriCorps will not receive any more federal Funds, is that true:** There is a rumor that the next budget the President submits, expected in May, will request elimination or reduction in funding for dozens of programs across the government to include AmeriCorps programming. It is important to note that even if true, this represents only the Presidents' request. Each year the President submits a budget proposal to Congress. This document reflects the priorities of the President. Congress, as a coequal branch of government, may or may not consider this request as it exercises its constitution power to formulate and pass all legislation to include spending bills. Congress will pass its budget and send it to the President for signature or veto. AmeriCorps NCCC has been recommended for closure in various budget proposal several times in their 22 year history. It has not yet happened.