

## WHAT DO EMERGENCY MANAGERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE PROGRAM?

- This program is available upon request!
- The Illinois Disaster Corps (IDC) can provide support to your Spontaneous Volunteer and Donations Management Plan.
- The IDC program is meant to augment local resources for a definitive period of time.
- IDC will coordinate with appropriate local volunteer groups, public safety officials, and voluntary organizations.
- Emergency managers should identify a local point of contact. This person should be a decision maker and have an understanding of local planning and resources.
- You will be expected to welcome the team.

## HOW WILL MEMBERS BE DEPLOYED?

If the request is as a result of a local disaster, the emergency managers can reach out directly to the leadership component of Illinois Disaster Corps-the American Red Cross.

If the disaster is such that other state resources are needed, the process for requesting the Illinois Disaster Corps will be through the IEMA Regional Office -the same as any other state resource. IEMA will then contact Serve Illinois, who will vet the need and plan accordingly.

## SERVE ILLINOIS COMMISSION ON VOLUNTEERISM AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

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## AMERICAN RED CROSS

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Serve Illinois Commission on  
Volunteerism and Community Service

*An Illinois where all citizens recognize  
their ability and responsibility to help  
strengthen their communities through  
voluntary service.*



## What is Disaster Corps?

The Serve Illinois Commission, the state's commission on volunteerism and community service, is charged under the Illinois Emergency Operations Plan (IEOP), Volunteers and Donations annex to deploy the Illinois Disaster Corps team, when requested, through the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC).

There has been a continuing need during times of disaster to have a team of people help manage volunteers and donations. A team of people have been developed to do this task, modeled from the AmeriCorps St. Louis program.

The American Red Cross serves as the leadership component of Illinois Disaster Corps, as they have full time members dedicated to disaster preparedness and response.

The remainder of the team is comprised of Serve Illinois' AmeriCorps\*State programs who are direct grantees of the Commission, located around the state serving in various non-disaster capacities on a regular basis.

Illinois AmeriCorps\*State programs are required to commit at least one member to the Illinois Disaster Corps program.

## WHAT WILL OUR MEMBERS DO DURING A DISASTER?

Disaster Corps members can, in the event of a disaster, run a Volunteer Reception Center (VRC). A VRC is where a large number of unaffiliated volunteers can be efficiently processed and registered to volunteer around the affected community, working alongside affiliated volunteers and organizations.

In cooperation with other voluntary agencies, Illinois Disaster Corps members can assist with donations management.

Members are trained to a baseline level to include:

FEMA IS 244.b (Developing and Managing Volunteers)-4 hours

Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) Volunteer and Donations Management-8 hours

Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) Volunteer Reception Center Management-<16 Hours

## ILLINOIS DISASTER CORPS TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

### TEAM WILL HAVE PROCEDURES FOR MANAGING A VRC OR DONATIONS MANAGEMENT CENTER.

The procedures will be for the safety and staff at the VRC or donations management center. The timeline for managing the VRC or donations management center will be mutually agreed upon.

### ILLINOIS DISASTER CORPS WILL NOT CHARGE FOR THIS SERVICE.

We will not charge the local EMA for this service. Serve Illinois will be reimbursing its own members through either the state disaster fund or AmeriCorps funding.

## HOW DOES ONE BECOME A MEMBER?

If someone is interested in becoming a full-time member of Illinois Disaster Corps, they must become an AmeriCorps member under the American Red Cross.

Not only will these members work in the Illinois Disaster Corps program but they will work hand-in-hand with local and state government entities, nonprofit agencies, and other community organizations to provide timely and meaningful service opportunities to those seeking to assist their own communities after a disaster strikes.

Members must serve 1700 hours over 11 months.

The benefits of AmeriCorps Service with the American Red Cross includes:

- Invaluable experience from a nationally and internationally-respected organization
- Living stipend paid bi-weekly (\$15,500 paid out over 11 months)
- Educational grant of \$5,920 at completion of service
- Training and development opportunities with real-life professional applicability
- Student loan forbearance (on qualifying loans)

To apply to the program, follow this link:

<https://bit.ly/2HnW8Tz>

For more information, contact:

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