

Quad-Cities organizations donate \$78,000 to restore Davenport AmeriCorps program after DOGE cuts

Nina Baker | QC Times [Link to story \(subscription required\)](#)
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Davenport has restored funding for eight AmeriCorps members serving with the city of Davenport and three members at the Nahant Marsh Education Center, the city announced in a Thursday press release.

The city of Davenport had previously announced the end of their longstanding AmeriCorps partnership after DOGE terminated more than \$400 million in AmeriCorps grant funding in April. The decision ended the service of more than 30,000 AmeriCorps members nationwide, including 22 AmeriCorps members in Davenport, and six other individuals about to start seasonal contracts with the city.

Matt Mendenhall, CEO for the Regional Development Authority in Davenport, said in an interview with the Quad-City Times/Dispatch-Argus that the contributions amounted to about \$78,000.

"Everybody showed up, and gave their support," Mendenhall said.

Regional Development Authority, Quad City Bank and Trust, Quad Cities Community Foundation, Hubbell-Waterman Foundation, and IH Mississippi Valley Credit Union all contributed money to support the AmeriCorps members.

The eight AmeriCorps members, comprising five year-round members and three seasonal members, will complete their service at Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Mississippi Valley, Common Chord, Davenport Parks and Recreation and the Putnam Museum and Science Center. The AmeriCorps members' terms of service end in fall 2025.

The donation will also support one part-time and two full-time positions at the Nahant Marsh Education Center in Davenport. Members will serve as part of the Iowa National Service Corps, rather than AmeriCorps, according to the Thursday press release.

"We are overwhelmed and so incredibly thankful to those organizations who stepped up so quickly to provide funding," Brian Ritter, executive director of Nahant Marsh, said in the press release.

Ritter had previously told the Quad-City Times/Dispatch-Argus that losing AmeriCorps members was "devastating" to Nahant Marsh.

With the \$78,000 donation, the city of Davenport is also retaining one full-time and one part-time staffer to support the facilitation of AmeriCorps, and prepare for future of the program.

"The City of Davenport is grateful the community recognized the invaluable contributions of these dedicated service members," Doug Maxeiner, city administrator of Davenport, said in the press release. "We feel confident this investment will make a difference in the lives of young people service by our community partners."