



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Linn County Public Health and Linn County Emergency Management Agency Welcome AmeriCorps Members

Linn County, Iowa – Linn County Public Health and Linn County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) are excited to bring on two AmeriCorps members to help promote disaster preparedness and support networks among older populations.

AmeriCorps members will work with their host agencies to promote the Disaster PrepWise program. Developed by researchers at the University of Iowa College of Public Health, Disaster PrepWise is designed to prepare individuals and their households for emergency situations. Community members who utilize the Disaster PrepWise program will work with AmeriCorps members to develop a personalized disaster management plan they can share with their family, friends, and neighbors. Linn County Public Health and Linn County EMA support the Disaster PrepWise program because it assists communities in raising resiliency by encouraging and facilitating preparedness among Linn County residents.

- **Joseph Miller** is the newest AmeriCorps member working with Linn County EMA on the Disaster PrepWise program. Joe is a junior at Mount Mercy University who is working towards receiving a BA in Criminal Justice. In addition to promoting the Disaster PrepWise program, Joe will also promote Alert Iowa, develop public education messaging and videos, and assist with preparedness planning and training.
- **Sidny Miner** is serving with Linn County Public Health and Benton County Public Health as an AmeriCorps member promoting the Disaster PrepWise program. She will complete her BA in Public Health from the University of Iowa later this year.

Anyone interested in creating a personalized plan for themselves or who would like a Disaster PrepWise AmeriCorps member to present for an audience about disaster preparedness, please call 319-467-1193 or email cph-prepwise@uiowa.edu.

AmeriCorps and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have joined forces through Public Health AmeriCorps. Together, they are supporting the recruitment, training, and development of the next generation of public health leaders who will be ready to respond to the nation's public health needs.

Public Health AmeriCorps has two main goals:

1. Address public health needs of local communities by providing support in state and local public health settings and advancing more equitable health outcomes for underserved communities.
2. Create pathways to good quality public health-related careers through onsite experience and training, with a focus on recruiting AmeriCorps members who reflect the communities in which they will serve.

AmeriCorps, the federal agency for national service and volunteerism, provides opportunities for Americans to serve their country domestically, address the nation's most pressing challenges, improve lives and communities, and strengthen civic engagement. Each year, the agency places more than 200,000 AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers in intensive service roles; and empowers millions more to serve as long-term, short-term, or one-time volunteers. Learn more at AmeriCorps.gov.

Linn County EMA and Linn County Public Health are grateful to the AmeriCorps members for their efforts in helping us educate individuals about disaster preparedness and also reach specific parts of our communities.

For more information:

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About Linn County Emergency Management Agency

The Linn County Emergency Management Agency is established under Iowa Code Chapter 29.C and governed by the Linn County Emergency Management Commission. The emergency services provided by Linn County Emergency Management Agency include planning, administration, coordination, training, and support for local governments and their departments.

With a mission to “strengthen our communities through proactive planning, response and recovery by creating a culture of exceptional all hazard preparedness,” Linn County Emergency Management Agency strives to serve all residents of Linn County through education and readiness.

During times of emergency, Linn County Emergency Management Agency will send out important emergency alerts and messages containing vital response and recovery information using the statewide emergency messaging system, Alert Iowa. **Sign up at [LinnCounty-EMA.org](https://www.linncounty-ema.org), through the Smart911 app on your smartphone or by texting “LinnIA” to 67283.**

About Linn County Public Health

Linn County Public Health, an agency within Linn County, Iowa government, serves all 230,000+ residents of Linn County to prevent disease and injury, promote safe and healthy living, protect the environment, and champion public health preparedness and health equity. The programs facilitated by Linn County Public Health help protect the air we breathe, the food we eat, the water we drink, the homes we live in, as well as developing partnerships that better our community.

Linn County Public Health was the first local health department in Iowa to earn national accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) and was also awarded reaccreditation in 2021.

Learn more at [LinnCountyIowa.gov/Health](https://www.linncountyia.gov/Health) or by calling 319-892-6000. Follow Linn County Public Health on Facebook and Instagram.