



Dedicated to Inclusion

Philosophy & Expertise: ServeNebraska is dedicated to ensuring that individuals with disabilities are fully engaged in their communities, have opportunities to participate actively in service, and are vitally involved in community preparedness initiatives. As an organization, our dedication is supported by a staff of professionals who are experts in disability inclusion. We draw from a variety of resources and partnerships, a nationally celebrated training curriculum, and a track record of increasing disability inclusion to help Nebraska organizations make inclusion a reality.

Demonstrated Excellence: ServeNebraska is committed to utilizing the talents of interested, dedicated individuals in AmeriCorps and other community & national service programs. A number of individuals with disabilities have served successfully in Nebraska. Our outreach and educational efforts over the past 3 years has more than doubled the number and percentage of individuals with disabilities in service in Nebraska's AmeriCorps programs, from 5% in 2005 – 2006 to nearly 12% in 2008 – 2009. In many cases, individuals with disabilities have utilized the skills, experiences and training gained through their AmeriCorps service as stepping-stones to competitive employment.

ServeNebraska is committed to providing assistance to national & community service initiatives and participants to make service environments and activities fully inclusive and accessible. We offer one-on-one guidance to members, perform site assessments, and provide training & other resources for organizations and volunteers. Additionally, we help provide specific funding and technical assistance to schools and community groups that engage youth with disabilities in volunteer projects. Furthermore, all of our activities, conferences, trainings and meetings are specifically designed to be inclusive and we provide reasonable accommodations to anyone interested in attending.

Making Inclusion Clear & Simple: ServeNebraska is a leader in educating specific populations and the general public about the value and benefits of including individuals with disabilities in programs and activities. Our professional staff provides training and technical assistance to individuals and organizations throughout Nebraska and across the nation.

An organization's environment may be accessible, but is it inclusive? What's the difference? What are some strategies for providing low or no-cost accommodations? What should I consider when communicating with a person with a disability? How do I handle workplace issues and conflicts regarding disability? What is a disability? Whether an organization or individual is a novice or more experienced in the field of disability, we offer customizable training and resources in a variety of areas to answer these and other questions.

Emergency Preparedness: ServeNebraska is dedicated to engaging individuals with disabilities to prepare for disasters and emergencies. Our Disability Preparedness Program facilitates collaborations among individuals with disabilities, service providers, non-profit organizations, Citizen Corps volunteer program and government agencies to provide disability preparedness resources to Nebraska.

Current efforts in our Disability Preparedness Program include coordinating pilot grant programs in the Columbus and Scottsbluff areas to create coalitions to support and engage individuals and groups who are part of "vulnerable populations", including those with disabilities, in community-based emergency preparedness planning and education.

We have also presented and facilitated sessions related to "disability preparedness" at numerous national conferences, including the National Conference on Volunteerism and Community Service (Atlanta, GA, 2008), the Disaster Services Workshop (Dallas, TX, 2007) and the Mississippi Disability Preparedness Summit (Jackson, MS, 2008).