

Conservation Corps Minnesota Overview

Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee

May 5, 2021

Mark Murphy

Executive Director



conservationcorps.org



conservationcorps.org

Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit AmeriCorps organization that engages over 450 youth and young adults, ages 15 to 25, in programs and projects that **improve access to outdoor recreation, provide habitat restoration on public lands, restore and protect water quality,** and respond to natural disasters.

Mission

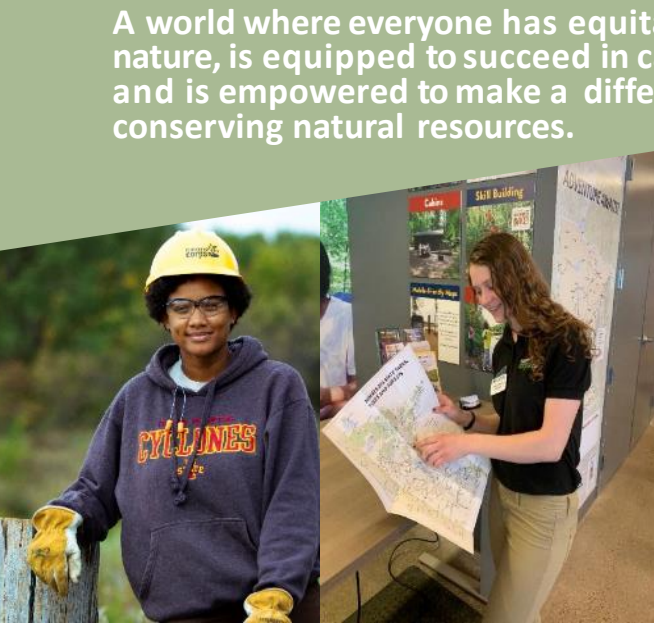
To engage youth and young adults in meaningful service, leadership development, and environmental stewardship.

Values

Safety
Service
Respect
Equity
Community

Vision

A world where everyone has equitable access to nature, is equipped to succeed in career and life, and is empowered to make a difference in conserving natural resources.





2019-2020 Impact

Resources Restored

- **59,563 acres** improved and restored, including:
 - **28,136** acres in prescribed burns
 - **29,662** acres in exotic/invasive species removal
 - 7 acres of rain garden installation
- **3,492 miles** of trail maintenance
- **2,614 miles** of water trail improvement
- Over **10,378** hours of surveying & data collection, including:
 - **203,601** acres mapped
 - **11,223** of AIS/user/plant/wildlife surveys and water quality site assessments
- **117,454** trees and shrubs planted

Lives Changed

714 corpsmembers engaged

593,065 hours of service completed

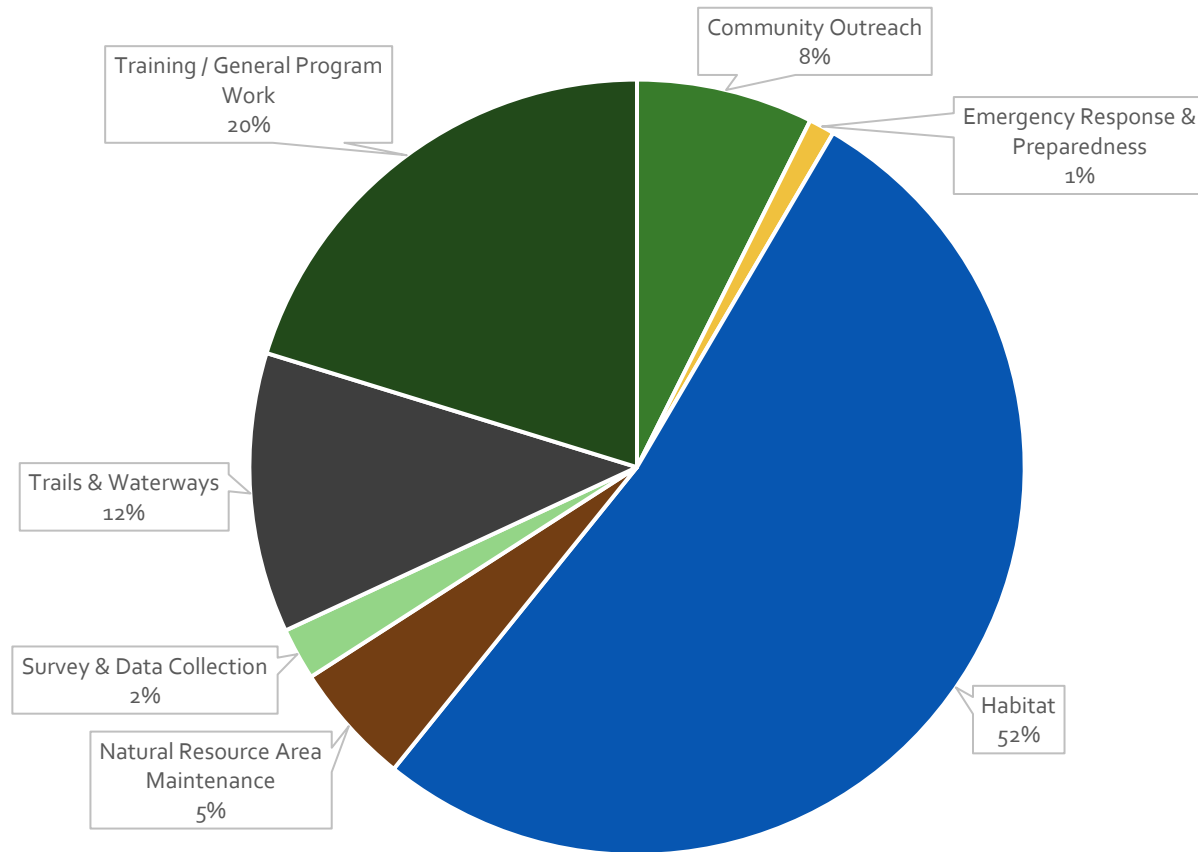
81% Are better prepared for their next job

89% Have developed workforce readiness skills

92% Are more knowledgeable about the environment

Note: 2020 field outputs were significantly lower than usual as a result of covid-19 reductions to in-person field service opportunities.

2019-2020 Minnesota Service Activity

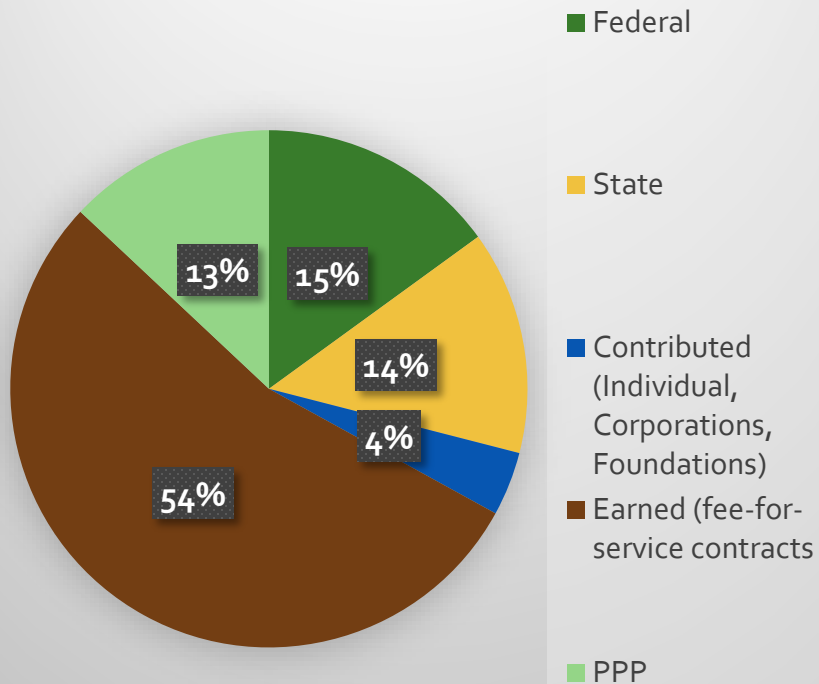


*Served **446,964** total hours in Minnesota*
*Completed service in **132 of 134** Legislative Districts*

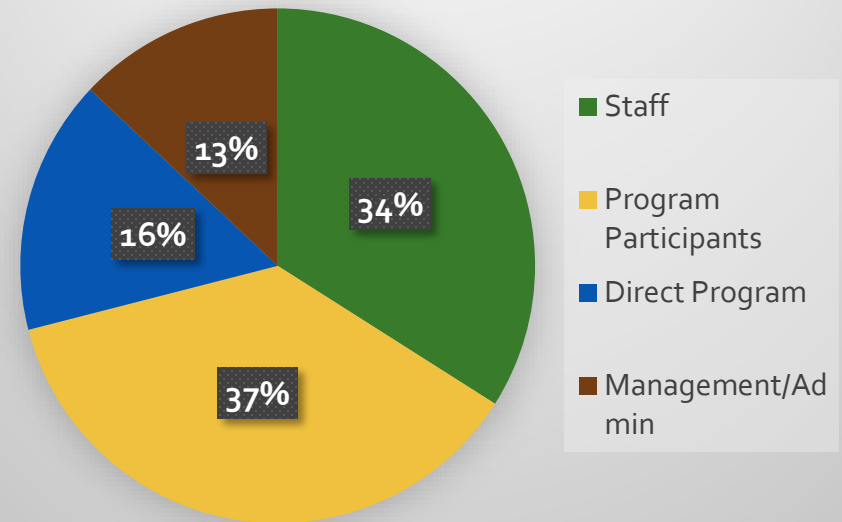
Financial Summary 2020



Revenue \$8,507,000



Expenses \$7,476,000



*2020 Results pending audit



State of Minnesota appropriations

General Fund Appropriation

- **\$455,000** / FY for **general operating expenses** to support Conservation Corps programs in Minnesota

Natural Resources Dedicated Funds

- **\$490,000** / FY via the **Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)**. Supports work in specific areas such as Water recreation, OHV, Snowmobile, State parks, Aquatic Invasives etc.

2008 Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment Funds

- **\$1,000,000** / fiscal year appropriated through the MN **Department of Natural Resources / Division of Parks and Trails** to contract with CCMI for project work assigned at our established fee-for-service rates.
- **\$500,000** / fiscal year appropriated through the **Board of Soil and Water Resources** to contract with CCMI for project work assigned at our established fee-for-service rates.

NOTE: CCMI fee-for-service contract rates

- Hourly rates in 2020 were \$24.50/hr for Young Adult crews and \$17.50 for Youth crews. An interim 4.5% Covid Surcharge was added to contracts starting in the summer of 2020 to help alleviate Covid-related costs.

2022-2023 Priorities

1. Ensuring operating **resiliency** in the ongoing pandemic
(Anticipating 370 corps members for 2021)
1. Improving Corps member **recruitment** through mitigating barriers to participation
2. Increasing equitable **access** to our programming for more under-represented communities
3. Meeting the **increasing needs** of our partners who are affected by the impacts of COVID and the changing climate
4. Creating new **partnerships** to enhance service opportunities for the youth and young adult corps members



Mark Murphy
Executive Director
ConservationCorps Minnesota & Iowa
mark.murphy@conservationcorps.org
651.209.9900