

Conservation Corps Minnesota Overview

Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee

February 2, 2021

Mark Murphy

Executive Director



conservationcorps.org



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Mission

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

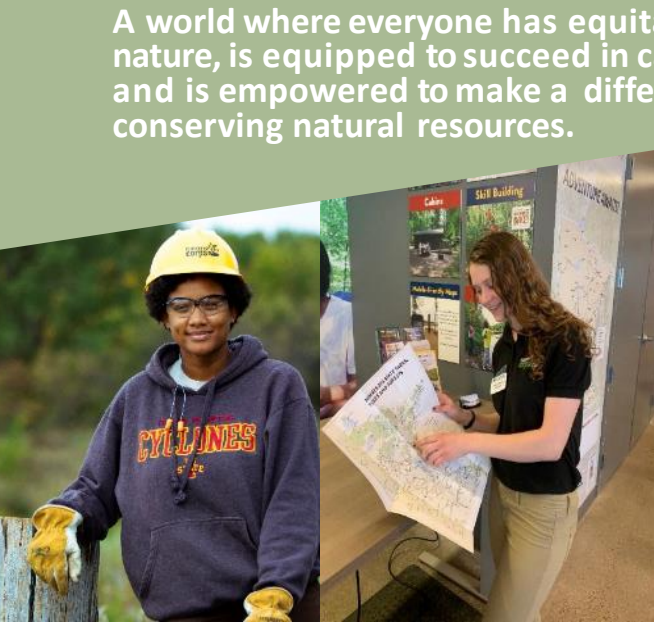
Vision

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.

Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit AmeriCorps organization that engages over 430 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.

Values

- Safety
- Service
- Respect
- Equity
- Community



2019-2020 Impact



Resources Restored

- **59,563 acres** improved and restored, including:
 - **28,136 acres** in prescribed burns
 - **29,662 acres** in exotic/invasives 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

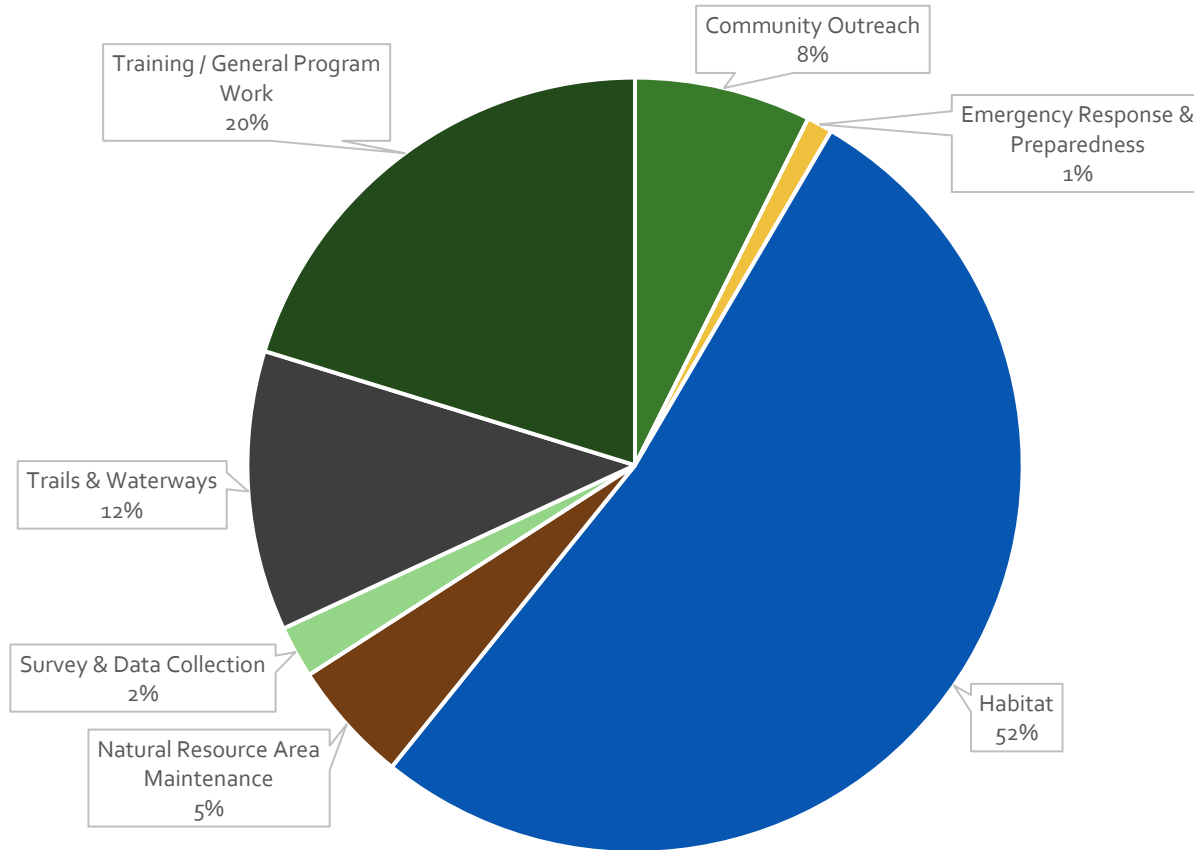
81% Are better prepared for their next job

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

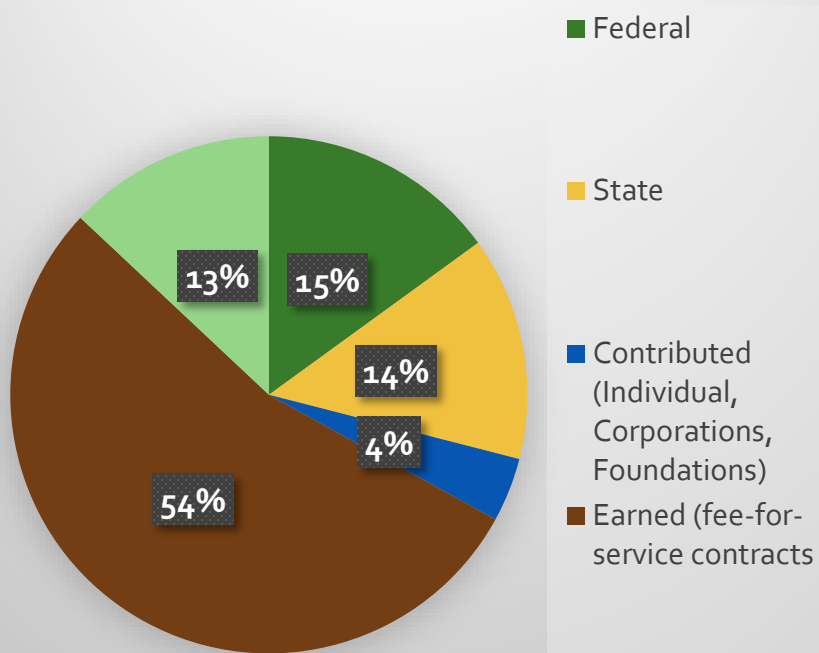


*Served **446,964** total hours in Minnesota
Completed service in **132 of 134** Legislative Districts*

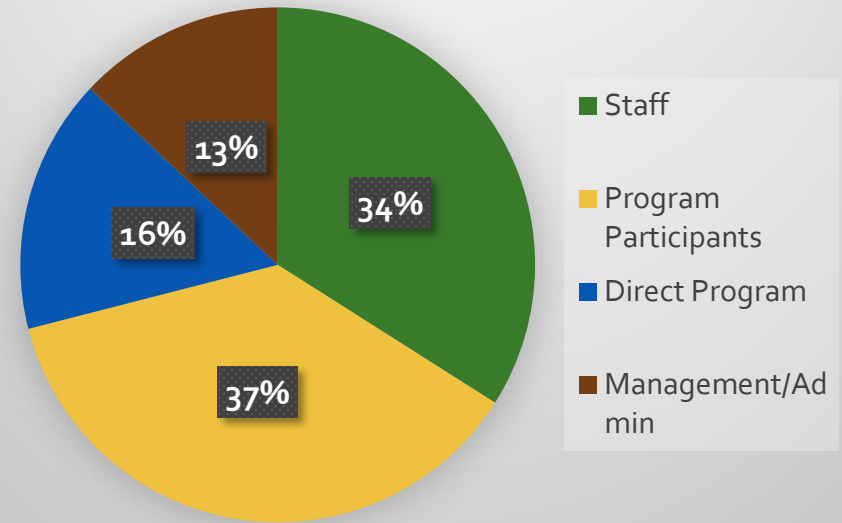
Financial Summary 2020



Revenue \$8,507,000



Expenses \$7,476,000



*2020 Results pending audit



State of Minnesota appropriations

General Fund Appropriation

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

Natural Resources Dedicated Funds

- **\$490,000** / fiscal year 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
2. Improving Corps member **recruitment** through mitigating barriers to participation
3. Increasing equitable **access** to our programming for more under-represented communities
4. Meeting the **increasing needs** of our partners who are affected by the impacts of COVID and the changing climate
5. Creating new **partnerships** to enhance service opportunities for the youth and young adult corps members



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