



## Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Conservation Education Program (CEP): A Funding Source for Innovation

### Quick Facts:

REAP CEP serves a diverse audience with education programs, including K-12 educators, landowners, at-risk youth, county naturalists and community volunteers.

Approximately \$350,000 is available/year for environmental education projects in Iowa through the REAP CEP.

The Iowa Administrative Code requires K-12 students receive instruction in conservation of natural resources and environmental awareness. **Through REAP CEP, Iowa's future and current teachers have opportunities to learn about conservation education** and receive classroom-ready resources.

**A Board of representatives** are appointed, one each, from the state departments of education and natural resources, the Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards, Iowa Association of Naturalists and Iowa Conservation Education Coalition.



*Through Iowa Young Birders, young Iowans are empowered to study and enjoy birds and birding.*



*Nature Connections, based in Dickinson County at Lakeside Lab, has engaged hundreds of youth and early childhood educators, resulting in preschool students spending more time outdoors discovering the natural world.*

### Grant deadlines:

**May 15 & November 1**

### The standard application:

There is no upper limit on grant awards for standard applications, though the average award over the last two years was \$26,000.

### The mini-grant application:

Mini-grants are awarded for up to \$3,500.

**REAP Conservation Education grantees are efficient, innovative and accountable.** Grantees measure impacts to assess the effectiveness of their work. In the past five years, 93 grant projects have been awarded, leveraging \$2.8 million of other funds.



Fifty-nine projects, requesting a total of \$1.3 million, were not funded.



*REAP CEP funds educational events that include field trips on the water and education about rivers. In addition, Iowa Public Broadcasting Service's Iowa Outdoors TV series inspires many Iowans to get out and enjoy the waters of Iowa.*

**By using technology, conservation boards, universities and others are attracting all ages—especially younger audiences—to the out-of-doors through mobile phone applications, QR codes and other innovations.**

**We know landowners are choosing land stewardship and permanent protection of natural lands,** thanks to innovative outreach to landowners and their legal or financial advisors through several REAP CEP projects. New, award-winning initiatives by the Women, Food and Agriculture Network are targeted to women landowners. Through peer-to-peer educational formats, these initiatives empower women to employ best practices.

**Leading naturalists test new programs, such as education about everything from prairie chickens to pollinators,** using REAP CEP funds—then they share their experience, results and advice with hundreds of other educators to replicate their success statewide.

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[www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/REAP/REAPFundingatWork/ConservationEducation.aspx](http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/REAP/REAPFundingatWork/ConservationEducation.aspx)

*REAP CEP is an essential, cost effective, accountable program. It benefits a wide cross-section of Iowa citizens and sparks substantial matching funds and innovative efforts.*