



**MAKE IT A DAY ON,
NOT A DAY OFF**

JANUARY 20, 2020

#MLKDAY

Legislation was signed in 1983 creating a federal holiday marking the birthday of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This federal holiday was first observed in 1986.

In 1994, Congress passed the King Holiday and Service Act, designating the Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday as a national day of service and charged the Corporation for National and Community Service with leading this effort. Taking place each year on the third Monday in January, the MLK Day of Service is the only federal holiday observed as a national day of service – a "day on, not a day off." The Day of Service calls for Americans from all diverse walks of life to work together to provide solutions to our most pressing local, regional, and national challenges. The MLK Day of Service empowers individuals, strengthens communities, bridges barriers, creates solutions to social problems, and moves us closer to Dr. King's vision of a "Beloved Community."

At the national level, participation in the MLK Day of Service has grown steadily over the past decade, with hundreds of thousands of Americans each year engaging in projects such as tutoring and mentoring children, painting schools and senior centers, delivering meals, building homes, and serving the most vulnerable in our communities. Many of the projects started on the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day continue to engage volunteers beyond the holiday and impact communities year-round. However, although the scope of the event grows every year, many people are still not aware of the service component of the holiday.

In West Des Moines, the observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Celebration reflects our ongoing work and commitment to Dr. King's vision and teachings. We will join cities across the nation that celebrate Dr. King's commitment to promoting equality and social justice.

The WDM Human Rights Commissioners, are also working to show our commitment, dedication, and observance of MLK Day. We recognize and value that diversity and inclusion are a tremendous strength in our communities. We encourage you to have "day on, not a day off" and continue to use our voices and collective efforts to build a more inclusive, welcoming and equitable community.

Ways to Show Action/Get Involved:

- Attend a local event and bring along, family, friends, and co-workers
- Join or organize a service project on MLK Day and throughout the year
- Learn more [National MLK Day](#)

“Everybody can be great, because everyone can serve”- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.