

A Bill Allocating Needs-Based Subgrants Targeting Under-resourced Nonprofits in Greater Minnesota and Other Areas Serving Those Harmed by the Covid-19 Pandemic

SF - 1181 HF - 1383

Volunteers are Providing Basic Human Services During the Pandemic

Volunteers are on the frontlines of the community response to pandemic related harm. Volunteers are an asset with skills, talent, time, and energy to sustain-- and even expand-- services. Yet, most organizations lack the necessary support and direction to strategically deploy this renewable resource.

This bill will provide funding support to organizations mobilizing volunteers to supply food, transportation, and health and well-being services to vulnerable populations.

A Small Investment with Big Return

Minnesotans are facing severe fallout from the Covid-19 pandemic; at the same time hundreds of thousands of Minnesotans are available to volunteer to meet the need for essential services. The Independent Sector documents that the Current Estimated National Value of Each Volunteer Hour is \$27.20. Invest in this untapped resource to save lives.

"With the current COVID-19 pandemic, our Greater Minnesota aging population is more reliant on senior community volunteer programs and services than ever. Our aging seniors run the greatest risk of fatally contracting COVID-19, so volunteers have answered the call by providing seniors with relief from isolation, food and meal deliveries, prescription drug drop off, technology support, and medical transportation. With the continued support of numerous volunteers, we can keep our most vulnerable population healthy and safe within their own homes."
- Marley Melbye Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc.

"In rural Minnesota, volunteers are the primary way many people have safely been able to safely get food delivered to their homes and to get transportation to medical appointments during the pandemic. Volunteers are a lifeline."

-Dana Thewis, Community Partners
Two Harbors, MN

