

# A Bill to Address Unmet Community Needs Through Volunteerism

HF-263  
SF-606

## Supporting Volunteerism Leads to Stronger Communities and a More Robust Economy

Volunteers are important community assets, helping to enrich the lives of those they serve and often providing care and services that neither government nor the private sector can afford to provide on their own. High rates of volunteerism also signal a healthy willingness of individuals to pitch in and make the community a better place.

### Volunteers have...

27%

**HIGHER**  
odds of finding a job  
after being out of work  
than non-volunteers

51%

**HIGHER**  
odds of finding employment,  
for volunteers without  
a high school diploma

55%

**HIGHER**  
odds of finding  
employment, for volunteers  
living in rural areas

IN 2018,  
**1.9 MILLION**  
RESIDENTS VOLUNTEERED

= **\$3.3 BILLION**  
ECONOMIC VALUE

**#2**

IN THE NATION\*

According to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), **Minnesota is the number 2 state in the nation in volunteering**. Last year, **more than 1.9 million Minnesota residents volunteered** their service, which has an estimated economic value of **more than \$3.3 Billion**.

\*According to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) report entitled *Volunteering as a Pathway to Employment: Does Volunteering Increase Odds of Finding a Job for the Out of Work?*

## Positive Impacts will be made for :

- Your constituents
- Communities all gain when everyone participates
- Individuals leverage workforce skills
- Economic impact – 3.3 billion = estimated value of volunteer contributions
- Minnesotans keeping the core value of caring for one another

*“Similar to many youth serving organizations, volunteers are our auxiliary work force—only through our volunteers can we continue to build all girls of courage, confidence, and character!”*

-Niila Hebert, Volunteer Manager, Girl Scouts

High quality, positive volunteer efforts both significantly contribute to the community and make a difference in the lives of the people who volunteer.

## Case Study of how this funding will impact Minnesota communities

Volunteers, coordinated and supervised by non-profit and public agencies, are uniquely positioned to serve unmet community needs. For example, Becker County Energize, with a small grant from MAVA, brought together more than 30 organizations to collectively connect volunteers with service opportunities designed to create a healthier community. One outcome - Becker County Energize convened community members concerned about lack of opportunities for rural youth. These volunteers, the Hornets Hive, are now planning a youth center, with space purchased by the group, to offer activities and mentoring in the town of Frazee.

As a result of the Bill, MAVA will provide funding for innovative approaches to addressing unmet needs through volunteerism, such as the Becker County Energize Program.

## The above numbers do not tell the whole story.

Especially in this changing economic and civic environment, we must draw upon and develop the expertise and skills of volunteers for the betterment of Minnesota residents and communities. The number of Minnesota volunteers is anticipated to increase due to the heightened visibility of civic engagement --- while at the same time the volunteer community has been stymied by lack of adequate resources to work with volunteers for the highest level of volunteer impact. We cannot afford to turn away or lose valuable volunteers. These are some of the reasons why a modest investment in volunteering is so necessary.