

WHAT IS DIRECT SERVICE?

Volunteer Maryland Coordinators recruit and manage volunteers who are engaged in direct service – activities that have a hands-on, direct impact on the clients or community. Volunteer Maryland Coordinators are prohibited from recruiting volunteers for the purposes of political advocacy, religious instruction, and certain types of fundraising; in addition, indirect or clerical service must be limited to no more than 10 percent of the total volunteer time. This is a guide to determining what constitutes direct service in our six focus areas. It is, by no means, a complete list of appropriate projects. For more information, please contact Volunteer Maryland at volunteer.maryland@maryland.gov.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Programs in this area provide services and support for individuals transitioning into safe, healthy, affordable housing.

Volunteers –

- Provide shelter assistance to the homeless, or those at-risk of losing housing.
- Mentor individuals and families to become self-sufficient.
- Teach courses on household budgeting and basic home maintenance.

EDUCATION

Programs in this area focus on improving academic performance of K-12 students in literacy and/or math.

Volunteers –

- Tutor students in math and reading.
- Serve as one-on-one reading buddies.
- Assist teachers with small group activities during math lessons.

HEALTHY FUTURES

Programs in this area enable homebound individuals, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to live independently; provide emergency food services; and/or provide services, education, and/or referrals to alleviate long-term hunger.

Volunteers –

- Provide transportation to medical appointments, grocery stores, and community events.
- Pack donated food and prepared meals for client pick-ups.
- Facilitate workshops on menu-planning and meal-preparation.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Programs in this area focus on improving public lands, trails, or waterways.

Volunteers –

- Plant and maintain trees and native plants.
- Provide trail maintenance and clean-ups.
- Test water quality and lead levels.

DISASTER SERVICES

Programs in this area provide services in disaster preparedness, response, recovery, or mitigation.

Volunteers –

- Teach disaster preparedness courses.
- Manage Volunteer Reception and Mobilization Centers in times of disaster.
- Respond to local natural and man-made disasters.

VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES

Programs in this area provide assistance to veterans, veterans' family members, and/or active duty military service members.

Volunteers –

- Provide resume workshops for veterans.
- Facilitate support groups for families of veterans and active duty military service members.