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Volunteer Maryland to Host Virtual Events Supporting Nonprofits; Applications Now Available

AmeriCorps Members Address Critical Needs for Maryland Communities

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Volunteer Maryland, an AmeriCorps program in the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives, today announced [a schedule of virtual workshops](#) for interested organizations titled "Leverage Your Volunteer Program – Partner with Volunteer Maryland," and started [accepting applications](#) for the 2021–2022 service year. Any Maryland 501(c)(3) nonprofit, government, or school organization in need of volunteers is eligible to apply to partner with Volunteer Maryland. Volunteer Maryland currently has AmeriCorps members at 18 service sites across Maryland. For the 2021-2022 service year, Volunteer Maryland plans to place 30 AmeriCorps members to serve as Volunteer Coordinators for eleven months.

"Through the work of our AmeriCorps members, Volunteer Maryland's capacity building activities help our partners recruit volunteers, enhance or expand the delivery of services, and generate additional resources that organizations might not otherwise have readily available to them," said Sharon Lewis, Director of Volunteer Maryland. "Volunteer Maryland AmeriCorps members are diverse individuals who have unique backgrounds with regards to work and life experiences, and each year we are excited to see the innovative approaches our members introduce in their host Service Sites – integrating their background to help move the needle on addressing critical needs in Maryland communities."

Volunteer Maryland seeks to expand geographically to serve more Maryland citizens. Nonprofits, government agencies, and schools interested in partnering with Volunteer Maryland to become a Service Site are encouraged to register early and attend one of the virtual workshops prior to applying for the program. Organizations participating in the workshops will discover the benefits of partnering with Volunteer Maryland, undergo a volunteer program needs assessment, and network with fellow Maryland nonprofits.

“This is an incredible opportunity especially during these challenging times, for organizations to gather information from three different programs that could significantly leverage the great work of nonprofits around the state to serve even more Maryland residents,” said Volunteer Maryland Outreach Manager, Nathan Cabrera.

The workshops, which are free of charge, are held to raise awareness of the benefits of Volunteer Maryland AmeriCorps members to organizations. In addition, Rural Maryland Council and the Maryland Heritage Authority Program will join Volunteer Maryland during the virtual meetings to share their grant programs, including a cash match grant, and other resources to qualifying organizations.

Webinar dates and registration can be found by visiting volunteer.maryland.gov/ServiceSites. Interested organizations must submit their application to Volunteer Maryland by March 5, 2021. Questions can be directed to Nathan Cabrera at nathan.cabrera@maryland.gov

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About Volunteer Maryland

Established in 1992, Volunteer Maryland places Volunteer Coordinators in partner organizations for a full time, eleven-month term to increase volunteer program efficiencies, recruit volunteers, and develop volunteer programs that address critical community needs including education, economic opportunity, environmental stewardship, disaster relief and services to veterans. Building more than 350 partnerships with nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and schools across Maryland, Volunteer Maryland places and trains more than 700 Volunteer Coordinators to bridge the gap between communities facing critical challenges and citizens who want to volunteer to solve those challenges. More than 135,000 volunteers have been mobilized to serve two million volunteer hours in communities around the state. Learn more by visiting our website at volunteer.maryland.gov and connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

About the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives

The [Governor's Office of Community Initiatives](#) mission is to serve as an executive branch coordinating office for the governor that connects Marylanders to economic, volunteer, and human service opportunities by meeting with Marylanders at over 700 engagements every year. This office also houses the [Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism](#), [Volunteer Maryland](#), [Banneker-Douglass Museum](#), as well as [faith-based outreach](#), and the governor's [ethnic, cultural](#), and [WWI](#) commissions. Learn more by visiting our website at goci.maryland.gov and connect with us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).