

# VOLUNTEER FLORIDA FACT SHEET



Volunteer Florida leverages more than \$32 million in federal, state and local funding for national service and volunteer programs in Florida. Volunteer Florida is the state's lead agency for volunteers and donations before, during, and after disasters. Volunteer Florida was established in Florida Statute by the Florida Legislature in 1994 to administer AmeriCorps funding and serve as an advisory board to the Governor and Cabinet, Legislature, and statewide partners on volunteerism, community service, and civic responsibility issues.



**Emergency Management:** Since Hurricane Irma, Volunteer Florida has raised over \$16.2 million in funds from the private sector, distributing more than two million to 40 local organizations serving individuals and families impacted by the storms.

**National Service:** In 2017, Volunteer Florida put 1,383 AmeriCorps members to work in 358 schools, serving 54,000 students. They provided 1.67 million hours of service, valued at \$38 million ([independentsector.org](http://independentsector.org)).

**Local Impact:** Volunteer Florida's Rural Community Assets Fund (RCAF) provided \$100,000 to 12 organizations in 2016-2017 to meet the educational needs of students in Florida's rural communities.

***For every dollar the State of Florida invests in Volunteer Florida,  
Volunteer Florida leverages \$31 in non-state funding.***

## FY 2018-2019 STATE APPROPRIATIONS FOR VOLUNTEER FLORIDA (COMMISSION ON COMMUNITY SERVICE)

**\$983,182** from Department of Education - Level, recurring funding. Aligns with Governor and DOE FY 18-19 budget recommendations (Line 127 in Governor's 2018 budget recommendations).

**\$300,000** from Division of Emergency Management - Level, recurring funding. Aligns with Governor and DEM FY 18-19 budget recommendations (Line 2570 in Governor's 2018 budget recommendations).

# VOLUNTEER FLORIDA FOUNDATION FACT SHEET



The Volunteer Florida Foundation is a **Direct Support Organization (DSO)** established by Florida Statute Section 14.29 to support Volunteer Florida. The Foundation raises funds to support Volunteer Florida's work to deliver high-impact national service and volunteer programs across the state.

The Foundation is also responsible for statewide **Governor's initiatives**, including Florida's Black History Month and Hispanic Heritage Month essay, art, and educator contests.

Volunteer Florida manages the **Florida Disaster Fund**, Florida's official private fund to assist those impacted by emergencies and disasters. In 2017, the Florida Disaster Fund provided \$1,250,000 in grants to 59 non-profit partners to support response and recovery efforts for Hurricane Irma, Hurricane Matthew, the Pulse Nightclub shooting, and the February 2016 Panhandle tornadoes. Since then, Volunteer Florida has raised \$16.2 million for Hurricane Irma survivors.

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**Florida Statute 14.29 states that the Volunteer Florida Foundation is scheduled to be repealed effective October 1, 2018, unless reviewed and saved from repeal by the Legislature.**

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If the Volunteer Florida Foundation is repealed:

- The State of Florida would lose its mechanism to accept private funds for disaster survivors
  - The State of Florida would lose its infrastructure for vetting and distributing funds for disaster survivors
  - Volunteer Florida would rely more heavily on taxpayer dollars for service projects, operations, and staff
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**SB 1500 and HB 6033 would prevent the repeal of the Volunteer Florida Foundation and remove the sunset altogether.**

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**SB 1500:** Sponsored by Chair Baxley, Chair of the Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee

- Senate Government Oversight and Accountability
- Senate Appropriations
- Senate Rules

**HB 6033:** Sponsored by Vice Chair Ponder

- House Oversight, Transparency & Administration Subcommittee
- House Government Accountability Committee