

# A Bill Allocating Needs-Based Subgrants Targeting Under-Resourced Non-Profits and Other Areas Serving Those Harmed By Disparities

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## Volunteers are Providing Basic Human Services to Underserved Populations

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 help under-served populations suffering or at risk of homelessness, hunger, poverty, lack of access to healthcare, deficits in education and more.

*"United Way's across the state are diligently working to improve the lives of individuals living in poverty, including underrepresented and underserved populations. We accomplish this by mobilizing our communities and our nonprofit partners. This infrastructure though does not work without volunteers. Many nonprofits across the state are underfunded, so it is through a MAVA grant that we are able to bring Volunteers United to Steele County to help increase capacity for nonprofits across the county, so that together we could address the increased demands for Health, Education, and Financial Stability support in our communities."*

*-Annette Duncan, United Way of Steele County*

## A Small Investment with Big Return

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 \$29.95.

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

*-Dana Thewis, Community Partners, Two Harbors, MN*

*"Our Greater Minnesota aging population is more reliant on senior community volunteer programs and services than ever. Our 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 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.*