FY26 MINI-GRANT INFO SESSION

Volunteer NH

Funding Overview

Purpose: To increase your organization's capacity to recruit, train, support, manage, and/or retain volunteers through a one-time, specific purchase (or purchases) in one eligible funding category

Eligible Organizations: 501(c)3 nonprofits, state/local governments, institutions of higher education

Funding Amount: $1,000 - $4,000

Important Dates:

- **Due Date:** Thursday, March 19
- **Notification:** Friday, March 27
- **Grant Period:** April 6 - September 15, 2026

Eligible Funding Categories:

- Volunteer Management Technology/Supplies
- Volunteer Outreach Costs
- Volunteer Training(s)
- Volunteer Manager Training
- Volunteer Program Development/Improvement

Application Submission: Through the Volunteer NH Online Application System (https://volunteernh.smapply.io/)

Additional Documents:

- Mini-Grant NOFO
- Application Questions Preview
- Mini-Grant FAQs
- Budget Template & Sample Budgets

Want To Be Succcessful?

Read The Notice of Funding Opportunity

(*and additional documents*)

Volunteer NH expects to fund **9-12 applications** but typically receives 2 - 3 times that, making it a very competitive process.

We expect to only fund **entirely correct and complete applications**, so make sure you're reading everything thoroughly.

Common Application Mistakes

Including purchases from multiple cost categories (*e.g. volunteer training AND volunteer recruitment*)

Including costs that are not allowed (*e.g. volunteer gifts/swag, volunteer management software*). *Please don't just call an unallowed cost by a different name and think that makes it allowable.

The amount requested in the budget does not match the application

Requesting to purchase something your organization is already paying for (*e.g. your organization hosts a yearly volunteer training and you ask to use these funds to pay for it instead*)

Not having a UEI (Unique Entity Identifier)

Not answering questions thoroughly/making assumptions of the reviewers (*e.g. not explaining how a specific item will actually increase your org's volunteer capacity; calling a platform or a piece of technology by its brand name without explaining what it is or does.)*

Waiting until the last minute to submit (*it's always good to submit early to anticipate technical or other issues).*

Asking for programmatic items. *These funds are to increase your capacity to recruit, manage, retain volunteers. It is not to purchase items for the volunteers to use in the course of their service.*

Focusing on Fundraising Projects

Common Grant Mistakes

If you receive a grant, please try to avoid the following common mistakes

Waiting until the last minute to spend your grant funds. (*Always try to conduct grant activities as soon as you can to identify obstacles in the beginning, when there's still time to address them.*)

Purchasing items or conducting activities outside of the grant period. (*VNH won't reimburse you for purchases and/or activities done outside the grant term)*

Purchasing items not in your budget without asking prior permission from Volunteer NH. *(Always ask permission first)*

Not spending your full grant award. (*VNH wants you to spend the award in its entirety and will work with you if you run into any problems).*

Other Information

Questions? Email Jamie Browder, Special Program Assistant (Jamie@VolunteerNH.org)

Looking for the Funding Opportunity Documents? The can all be found on the Volunteer NH website: https://volunteernh.org/apply-nh-volunteer-engagement-program/

Not ready to apply? Volunteer NH anticipates offering at one more Mini-Grant Opportunity in 2026.

What if you don't receive funding this round? We offer the opportunity for you to schedule a 15-minute meeting with us, so we can provide you specific feedback.

Open Q&A