



VOLUNTEER AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PROJECT

NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

FY 2026–2027 Volunteer and Civic Engagement Grants

Volunteer Mississippi, the Governor-appointed commission on service and volunteerism, announces the availability of grant funding to support volunteer and civic engagement projects throughout the state. Funded projects must take place between **August 1, 2026, and May 30, 2027**. These projects will engage Mississippians of all ages and backgrounds in meaningful volunteer service that addresses community needs, strengthens communities, and promotes civic participation.

Eligible Applicants

- Organizations designated as 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations and in good standing with the Mississippi Secretary of State's Office; or
- Federal, state, county, municipal, or other public entities.

Project Period

- **August 1, 2026 – May 30, 2027**

Award Range

- **Minimum Award:** \$2,500
- **Maximum Award:** \$10,000

Award Type

- Cost reimbursement

Application Deadline

- Applications must be submitted no later than **5:00 p.m. (CT) on September 30, 2026**, or until all available funds have been awarded, whichever occurs first.
- Volunteer Mississippi reserves the right to extend the deadline if all grant funds are not distributed OR close the application period early if all grant funds are distributed prior to the stated deadline.

Examples of Volunteer and Civic Engagement Projects

Examples of eligible projects include, but are not limited to:

- Mentoring and tutoring initiatives
- Projects promoting civic engagement and community leadership
- Community beautification and environmental stewardship projects (parks, rivers, trails, etc.)
- Literacy and educational enrichment programs
- Community arts and cultural engagement projects
- Projects addressing food insecurity, poverty, and homelessness
- Volunteer recruitment and engagement initiatives
- Intergenerational service projects
- Disaster preparedness and community resilience activities

Fundable Expenses

Reimbursable expenses under the proposed project scope include, but are not limited to:

- Facility expenses
- Printing and outreach materials
- Project supplies (e.g., safety equipment, cleaning supplies, tarps, hand-held tools, office supplies)
- Advertising and promotional materials
- Training costs related to volunteer management and civic engagement
- Other tools and materials directly related to project implementation

Non-Fundable Expenses

The following expenses are not eligible for reimbursement:

- Personnel costs (salaries, wages, or stipends)
- Indirect or administrative costs
- Cash prizes, gift cards, or incentives
- Food or beverages
- Travel expenses
- State or local taxes
- Expenses incurred outside of the approved project period
- Costs unrelated to volunteer or civic engagement activities

Grant Recipient Responsibilities

Organizations receiving grant awards will be responsible for:

- Engaging a minimum of ten (10) volunteers during the grant period.
- Implementing a project directly related to volunteerism and/or civic engagement.
- Displaying Volunteer Mississippi signage at the project site during the project period (signage will be provided by Volunteer Mississippi).

- Submitting itemized expenditures and supporting documentation (e.g., receipts, invoices, and proof of payment) with reimbursement requests.
- Submitting an End-of-Project Report no later than **May 30, 2027**.

The End-of-Project Report must include:

- Number of volunteers engaged (as accurately as possible). A minimum of 10 volunteers are required.
- Number of volunteer hours completed (as accurately as possible)
- Description of how the project benefited the community
- Project outcomes and impact
- Photographs of project activities (minimum of 2)
- A brief impact story highlighting the project's success

Grant recipients who remain compliant with all grant requirements and submit complete reimbursement documentation will receive reimbursement for allowable expenses in accordance with Volunteer Mississippi's reimbursement procedures.

Volunteer Mississippi encourages organizations of all sizes to apply and partner with us in strengthening communities through volunteerism and civic engagement across the State of Mississippi.

To begin the application process for the Volunteer and Civic Engagement Grants Program, please use the link below:

<https://grants.americalearns.net/mcvs>