



# I Want To Help

Supporting not-for-profits and students for a stronger tomorrow.

The global COVID-19 pandemic has created significant challenges for Canadian not-for-profits, which face notable disruptions to the essential community services they provide. The not-for-profit sector has been experiencing a reduction in support from volunteers due to Canadians following stay-at-home guidance. According to Imagine Canada, 49% of not-for-profits reported having difficulty engaging volunteers, and 33% of not-for-profits have found that volunteers are less available due to the current situation. This has left many not-for-profits having to shift program delivery to focus on technology-driven support, and they are seeking volunteers with the skills and interest to support in this way.

At the same time, students are facing significant social and economic challenges. The coronavirus has negatively impacted learning and employment opportunities this summer and beyond. Canadian students are concerned about the impact on their ability to further their studies, save for their education and secure future employment.

In response, the Government of Canada has created the **Canada Student Service Grant (CSSG)**, a program that will support not-for-profit organizations with flexible solutions to address COVID-19 service issues while providing thousands of qualified post-secondary students with learning and volunteer opportunities during summer 2020. **CSSG** is bilingual, accessible and inclusive to help ensure participation from Canadians from coast to coast to coast, including those from Indigenous communities and other underrepresented groups. All volunteer placements are facilitated in a way to respect social distancing and other health and safety precautions established by the Public Health Agency of Canada.

## How CSSG benefits not-for-profit organizations

The **CSSG** program allows your organization to focus on its core mission during this challenging time, while offering support to guide the creation of safe, inclusive, and accessible volunteer opportunities to address COVID-19 service challenges. The program is designed, in part, to provide:

- Post-secondary student volunteers who are motivated to contribute, and who have had job skills training with LinkedIn Learning.
- Guidance from the CSSG team to design safe, accessible, and inclusive volunteer opportunities without participation barriers such as geography, digital access, or other limitations.
- Available partnership managers to assist in the program implementation, including:
  - Recruitment and training of qualified student volunteers.
  - Bilingual and accessible onboarding materials for student volunteers.
  - Recognition of student volunteers upon completion.
- Opportunity to drive awareness of your organization's mission and current challenges to a national audience. (Please note: as part of the program eligibility, student volunteers may not lobby, advocate or assist in providing financial benefits to a not-for-profit organization).
- Students participating will be eligible to apply for a grant, which will provide up to \$5,000 to be used towards post-secondary education costs. **The CSSG is in addition to the Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB) (\$1,250 monthly). Students receiving the \$1,250 monthly CESB benefit are eligible for the CSSG.** However, students receiving the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) (\$2,000 monthly) are ineligible to receive the **CSSG**.
- Funds may also be available for eligible organizations to help offset direct costs of **CSSG** volunteer opportunities.

## Eligibility Criteria for Volunteer Opportunities

1. Eligible organizations:
  - An eligible placement opportunity must be with a not-for-profit organization, which includes non-profits and registered charities.
2. Eligible opportunities must:
  - take place in Canada;
  - be in support of Canada's response to COVID-19;
  - be a minimum of two hours a week for four weeks and run within the period from the official date of program launch until September 15, 2020;
  - adhere to public health regulations; and
  - provide a meaningful experience for student volunteers.
3. Canada Service Corps participants:
  - Those in a CSC placement or using a CSC micro-grant to lead a service project can count their volunteer hours towards the **CSSG** program.
4. Ineligible opportunities:
  - Those used for lobbying, advocacy or that provide financial benefits to an organization or its members; and
  - Those used as a way to replace a position where a person was previously paid, or, where a person would reasonably expect to be paid.
5. Next steps for organizations not meeting eligibility criteria above (including for-profit organizations):
  - Reach out to the **CSSG** team to discuss next steps.

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**Canadian students are ready to make a meaningful contribution and build a stronger tomorrow. Help us build this unique opportunity together.**

## Canada Student Service Grant volunteer opportunities

We have a number of suggested volunteer opportunities to choose from to help support your not-for-profit organization during the COVID-19 situation. The program examples listed below will help your not-for-profit organization benefit, with flexible support from the **CSSG** team.

The following are some ways in which not-for-profits organizations can meaningfully participate:

### Engaging Your Existing Student Volunteers

Do you have an existing community of student volunteers that you would like to retain or increase their time commitment to your cause this summer? The **CSSG** program can facilitate reengagement of your student volunteers to help implement your programs that have been impacted by COVID-19 by:

- Partnering to find COVID-19 safe, accessible ways to engage your volunteers.
- Providing formal recognition for student volunteers' efforts upon completion.
- Giving student volunteers the opportunity to earn a **Canada Student Service Grant (CSSG)** from \$1,000 to \$5,000. Additional details on the process are available. **The CSSG is in addition to the Canada Emergency Student Benefit (\$1,250 monthly).**

### Amplifying Your Digital Presence

How has mandated physical distancing impacted the way your organization delivers its services? Bolster your organization's marketing, social media and content strategy to ensure your urgent COVID-19 message is heard with help from digitally savvy student volunteers with:

- Digital creative such as design, copywriting, and social media.
- Content and copy such as blogs, case studies, and success stories.
- Video and photography asset creation.
- Online research and planning.

### COVID-19 Safe Ambassador Training

Are you having challenges training new volunteers in a socially distanced world? Through a 'train the trainer' approach, student volunteers will be trained on critical social issues pertinent to your not-for-profit organization which are especially relevant at this challenging time (e.g., anti-bullying, literacy, mental health), and share their knowledge in one-to-one mentorship sessions with members in their community by helping them develop personalized action plans.

- Student volunteers will be trained on the key social issues your organization supports.
- Student volunteers will then host one-on-one online mentorship sessions and lead others to help them develop their own personalized action plans on how to champion your cause.
- These volunteers then also become ambassadors trained to speak and engage others on your issue to create further impact.

### Share Your Idea with Us

How else can the **CSSG** program support your not-for-profit organization? If your not-for-profit organization has a volunteer need, opportunity or issue related to the COVID-19 pandemic that may require a different approach, the **CSSG** team would love to discuss how student volunteers could help your organization continue its important work. In-person volunteer placements are also available as long as volunteer placements are facilitated in a way that is safe to complete at this specific time.

**We are all in this together. Apply to the Canadian Student Service Grant program today to help us build a stronger tomorrow.**