

Volunteer Centers of Washington (VCW) provides funds, training and shared expertise for all-age volunteer centers in the state. In the last fiscal year VCW:

- Together with 501 Commons, drafted and disseminated the Washington Services Plan, a strategic plan for increasing the numbers, value and impact of volunteers in Washington State.

How Can You Benefit?

- Funding: Mini-grants of up to \$10,000 have been available to centers for each of the past 4 years
- Reimbursements for professional development
- Access to free or low-cost trainers
- Connections with a similar group of professionals, for ad hoc questions and quick advice
- Updates on events and trends that can impact your organization.
- Coordinated lobbying of the state legislature, for the shared goal of increased state support.

- Administered over \$100,000 in grants from the Volunteer Generation Fund, providing the sole financial support to some member centers. The Volunteer Center of Kitsap used VCW funds to expand coverage to Lewis and Mason Counties; Volunteer Connections in Vancouver built an all-ages program in addition to their RSVP (retired and seniors center).

- Provided several free on-site volunteer management training sessions in Colville, Thurston County and Kitsap County.

- Distributed \$5,000 in funds to members to underwrite travel expenses and conference registration fees for their own staffs' professional growth.

- Convened in-person one-day meetings to share among members as well as passed on information on lobbying, facilitating background checks and available volunteer management training content.

VCW is funded by member dues, the Volunteer Generation Fund (VGF) federal grant, administered through the Washington Commission for National and Community Service, and in-kind donations.

**To Join: Email
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What does it entail?

- Only \$50 per year.
- One hour-long conference call/ month.
- Two half-day in-person meetings/year, held around the state. Travel grants are available.

What Members Say about Volunteer Centers of Washington

"I love the sharing and networking with the other centers," Carol Findley, Kittitas Volunteer Center.

"Listening to others causes you to lift your gaze and think more creatively," Tara Smith, Seattle Works.

"I can share ideas and challenges with others who understand the work...they can get to the nitty-gritty of helping to figure things out," Liahann Bannerman, Volunteer Center at United Way of King County.

"I appreciate the peer response and communication, and the connection with 501Commons," Steve Grey, Upper Columbia Volunteer Center.

"I love hearing what others are doing because it helps us when we're trying to be creative. I also really appreciate the peer support and the money!" Jeannie Gruber, United Way of Thurston County.

VCW currently includes:

- RSVP and Volunteer Center of Kittitas County
- Upper Columbia Volunteer Center (Stevens County)
- Volunteer Connections/RSVP Human Services Council (Clark)
- Seattle Works (King County)
- Skagit Volunteer Center
- United Way of King County
- United Way of Kitsap County (Kitsap, Mason, and Lewis)
- United Way of Pierce County
- United Way of Snohomish County
- United Way of Thurston County
- WA-ID Volunteer Center (Asotin and Whitman Counties)

