

## Retaining Volunteers

### Benefits for the Volunteer

- Volunteers each have their own reasons for volunteering. Take the time to find out what their reasons are so that you can best help them. They could be looking for more job experience, socialization, a hobby, networking, or access to resources (a client in need).
- <https://www.volunteersignup.org/> Easy and free way to create volunteer sign-ups, so that you can track your volunteer hours. You can:
  - Reach out to them to volunteer again
  - They are most likely the first ones to donate money
  - Volunteers will sometime reference the time they spent volunteering with you on their resume. Tracking their hours on a website makes it easier for you as agency give out references for those volunteers that have been committed to your organization.
- Make sure you secure all applications you accept from volunteers, if applicable this information should be kept confidential.
- Volunteer hours can also be tracked for grants. In Florida, volunteers are worth about \$24.69 an hour! (<https://independentsector.org/value-of-volunteer-time-2018/>)
- Consider communicating with your volunteers by email, even when they're not volunteering. This email can let volunteers how they are making their community a better place and what goals they are accomplishing.
- Remember to thank your volunteers! Let them know you appreciate what they do. You do not have to spend money to thank someone. If you do want to give them something, think of fun and cheap ways to do so. For example, hand someone a candy lifesaver and say "You are a lifesaver", or a straw and tell them, "Thanks for being so flexible." Pinterest and google can be great sources for finding inexpensive gift ideas. Just search for "Volunteer appreciation."