

How to use the *National Volunteer Strategy* A Quick Guide for Higher Education Institutions

Reimagining Service 2035 is a long-term collective national effort to strengthen social connection and civil society through volunteering over the next decade, and the **National Volunteer Strategy** is the shared roadmap to guide that work. Here's how to start sharing it, using it, and joining in efforts to bolster volunteering across the country.

Getting Started

Whether you're building on current efforts or starting something new, there's a role for you to play in Reimagining Service 2035. Start by reviewing the **National Volunteer Strategy's** 12 Goals and Emerging Opportunities and considering:

- Which goals and opportunities already align with your current work?
- Which goals and opportunities reflect work you want to grow or deepen?
- Which goals and opportunities would you want to invest in to strengthen volunteering?

Example: The National Volunteer Strategy in action



The State University wants to deepen their student volunteer programs and contributions to research for the field. They identify **Evaluation**, **Lifecycle**, and **Access** as their three **priority Goals** from the Strategy:



As they review the **Emerging Opportunities** under each of these Goals, they consider:

- Which opportunities already align with their current work?
- Which opportunities reflect work they want to grow or deepen?
- Which opportunities do they want to invest in to help strengthen volunteering?



The National Volunteer Strategy in action, cont.

They map which **Emerging Opportunities** line up with their current efforts and future priorities, and launch into action:

Opportunities that align with current work:

Strategy Goal: *Access: Remove Barriers So Everyone Can Volunteer*

Strategy Opportunity: *Adapt Volunteer Models to Today's Work, Care, and Transportation Realities*

For the past few years, The State University has partnered with the city to provide free bus passes to ensure access for student volunteers without reliable transportation.

Action: They share their story through the Reimagining Service website, contributing to a national story bank of case studies, collective learning, and examples of the Strategy goals in action.

Opportunities to grow or deepen:

Strategy Goal: *Lifecycle: Support Participation for All Ages and Life Stages*

Strategy Opportunity: *Bridge Volunteering, Workforce Skills, and Career Pathways*

The State University already connects students to volunteer opportunities and career coaching, but wants to better help students translate their volunteer experiences into workforce skills and career readiness.

Action: They join the Reimagining Service interest list to learn about upcoming case studies, tools, and resources that can help them connect volunteering to skill development and career pathways.

Opportunities to invest in:

Strategy Goal: *Evaluation: Measure and Show the Difference Volunteering Makes*

Strategy Opportunity: *Collaborate Through a Volunteerism Research Network and Hub*

The State University wants to contribute volunteerism research to the field, helping to make evidence, data, and insights more accessible to practitioners and decision-makers.

Action: They connect to the Reimagining Service team to explore opportunities to share research, contribute expertise, and participate in future field-wide learning efforts.

*The National Volunteer Strategy will adapt and evolve as organizations and leaders across sectors put it into action, share what they're learning, and shape what comes next. As implementation efforts progress, we'll share updates on how actions aligned with the Strategy can contribute to collective learning, measurement, and progress tracking. Use these examples to spark ideas – then join our **interest list**, connect with us to **explore partnerships**, and visit the **Reimagining Service website** for new tools, updates, and more ways to get involved.*