



Since 1987, New York Cares has been our city's premier volunteer management organization. We respond to our city's most acute needs by working with 1,400 social service agencies, schools, homeless shelters and other deserving agencies to plan and manage projects that can be carried out by teams of volunteers. Day in and day out, our volunteers take homeless kids to the library, feed the hungry, visit the ill and elderly, clean up school buildings and parks, tutor public school students, provide coats to those who would go without, and do so much more, all at no cost to our Community Partners.

Our expertise and resources will ensure effective and impactful volunteer service projects for your organization.

About New York Cares Community Partnerships

New York Cares works with Community Partners throughout the five boroughs to develop, recruit volunteers for, manage and maintain a wide range of projects that meet a variety of local needs. We are dedicated to improving the communities in which we serve, and to do this successfully we have high expectations for ourselves, our volunteers, and our Community Partners.

Our first priority is to grow and deepen existing partnerships before expanding, but we continue to welcome applications for new partners, evaluating each one against our programmatic goals and capacities.

Project Guidelines:

- Potential partner agencies include 501(c)(3) organizations, public schools, members of the library systems, parks and recreation centers.
- All New York Cares projects are team-focused, with teams typically ranging from 5 – 20 people
- Projects may be focused on tasks (painting, gardening, sorting clothes or organizing storage spaces) or on working with clients (tutoring children or adults, visiting with seniors in nursing homes, serving meals to the hungry).
- Projects can address one-time or ongoing needs.
- New York Cares does **not** offer projects which engage volunteers in mailings, fundraising or clerical work.

*If your agency has volunteer needs that fall within the standard project guidelines described above, then you **may** be eligible to become a New York Cares Community Partner.*

What can I expect from New York Cares?

All of our Community Partners can expect the following from New York Cares and our volunteers:

- Volunteers who are on time and ready to work.
- A trained volunteer Team Leader who will coordinate and manage the team of volunteers and communicate frequently with you and your New York Cares Program Manager.
- A Program Manager with specialized expertise who will work with you and your volunteer Team Leader to ensure an effective and successful project.
- Guidance and collaboration defining project-specific goals and expectations.
- All of this **for free**—we even cover the cost of program supplies.

What will New York Cares expect of me?

All of our Community Partners are expected to provide the following to New York Cares staff and volunteers:

- An understanding of New York Cares' mission and the New York Cares hands-on, team-based model.
- A project that is well organized, where volunteers feel that their time is well spent.
- Clear expectations for volunteers, agency staff, and clients.
- An agency introduction, informing volunteers of the goals and mission of your agency at the start of each project.
- Good supervision and training, if necessary; a staff member must be present during all projects.
- Reliable support and cooperation.
- An understanding of how goals of the program are to be met and measured.
- Regular feedback on the program and completion of all relevant evaluation surveys

Becoming a New York Cares Community Partner

To apply to become a Community Partner, please email community.partners@newyorkcares.org. The partnership application process includes having an assessment call with a Community Partner Relations staff member to tell us more about your organization and volunteer needs, and then completing the partnership and project request applications. If your organization is accepted as a Community Partner, your Executive Director/Principal must sign an agreement which will confirm our partnership expectations. If you are a nonprofit organization, you must also provide a copy of your 501(c)(3) tax status letter from the IRS.

A completed application does not guarantee we can provide volunteers. If New York Cares approves your application, a Program Manager with expertise in planning the kind of project you have proposed will work with you to discuss the feasibility and timeline of your project and plan out the next steps. If all goes well, we will then seek a volunteer Team Leader for your project.

We estimate the project planning and organizing time for accepted applications to take about 6 - 8 weeks, but the process times can vary and depend on factors outside of our control (finding team leaders, available public transportation, resource requirements, etc.). We recommend you apply as far in advance of your desired project start date as possible to optimize your chances of receiving New York Cares volunteers and allow yourself time to locate other resources if necessary.

Other Resources

Holiday Programs

Winter Wishes for Kids and Families – Thousands of New Yorkers purchase gifts to make the holiday season brighter for 42,000 low-income children, teens, and seniors each year during November and December. Applications for agencies and schools to participate in the program are accepted from July through August each year.

New York Cares Coat Drive – New York Cares collects over 75,000 gently used winter coats each December and distributes them to thousands of men, women, and children who would otherwise go without them. Applications for agencies to receive donated coats are accepted from October through November each year.

List your Volunteer Opportunities on [newyorkcares.org](https://www.newyorkcares.org)

If your agency has volunteer needs that cannot be met under our standard project timeline or hands-on team-based model, we may be able to help you recruit volunteers informally through our website. We particularly recommend this option for organizations seeking individual volunteers or long-term specialized help.

Free Volunteer Management Trainings

New York Cares has a regularly updated schedule of free workshops on various volunteer management issues. Any employees of a New York City nonprofit, school, or park are welcome to attend. To learn more, visit <https://www.newyorkcares.org/trainings-we-offer> and <https://www.newyorkcares.org/vip-program>.