



Volunteering with IICF during COVID-19

While the COVID-19 pandemic necessitates the cancellation of many in-person and community volunteer projects this year, there are many other ways to make an impact in the communities where we live and work – safely and creatively through IICF.

The Importance of Virtual Volunteering

IICF Week of Giving in this pandemic year may take a different shape, yet the importance of volunteering and giving back – whether virtually or safely and socially distanced in-person – is more important than ever with needs increasing throughout our communities.

Volunteer teams no longer need to be physically together or working onsite with charities to make an impact. During this crisis, virtual volunteering can have an incredible impact on local communities adversely affected by the pandemic - without the need to leave your office or home.

Industrywide volunteering is still happening, although it is being reshaped to meet the challenges of today.

- Is it more complex? Yes.
- Are team and event-related strategies generally on hold? Yes.
- Are there volunteers out there ready to contribute? ***Without question!***

Strategies for Adapting your Volunteer Programme for IICF Week of Giving

Below are **three strategies** for reshaping your volunteer programmes and engaging employees during 2020 IICF Week of Giving and throughout the year.

First and foremost, it is important to ensure that all employees understand that you value their health and safety, as well as the health and safety of the charities you're supporting and their clients, or beneficiaries. **Above all, volunteer efforts at this time will adhere to maintaining social distancing and always respecting government guidelines.**

1. Virtual Volunteering: Engage Employees with Web-based Opportunities

Explore considerations for launching and growing your virtual strategy. Offering a wide range of virtual volunteering projects will help to encourage as many volunteers as possible to make the transition from in-person service, while hopefully broadening the base of volunteers and involving new individuals and teams in community service.

IICF offers a broad range of meaningful virtual volunteering projects with local and international organisations during the [Week of Giving](#) and throughout the year. Visit our website to find a [virtual volunteering project](#) that's right for you.

2. In-person Volunteering: Individual and Small Group Opportunities for Employees

Prioritise Health and Safety when Volunteering

With any in-person projects, please be safe and follow government guidelines when volunteering in-person. For volunteer safety guidelines, please visit the [NCVO website](#).

As you continue to seek and select charities that align with your company's community giving or CSR initiatives, please remember to ask IICF about its grant recipient charities, who are frequently looking for volunteers.

Nonprofit and charitable organisations such as [food banks](#), meal delivery services, and local health services are in real need of additional support. These organisations are providing opportunities that allow for social distancing and other safeguards. There is also a major call for blood donations and you can help fill the need by contacting your local clinic or clicking [here](#) for further information.

3. Skills-based Volunteering: Opportunities for employees to share their skills

Charities are facing a changing world of needs as well as fundraising and support challenges. They are adapting rapidly as we all are – moving programmes on-line and introducing ways their clients can remain safe while participating in programmes in-person.

To continue meeting client needs, charities require new skills, particularly in creating digital strategies and platforms to continue helping people in this new, virtual world.

In addition, charities including IICF grant recipients are looking for employees to share skills with people from diverse backgrounds; for instance, by providing 1:1 interview or CV advice or by leading virtual career insight days to help others secure meaningful employment while learning about the insurance industry.

IICF also recommends engaging your charity partners to understand their current needs – time, talent and treasure – and determine how best you can assist.

Volunteer, Give and Make an Impact with IICF!

#InsuranceGivesBack

Supporting the COVID-19 Crisis: IICF Children's Relief Fund

IICF is continuing to fundraise in support of our COVID-19 Crisis: IICF Community Recovery Fund through the autumn. Learn more about this Fund and how you can help children and families in need during the pandemic at: givi.ng/l21b.