



Greene County Board of Developmental Disabilities is being proactive and developing a list of community members that are interested in temporarily volunteering to help run errands, deliver groceries, etc. Please Email [allhandsin@greenedd.org](mailto:allhandsin@greenedd.org) or call 937-477-4286 for more information or to volunteer.

## COVID-19 (Coronavirus) FAQ for Volunteers

### ***1. Can private citizens volunteer their time to County Boards of DD?***

Yes. The Fair Labor Standards Act states that non-employees can volunteer for public agencies such as county boards of DD for “civic or humanitarian reasons” as long as they do so without being promised, expecting, or receiving compensation.

### ***2. What are some things a volunteer might do for a county board of DD?***

Volunteers can help with tasks such as distributing emergency supplies, assembling care packages, dropping off groceries or medications at people’s homes, and similar activities.

### ***3. Are there limits to what a county board volunteer can or should do?***

In light of COVID-19, volunteers’ direct exposure to people served will be limited. Volunteers are not permitted to provide direct supports that involve touching or physically moving people with developmental disabilities. For liability and human rights reasons, any task that involves helping a person served in a deeply personal way (such as dressing, toileting, and eating) should be left to a qualified direct support professional.

### ***4. Do volunteers have to go through background checks like staff?***

Volunteers who are not working directly with people served do not require full background checks. Prior to initiating volunteer activity, we do require all volunteers to attest in writing through a “Disqualifying Offenses Affidavit” that they have not pled guilty to or been convicted of any disqualifying offenses such as violent crimes or sexual offenses. Through signing this affidavit, volunteers also agree that they will alert the board within 14 days if they plead guilty or are convicted of any such offenses while they are volunteering for the board.

### ***5. Do volunteers have to undergo training?***

Volunteers who are not working directly with people served do not require formal training. All volunteers, regardless of their duties, will be briefed on proper social distancing and sanitizing practices as communicated by the Ohio Department of Health.

### ***6. Do volunteers have any liability if something bad happens while they are volunteering?***

County board volunteers are protected from liability in most instances by the federal Volunteer Protection Act of 1997; the Ohio “Good Samaritan Law,” which protects people who help in dangerous emergencies; and a separate state law specific to using AEDs. In most cases, volunteers will not be liable if something out of their control goes wrong. These protections are



forfeited, however, if a volunteer's actions are criminal, reckless, flagrantly negligent, and/or otherwise harmful to others. If a volunteer intentionally harms another person or board property, the law allows for them to be charged with a crime and/or sued in civil court depending on the specifics of the situation.

***7. Is a county board responsible for volunteers if they are hurt in the course of their assigned volunteer duties?***

GCBDD would only be liable for an injury to a volunteer if the board knowingly commits a crime against the volunteer or if the person is harmed directly as the result of a board action. No volunteers will be knowingly permitted to enter a space or environment in which COVID-19 cases have been confirmed.

***8. Can volunteers be reimbursed for expenses they incur in their duties?***

No, GCBDD will not reimburse for volunteer expenses. Doing so may affect your liability protection as a volunteer.