

SOME VARIABLES THAT AFFECT THE INVOLVEMENT OF CITIZENS AS VOLUNTEERS ON BEHALF
OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- o Size of population
- o Geographic size
- o Demographics: ages, races, income levels, etc. (but don't assume limitations!)
- o Proportion of population employed
- o Proximity to urban resources (and inclination to use such resources)
- o Mobility/transience of population
- o Presence of an institution of higher education
- o Presence of a "VAC" (Voluntary Action Center)
- o Development of organized volunteer coalitions
- o Location of County seat and State capital
- o Diversity of industry: types, sizes, farming or industrial
- o Strength of the local Chamber of Commerce
- o Attitudes of labor unions
- o Whether elected officials serve full-time or part-time
- o Whether elected officials are themselves volunteers—or "almost" volunteers
- o Longevity of present governmental structure
- o Number and type of salaried government employees
- o Local vs. regional public school system; presence and type of private schools
- o Presence of a "COG" (Council of Governments)
- o Extent of existing inter-community collaboration
- o Number of non-municipal residents who work in the area
- o Number of municipal residents who work outside of the area
- o State-of-the-art of established volunteer programs, especially in "traditional" settings
- o Success of present government-related volunteer programs
- o How decisions are reached in the upper levels of the government
- o Influence of religious institutions
- o Attitude of local newspaper and radio stations
- o Amount of physical work space utilized by government services
- o Availability of staff to coordinate a volunteer program
- o Success of volunteer involvement in neighboring communities
- o Willingness to examine all aspects of government operations for possible volunteer involvement, without pre-judging
- o Degree of enthusiasm for volunteerism
- o Attitude of local citizens towards government officials
- o Ability to provide supportive resources to assist volunteers