

# NSVP SURVEY

## Profiles a Growing Student Volunteer Movement

This report was compiled  
by NSVP staff member  
Gene Kates

ACTION's National Student Volunteer Program (NSVP) surveyed approximately 2,000 colleges and universities during the 1973-74 school year to compile the *Directory of College Student Volunteer Programs, Academic Year 1973-74*. The survey produced some impressive statistics on student volunteer activities throughout the United States.\*

The survey sample of 681 questionnaires represents returns from every state except Nevada. Table I is a breakdown of the survey sample showing the following information:

- (1) Number of college student volunteer programs in state.
- (2) Total budget of the student volunteer programs in state.
- (3) Number of college student volunteers in state.
- (4) Number of volunteer-hours served a week by the students in state.

The summary of this breakdown shows that the 681 reporting college student volunteer programs currently field 143,611 student volun-

teers who serve a total of 638,689 hours a week. This student volunteer effort provides approximately 23 million hours of community service per school year.

### Service Costs

As reported to NSVP on returned questionnaires, the sample of 681 volunteer programs are supported by \$8.5 million a year. This

means that the average cost of one hour of volunteer service is 37¢! This funding for student volunteer programs comes from a variety of sources. One hour of community service by a college student volunteer costing 37¢ is financed in the following way:

- 2¢ is generated by students participating in a wide variety of fund-raising events

(Continued on page 18)

### TOTAL STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

NSVP received information from student volunteer programs on college campuses across the United States. Of the 2,000 questionnaires that were distributed, 40 percent were completed and returned to NSVP. Based on the survey sample of 681 questionnaires, a statistical projection shows that the college student volunteer movement totals some 2,000 student volunteer programs involving an estimated 422,600 student volunteers. NSVP projects that college volunteers contribute approximately 1.9 million hours a week of volunteer services, or 67.6 million hours per school year. Compared with a full-time work force, 1.9 million hours a week is equivalent to 47,000 fully employed people. If valued at \$2.00 an hour, student volunteers are providing \$135 million worth of services to their communities each year.

NSVP estimates that some \$25 million was used to support student volunteers on college campuses for the academic year 1973-74.

\*Of the 2,000 questionnaires sent out, 710 were returned to NSVP completed and presumed valid; 58 questionnaires were returned stating no active volunteer program existed at present; 17 questionnaires were returned with duplicate or incomplete information, and they were eliminated for statistical purposes. Of the 710 valid questionnaires received by NSVP, this report is based on the 681 surveys that arrived in time to be analyzed in March, 1974.



**Table 1 COLLEGE STUDENT VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS  
A BREAKDOWN BY STATE OF NSVP SURVEY RESPONDENTS**

| State                | Student<br>Volunteer<br>Program | Total<br>Budget | College<br>Student<br>Volunteers | Hours/Week<br>Volunteer<br>Service |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Alaska               | 1                               | 168,000         | 45                               | 1,800                              |
| Alabama              | 6                               | 88,600          | 475                              | 885                                |
| Arkansas             | 2                               | 39,807          | 225                              | 675                                |
| Arizona              | 8                               | 52,350          | 2,080                            | 10,190                             |
| California           | 57                              | 1,593,337       | 19,270                           | 112,009                            |
| Colorado             | 8                               | 12,964          | 1,900                            | 12,450                             |
| Connecticut          | 18                              | 139,525         | 3,809                            | 13,365                             |
| District of Columbia | 4                               | 22,000          | 346                              | 7,222                              |
| Delaware             | 2                               | 6,200           | 560                              | 1,680                              |
| Florida              | 19                              | 124,875         | 1,704                            | 5,934                              |
| Georgia              | 12                              | 16,545          | 1,327                            | 4,061                              |
| Hawaii               | 3                               | 122,705         | 205                              | 2,330                              |
| Iowa                 | 14                              | 122,970         | 2,478                            | 12,533                             |
| Idaho                | 4                               | 109,200         | 120                              | 932                                |
| Illinois             | 33                              | 201,436         | 5,944                            | 26,535                             |
| Indiana              | 23                              | 73,186          | 4,041                            | 12,753                             |
| Kansas               | 11                              | 36,000          | 1,468                            | 4,816                              |
| Kentucky             | 7                               | 203,463         | 584                              | 3,212                              |
| Louisiana            | 8                               | 157,423         | 328                              | 2,265                              |
| Massachusetts        | 28                              | 454,158         | 5,944                            | 25,094                             |
| Maryland             | 11                              | 200,009         | 1,811                            | 7,821                              |
| Maine                | 7                               | 6,200           | 558                              | 1,604                              |
| Michigan             | 27                              | 520,533         | 5,918                            | 20,429                             |
| Minnesota            | 16                              | 157,560         | 1,850                            | 8,442                              |
| Missouri             | 18                              | 288,120         | 3,385                            | 17,460                             |
| Mississippi          | 4                               | 15,665          | 702                              | 777                                |
| Montana              | 4                               | 128,391         | 170                              | 1,925                              |
| Nebraska             | 8                               | 84,880          | 1,867                            | 11,037                             |
| North Carolina       | 17                              | 52,300          | 1,217                            | 4,483                              |
| North Dakota         | 3                               | 4,740           | 760                              | 5,148                              |
| New Hampshire        | 7                               | 25,400          | 219                              | 1,090                              |
| New Jersey           | 19                              | 481,774         | 3,610                            | 15,766                             |
| New Mexico           | 3                               | 10,500          | 75                               | 240                                |
| New York             | 61                              | 552,319         | 19,533                           | 123,757                            |
| Ohio                 | 35                              | 248,314         | 9,577                            | 36,226                             |
| Oklahoma             | 3                               | 15,400          | 560                              | 820                                |
| Oregon               | 11                              | 222,000         | 2,782                            | 15,351                             |
| Pennsylvania         | 38                              | 216,075         | 6,692                            | 19,015                             |
| Rhode Island         | 3                               | 3,900           | 645                              | 4,095                              |
| South Carolina       | 17                              | 216,982         | 3,558                            | 18,331                             |
| South Dakota         | 4                               | 2,800           | 695                              | 2,460                              |
| Tennessee            | 6                               | 4,335           | 788                              | 2,861                              |
| Texas                | 12                              | 112,165         | 2,070                            | 5,380                              |
| Utah                 | 7                               | 142,635         | 11,513                           | 7,616                              |
| Virginia             | 18                              | 321,181         | 2,331                            | 8,404                              |
| Vermont              | 5                               | 15,250          | 734                              | 1,822                              |
| Washington           | 23                              | 353,329         | 2,880                            | 16,038                             |
| Wisconsin            | 20                              | 259,834         | 3,466                            | 16,130                             |
| West Virginia        | 8                               | 88,915          | 626                              | 2,895                              |
| Wyoming              | 2                               | 45,280          | 164                              | 534                                |



- 4¢ is contributed from a variety of small or miscellaneous sources.

- 5¢ is generated directly through student fees.

- 11¢ is derived from the college or university administration.

- 15¢ comes from private or government-grants.

Figure 1 illustrates these funding sources for college student volunteer programs. It is interesting to note that about 50 percent of the cost of an hour of volunteer service is financed by the university community itself.

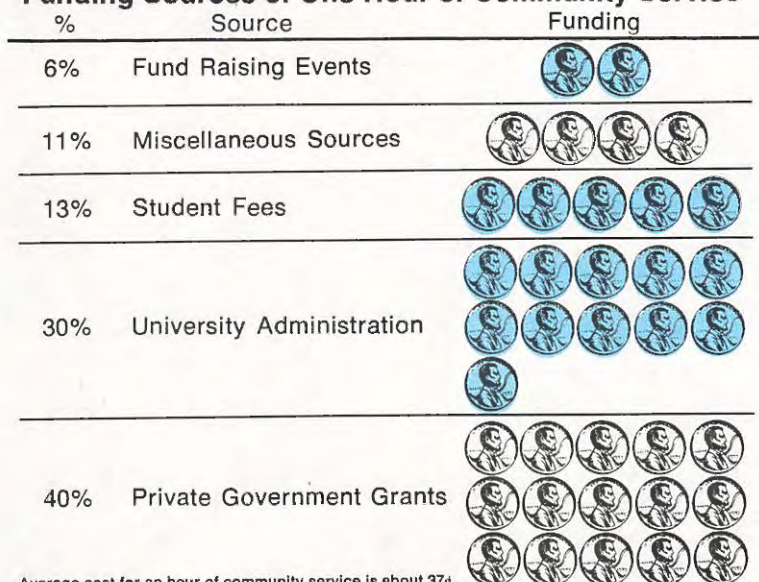
In addition to financial support, student volunteers are receiving support from professional administrators. Approximately 23 percent of the college student volunteer programs in the NSVP sample have a full-time director. Fifty-four percent are receiving the assistance of a part-time director. More than 5,000 people function as staff members in support of the sampled programs.

A third area of support reported to NSVP by college volunteer programs is in the growing number of colleges and universities that

grant academic credit for volunteer community service. Students in 54 percent of the volunteer programs sampled are receiving academic credit for community service work.

College volunteers participate in a wide diversity of community service activities. Figure 2 illustrates the 15 categories of student volunteer activities. Although the area of education is the largest single category, it represents only 11 percent of all volunteer service of college students in the NSVP sample group. Corrections and aging are

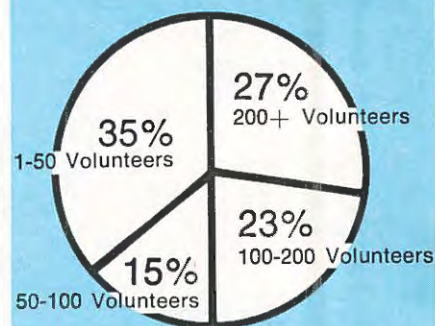
**Figure 1**  
**College Student Volunteer Programs**  
**Funding Sources of One Hour of Community Service**



Average cost for an hour of community service is about 37¢. Shaded area indicates that approximately 50% of cost of one hour of community service is financed by university community.

**Figure 3**

**College Student Volunteer Programs**  
**Number of Volunteers**



The median number of volunteers is 100 per program.

**Figure 2**  
**College Volunteer Programs**  
**Types of Activities**





growing areas of volunteer activity.

Student volunteer programs are shown to vary greatly in size, from programs that involve less than a dozen students to programs involving several thousand students or a majority of students on a campus. Approximately one-fourth are large programs involving more than 200 volunteers. The median volunteer strength is closer to 100 volunteers per program, but a sizable percentage of programs in the NSVP sample involve less than 50 college volunteers. (See Figure 3).

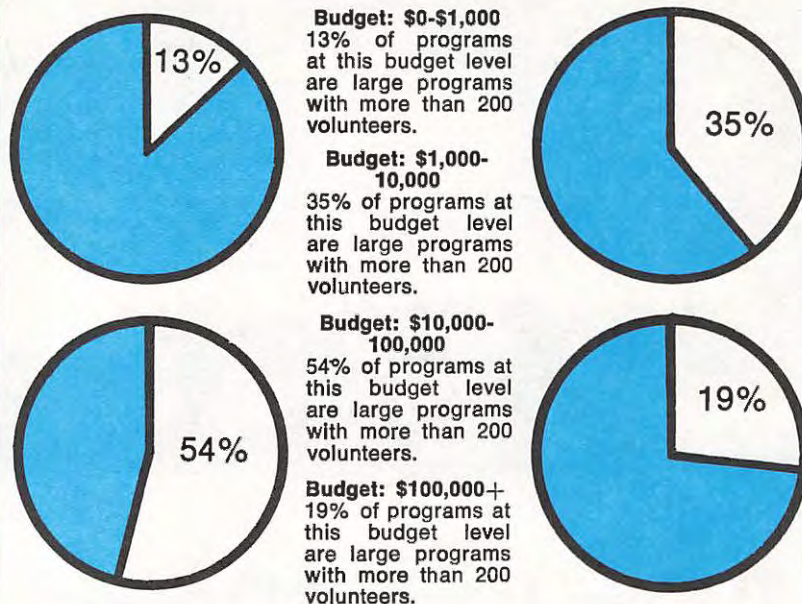
### Funding Levels

The range of funding levels of programs is as diverse as their size range. Approximately one-third of the college programs operate without funding.

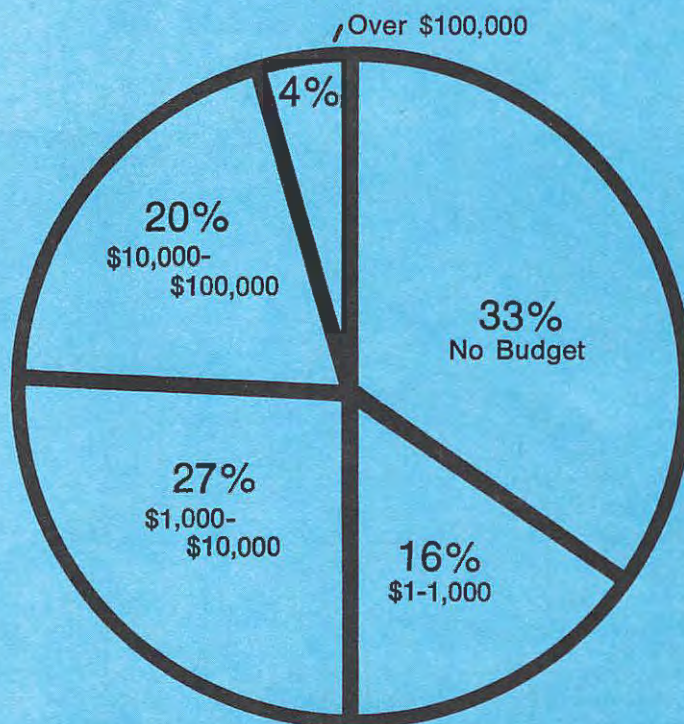
The median funding level is close to \$1,000 per program, and there is a small group of four percent that operate with budgets of over \$100,000. (See Figure 4).

An analysis of the funding level of college volunteer programs in comparison with the number of volunteers demonstrates that large volunteer programs are not necessarily those with the largest budgets. Figure 5 shows four budget levels. The percent of large programs (over 200 volunteers) for each budget level is indicated. Although the percent of large programs increases as the budget increases for the first three budget levels, in the fourth budget category (over \$100,000) the percentage of large programs drops significantly. This drop is attributed to the influence of full-time Federally funded college volunteer programs. Programs, such as University Year for ACTION (UYA), are financed by large government grants that support volunteers who work 40 hours a week. These full-time college volunteer programs in the NSVP sample average about 100 volunteers—approximately the median size. This explains why there is a lower percentage of large programs with budgets over \$100,000.

**Figure 5**  
**College Student Volunteer Programs**  
**A Comparison of Budget Level & Program Size**



**Figure 4**  
**College Volunteer Programs**  
**Funding Levels**



The median funding level is \$1,000.