

## Recruiting Technical Volunteers - Resources to Get You Started

*Please note: This is a living reference document that will continue to get updated. We hope others with knowledge in this space will contribute with additional suggestions, comments and ideas. Please feel free to use the comment function and we will review and update as appropriate.*

### **PUBLIC SERVICE ALUMNI NETWORKS**

#### **Overview/Description**

People who've been public servants themselves bring a wealth of empathy and understanding for what it's like to work inside government. They won't scoff at archaic practices or suggest switching everything over to google docs like it's a small thing. With a shared understanding, it's easy to hit the ground running with former colleagues from the U.S. Digital Service (USDS) who are now working with different states and cities across the country.

#### **What type of volunteer work is appropriate to ask for?**

Work with a clear objective. These organizations work off of goals more than requirements.

#### **Ways to Connect**

If your team is part of a digital service community through current or past work, they are likely connected through Slack, email lists or LinkedIn. A call out for help in these groups can do a lot to shape and also fill needed spots.

#### **More Information/Relevant Links**

### **SKILLS-BASED COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE, AFFINITY GROUPS, CHANNELS, ETC.**

#### **Overview/Description**

Identifying the exact thing that is needed - whether it's content, user research, or data science also helps to create a meaningful volunteer partnership. There are a number of organizations, communities of practice, digital service coalitions and public interest groups out there that have interests and superpowers in specific skillsets that can help.

#### **What type of volunteer work is appropriate to ask for?**

Work that is crucial for your organization and requires specialized skills.

#### **Ways to Connect**

Through specialized channels or communities of the skill that is needed. New America's Public Interest Technology team might also be able to help with this.

### **More Information/Relevant Links**

- [Datakind](#)
- [Design Gigs For Good](#)
- [New America's Public Interest Technology University Network](#)

## **CONSULTING ORGANIZATIONS & COMPANIES THAT DO PRO-BONO WORK**

### **Overview/Description**

Organizations who have client/consultant relationships for their day job are also often equipped to know how to add value where it's needed - and have the appropriate conversations to align on goals and objectives as a partnership.

### **What type of volunteer work is appropriate to ask for?**

Time-bound work that is crucial for your organization that you don't have the resources to support at the moment.

### **Ways to Connect**

Pathways to engage this cohort include: professional channels, responding to calls put out by different companies and organizations, or reaching out directly to a business with experience in the work you are looking for support on.

### **More Information/Relevant Links:**

- [Bloom Works](#) (we just put out [this call](#))

## **U.S. DIGITAL RESPONSE (USDR)**

### **Overview/Description**

While this is a new organization, they have amassed an impressive set of skilled volunteers - and have the leadership to appropriately vet and send in the right skills for a project. This organization reflects years of learning from civic tech volunteering and has brought the surgical precision needed for technical volunteering through their volunteer army.

### **What type of volunteer work is appropriate to ask for?**

They can replicate their projects to meet the specific needs of any state or local government (per their [offerings page](#) on their website).

### **Ways to Connect**

[This form](#) or try and reach out directly to someone on their team.

### **More Information/Relevant Links**

- [USDR Website](#)
- [News & Media Coverage](#)

## **CODE FOR AMERICA BRIGADE AND OTHER LOCAL CIVIC TECH COMMUNITIES**

### **Overview/Description**

Code for America Brigades are a network of nearly 90 local groups that play varying roles in civic life, including applying new tools to old problems (see [Courtbot](#)), building savvy communities ready to spring into action in a crisis (see [GetYourRefund](#)), and using data to hold government accountable (see [data advocacy work](#)). Your local group is likely a mix of traditional volunteers, advocates, students, public servants, and people who wear several of these hats, so it's worth investing the time to understand who you may be working with and align on desired change.

### **What type of volunteer work is appropriate to ask for?**

Work that can be influenced and shaped by input from the volunteers. Depending on local interest, thought partnership in problem-solving, software prototypes, user research, collaborative design.

### **Ways to Connect**

Contact an organizer and show up to a meetup (virtually) if there is one. Get to know the members and what type of work they are interested in or have capacity for.

### **More Information/Relevant Links**

- [The Brigade Network](#)

*What did we miss? Feel free to comment and will integrate them into the document periodically. Thank you in advance!*