



# I Want to Help

Empowering students. Supporting communities.

## **We need Canadian students' help to build a stronger tomorrow.**

The global COVID-19 pandemic has created economic and social challenges for post-secondary students and recent graduates starting post-secondary education in fall 2020. The coronavirus has negatively impacted learning and employment opportunities this summer and beyond. Canadian students are concerned about the impact on their ability to further their studies, save for their education and secure future employment.

At the same time, Canadian not-for-profits face notable disruptions to the essential community services they provide. The not-for-profit sector has been experiencing a reduction in support from volunteers due to Canadians following stay-at-home guidance. This has left many not-for-profits having to shift program delivery to focus on technology-driven support, and they are seeking volunteers with the skills and interest to support in this way.

In response, the Government of Canada has created I Want To Help, an initiative that will provide thousands of qualified post-secondary students with learning and volunteer opportunities to address relevant COVID-19 challenges at Canadian not-for-profits during summer 2020. Students participating will be eligible to apply for the Canada Student Service Grant - a cash award to be used towards post-secondary education. The CSSG cash award is incremental to the Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB) (\$1,250 monthly). Student volunteers receiving the CESB are eligible to apply to the CSSG cash award.

All volunteer placements are facilitated in a way that is safe to complete at this specific time while removing participation barriers. I Want To Help is bilingual, accessible and inclusive to help ensure participation from Canadians from coast to coast to coast, including those from Indigenous communities and from all underrepresented groups.

## How I Want To Help benefits students

I Want To Help is designed so that qualified post-secondary students can pursue a variety of volunteer opportunities that can put their interests and abilities to work for a not-for-profit cause this summer. This allows students to give back while they gain skills, experience and much more:

- Do meaningful volunteer work and give back in an intentional way
- Skills development with LinkedIn Learning
- Job training
- Feel connected to community
- All volunteer placements are designed to respect social distancing and other health and safety precautions established by the Public Health Agency of Canada
- Eligible to apply for the Canada Student Service Grant (CSSG) cash award to use towards post-secondary education. The CSSG cash award funds are incremental to the Canada Emergency Student Benefit (\$1,250 monthly). Students receiving the \$1,250 monthly CESB benefit are eligible for CSSG. However, students receiving the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) (\$2,000 monthly) are ineligible to receive the CSSG cash award

## Canada Student Service Grant (CSSG) cash award eligibility

1. To be considered an eligible student, a person must:
  - be enrolled and attending post-secondary education (PSE) during the spring/summer 2020 and/or September 2020; or
  - have graduated from PSE no earlier than December 2019; and
  - be a Canadian citizen, permanent resident, registered Indian, or have refugee status.
2. Domicile:
  - International students are not eligible.
  - Canadian students who study abroad but are currently residing in Canada, and do their volunteer hours in Canada, are eligible.
3. No age restrictions:
  - All students, regardless of age, who meet the eligibility criteria will receive the award.
4. Post-secondary education includes:
  - part-time or full-time study over a period of at least twelve weeks which must be in pursuit of a degree, diploma or certificate at an accredited institution. Accredited institutions are universities, colleges and Indigenous learning institutions accredited by the province or territory in which they are located.

## CSSG Eligibility of Students Receiving Other Income Benefits

1. The following students are eligible:
  - those receiving the Canada Emergency Student Benefit (\$1,250 monthly);
  - those who are employed; and
  - those receiving a stipend under the Canada Service Corps (CSC) micro-grant stream.
2. The following students are ineligible:
  - Students who are receiving, or who have received at any time, the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB, \$2000 monthly), are not eligible to receive the CSSG cash award. Students will be required to attest that they have at no time been in receipt of the CERB.

**Help us build this unique opportunity for the next generation of change-makers together.**



## Disbursement of the CSSG Cash Award

- Applicants must register by the deadline of August 8, 2020 in order to receive the cash award.
- Cash awards will be paid in a lump sum amount based on the number of validated volunteer hours that an applicant has completed between Monday June 15, 2020, and Tuesday September 15, 2020.
- The amounts for five levels of awards are as follows:
  - 100 hours for \$1,000.
  - 200 hours for \$2,000.
  - 300 hours for \$3,000.
  - 400 hours for \$4,000.
  - 500 hours for \$5,000.
- Applicants must reach the minimum number of hours for each threshold, e.g. an applicant who submits 270 hours is only eligible to receive the \$2,000 level award.
- Cash awards will be disbursed within 60 days of receipt of payment from the Government of Canada, unless demand exceeds initial projections and/or incomplete applications which require further review. Further information will be made available prior to program launch.

## I Want To Help volunteer opportunities

I Want To Help offers a variety of educational volunteer opportunities that will connect post-secondary students with not-for-profit organizations facing challenges due to the COVID-19 crisis in order to build skills and work experience. All volunteer placements are designed to respect social distancing and other health and safety precautions established by the Public Health Agency of Canada. Some examples include:

### Arts & Culture

Do you believe the arts have the power to advance change and produce a better society during a challenging situation? This is an opportunity to create something inspiring to share with the community while flexing verbal communication and creative writing skills. Examples may include interviewing and writing stories on behalf of seniors who have been isolated by COVID-19, to celebrate their lives and achievements, and share their wisdom and knowledge with the creation of an intergenerational capsule of community stories.

### Peer-to-Peer Mentorship

This is where the student becomes the teacher. Student volunteers can be paired with younger students in elementary, middle or secondary school who need additional educational support as a result of their academic studies being paused due to COVID-19. Both the mentors and students can develop their academic and communication skills.

### Mental Well-being

Mental health and well-being are of utmost importance during these turbulent times. Student volunteers can get involved in projects geared towards the support of increasing connections and building community despite the challenges presented by mandated physical distancing as a result of COVID-19.

### Advocacy & Outreach

Interested in a career in media, communications or public relations? As not-for-profits do their part to help flatten the curve, student volunteers can support a not-for-profit's outreach efforts—and in many cases, create a new digital platform—through online marketing research, planning, creative services, social media engagement and multi-media content creation.

### COVID-19 Safe Ambassador Training

Want to help communicate how a not-for-profit organization is being affected by COVID-19 and exercise leadership skills by mentoring others and members in your community? Through a 'train the trainer' approach, volunteers will be trained on critical social issues pertinent to a specific not-for-profit which is especially relevant at this challenging time (e.g., anti-bullying, literacy, mental health), and share their knowledge in one-to-one mentorship sessions with members in their community and help them develop personalized action plans.

**We are all in this together. We encourage all eligible post-secondary students to apply to I Want To Help today and help us create a stronger tomorrow. We also have marketing materials available that may assist in communicating I Want To Help within your organization and community.**