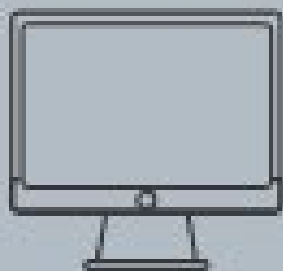


# Pivoting to Virtual Volunteering



June 25, 2020 | 10 AM

# Outline

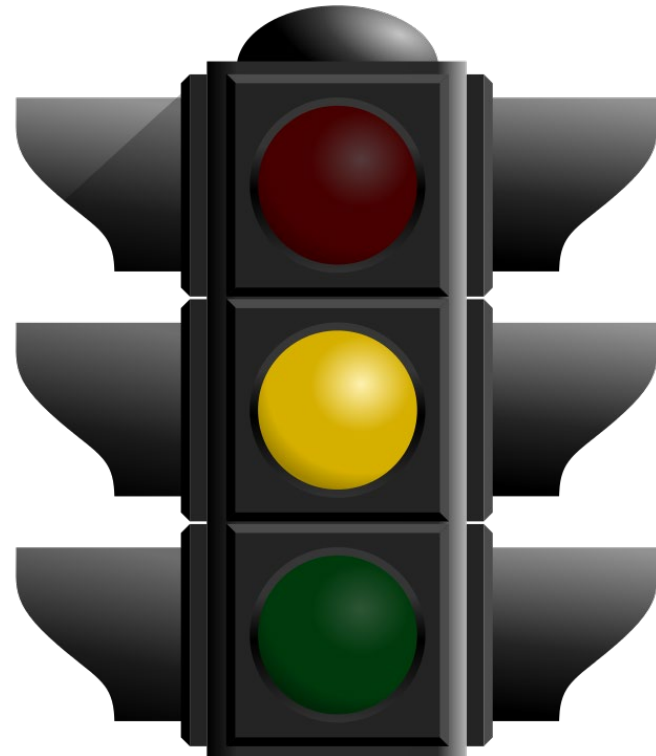
- Ice breakers – meet & greet
- Background
- Best practices for volunteer programs
- Types of positions
- Breakouts by topic/volunteer type



# Get to know each other



- Moving into the yellow phase means to me...



# Much uncertainty

- Campuses may open in the fall, but all indicators are that it will not be “normal.”
- While some students may be able to volunteer in person, not all will feel comfortable, and it’s likely that incentives to do so will be relaxed.



# But desire to engage remains

- Campuses still want to promote civic engagement, especially in light of recent civil unrest.
- Campuses are still trying to credential students in programs some of which require engagement (i.e. practicums, clinicals, student teaching).



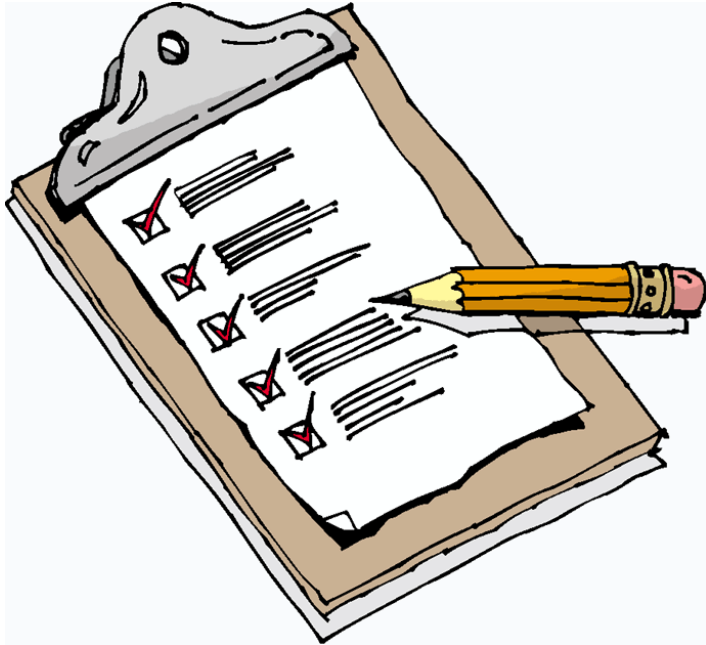
# New reality



- Nonprofits still have needs – often more so than pre-COVID.
- At the same time, organizations should not feel pressure to pivot for the sake of the campus or volunteer. Do this only if it makes sense for your organization.
- College students are not the only potential volunteers, though other groups may also want virtual opportunities for the time being.



# Best Practices



- Detailed position description – what will the person be doing, how often, with whom, to what end
- Time expectations – both hours per week, times of day, and minimum length of service
- Clear application process and timeline
- Ongoing supervision and feedback – initially, mid-points, at the end



# Types of positions

- Episodic – once a month or less. Days of service or special events.
- Weekly – 2-3 hours per week. Could be for a service-learning course or co-curricular.
- Federal Work Study – 8-10 hours per week. Paid by combination of federal dollars and either institution or organization. (Next Steps AmeriCorps)
- Internships/Clinicals/etc – can be 20+ hours per week. Managed by relevant academic departments.







# Volume

- Are volunteers core to your operation?
- Do you need a cohort of people or only 1-2?



# Virtual Ideas – working with children

- School District of Philadelphia issued new guidance for partner orgs.
- Principals have a large amount of discretion.
- Certain approved platforms.
- Orgs can ask for their domain to be white listed.
- See: <https://www.philasd.org/strategicpartnerships/wp-content/uploads/sites/83/2020/05/Guidance-for-Approved-School-Partners-Providing-Virtual-Support-1.pdf>



# Virtual Ideas – working with children

- Virtual tutoring & mentoring
- Producing short video content about: nutrition, STEM, voting, college access, social studies, you name it
- Live special events – guest speakers on career panels, college panels
- Asynchronous review of written work such as college essays



# More Virtual Ideas

- Phone/text based follow-up with clients
- Research projects on best practices in your field
- Social media promotion – outreach to younger audiences about your mission
- Public policy research
- Evaluation – transcribing surveys, analyzing data
- Grant writing
- Online public benefits screening



# Workshop

- Do an inventory of your organization's needs. What can be done by volunteers?
- What is the scope of this work? Task oriented or project-based? Time limited or ongoing?
- How will the work be supervised? What kind of training or orientation is necessary?
- If the work can't be done virtually, can it be restructured to minimize contact, number of times a volunteer needs to come, contactless delivery, etc.?

