

# Disaster Volunteer Infrastructure and Capacity Bill Overview

This bill [HF 2901/SF 2909] aims to bolster a cross-sector ‘whole community’ approach to disaster response and recovery and support the needs of vulnerable populations following a disaster through investment in a reliable and efficient nonprofit and volunteer infrastructure.

The bill includes two elements:

ONE

## Strengthen Disaster Volunteer Infrastructure:

Funding for MN VOAD Staffing. Minnesota relies heavily on volunteers and charity to help individuals and families impacted by disaster start the process of recovering. This bill would provide funding to hire a director of Minnesota Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster [MN VOAD], thus providing a reliable and consistent partner for the state when it comes to helping individual and families and supporting vulnerable populations post-disaster. A director would ensure that MN VOAD is well positioned to respond in a coordinated, reliable way when disaster strikes, and vulnerable individuals need critical assistance. It also positions the organization to build out new partnerships.

TWO

## Expand Disaster Volunteer Capacity:

Funding Volunteer Development & Training Grants. It can be hard to find volunteers to help with lower-attention disasters in Minnesota, especially outside of the Twin Cities and other metro areas in the state. Developing more local volunteer capacity spread across the state will help ensure an adequate response to local, lower-attention disasters in Minnesota. A capacity building grant program will give counties and nonprofits resources to recruit and train local volunteers to fill this current gap in Minnesota’s volunteer infrastructure. These funds could be used to train, coordinate, and supervise volunteers to ensure adequate volunteers are available and can be mobilized for lower-attention disasters in Minnesota, as part of MN VOAD or another community-based groups.

DISASTER +  
RECOVERY



Team Rubicon volunteer



MN-WI Baptist Convention volunteers



Lyon County flooding



NECHAMA Volunteer Clean-Up Day,  
Wadena, MN

For more information  
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