Volunteers have always been critical to the success of senior nutrition programs. They help to support the Administration for Community Living’s (ACL) critical mission to keep seniors independent as they age. For many years, across the Nation, volunteers have helped to disseminate millions of meals every year to older adults in virtually every community in the country. During this COVID-19 public health emergency, the need for additional volunteers has been great and will likely continue past the duration of this national crisis.

The National Resource Center on Nutrition and Aging (NRCNA) is hosted by Meals on Wheels America as part of a cooperative agreement with the Administration for Community Living. Meals on Wheels America is a leadership organization supporting the more than 5,000 community-based programs across the country that are dedicated to addressing senior isolation and hunger. This network serves virtually every community in America and, along with more than two million staff and volunteers, delivers the nutritious meals, friendly visits and safety checks that enable America’s seniors to live nourished lives with independence and dignity.

Here is a selection of NRCNA curated resources on the topic of volunteering:

From the Meals on Wheels America – America, Let’s Do Lunch website:

“America, Let’s Do Lunch™” is sending tens of thousands of new volunteers to Meals on Wheels programs across the country. These volunteer prospects have reported that they want a smooth, low-friction experience: keep any steps to start volunteering as clear and simply as possible while also staying personal and timely in communications. Explore the on-demand webinars below for ideas on how to engage and convert them seamlessly into dedicated parts of a volunteer army.

- Low-Friction OnBoarding
- FAQs About Volunteering - America Let’s Do Lunch

From a Meals on Wheels webinar with VolunteerMatch, on April 23, 2019

- Tips for Engaging Pro Bono and Skilled Volunteers in Your Organization
- Pro Bono and Skills Based Volunteer Worksheet

Sterling Volunteer Resources has the following resources available on their website:

- Infographic: Volunteer Screening Trends & Best Practices
- Return on Volunteer Investment Calculator
- 2020 Industry Insights: How volunteer and Organization Perspectives Align
- Volunteer Engagement Amid the Coronavirus Pandemic: A Virtual Convening
- Setting Up for Success: Training Staff and Volunteers

From the engAGED: National Resource Center for Engaging Older Adults website:

- Health Benefits of Volunteering
- Volunteer Engagement in the Aging Network (an online course)
- Stay Active Through Volunteering