

**Volunteering and Benefits**

As an organisation it is important to understand the financial implication of volunteering for some people.

Some volunteers will be in a position where they are comfortable financially. They may not claim expenses even if they are incurred through volunteering. If you are a small, mostly volunteer-run organisation, you may find that volunteers are happy to use their car, drive and buy their own coffee when volunteering, whilst never claiming any money back from the organisation.

However, there are other volunteers who will need to claim their expenses, as they cannot be left out of pocket. For many, every penny counts, and as an organisation you need to be aware of this. Some volunteers may need to be given money from petty cash on the day, rather than claim their expenses once a month or week. Offering an element of confidential flexibility on this matter will make sure that you do not exclude anyone from volunteering, especially because of their financial situation.

A big question for volunteers is: **How will volunteering affect my benefits?**

If any of your volunteers claim state benefits, it is important that they, and you, understand their rights. In most cases, volunteering should not affect state benefits, providing that -

* the only money received from volunteering is to cover actual out of pockets expenses
* and that commitments made to the DWP are honoured

(For example, if a volunteer claims job seekers allowance, they can still volunteer, but must be actively looking for work, and be available to interview.)

If you are a full-time volunteer and you receive an allowance, then usually you will not be eligible to receive benefits. But, this is worth checking depending upon your particular case.

More information can be found via this link [Volunteering and claiming benefits - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/volunteering-and-claiming-benefits)

For information on specific benefits, it is best to speak to a member of the Department of Work and Pensions directly or via your journal if you claim Universal Credit.

**If you would like more information regarding volunteer recruitment, get in touch with us at** **volunteercentre@voluntarynorfolk.org.uk**