

Driver Responsibility Community Service Program

What is the Driver Responsibility Community Service Program?

A new state law takes effect January 1, 2015 that allows eligible individuals to perform community service as an alternative to paying fines for certain driving violations under the state's Driver Responsibility Fee law. Each qualifying violation requires an individual to complete 10 hours of community service to be eliminated. The program will run from January 1 - December 31, 2015. About 168,000 Michigan drivers are eligible for community service to erase their qualifying Driver Responsibility Fee assessments.

How will this impact nonprofits and volunteer organizations around the state?

Michigan nonprofits, volunteer organizations, faith-based and local service groups may see an influx of inquires during 2015 from individuals looking to complete community service. The Michigan Community Service Commission, and Departments of State and Treasury, encourage you to accept volunteers from this program if possible to help those trying to minimize their financial burdens.

Individuals participating in the program will have a special form from the state that must be signed by the organization through which they did their volunteer hours. They are required to return this form in order to complete the program and have their fees eliminated.

What is the Driver Responsibility Fee Law?

The Driver Responsibility Fee law was enacted in 2003 as a means of improving traffic safety. Motorists convicted of certain violations were required to pay a Driver Responsibility fee that could range from a few hundred dollars to thousands of dollars, depending on the offense. The law has always faced some resistance and two recent actions by the Legislature, 1.) Creates the opportunity for eligible motorists to complete community service in lieu of paying the fines, and 2.) Phases out the law by 2019.

How does the program work?

- Eligible motorists will be notified in December by a letter from the Michigan Department of Treasury with instructions and application forms.
- Motorists must complete the included application letter, indicating the type of community service they intend to complete, and mail it to Treasury for approval.
- Once an individual has received their verification letter with approval, they have 45 days to complete their community service.
- The person who supervised the community service must sign the community service form verifying the hours were completed. The motorist will send this form to Treasury to have their qualifying assessments removed from their record.



Definition of community service

As defined in the law, community service is: Engaging in a useful and productive activity for someone other than a family member without receiving any compensation (money or gifts). Volunteer work at local nonprofits (organizations classified as a "504c(3)"), churches, schools, or city and state agencies can be eligible.

Qualifying Violations for Community Service

- No Proof of Insurance
- No insurance
- Drove without Proper License/Endorsement/Vehicle Group Designator
- Drove While License Expired
- Drove While Unlicensed or License Not Valid

Resources for volunteer opportunities:

- www.michigan.gov/volunteer (Driver Responsibility tab in left column)
- Volunteer Centers, www.mivolunteers.org
- Call 2-1-1

For more information

If a nonprofit has any questions about the Driver Responsibility law, please refer to:

- The Driver Responsibility website at michigan.gov/driverresponsibility
- Department of Treasury, at 517-373-3223

Questions from the public should be directed to

- Department of Treasury at 800-950-6227
- MCSC at 517-335-4295 (for help finding a nonprofit organization)

Who's spearheading the Driver Responsibility efforts?

The Michigan Department of Treasury is the lead agency for the Driver Responsibility Community Service program. Treasury is coordinating with the Secretary of State's Office to ensure that any changes to an individual's Driver Responsibility assessments are accurately reflected on the driving record and in any licensing actions that may apply.

