

# Scholarship Guidelines & Criteria for Eligibility

## About the Fund

Proceeds from successful statewide trainings and contributions from individuals and organizations in the field of volunteerism make up the Miriam Karlins Scholarship fund. The scholarship is intended to enable and encourage professionals in the field to further enhance and develop their volunteer resource leadership skills. The Scholarship Selection Committee reserves the right to consider exceptions to stated criteria as deemed applicable, and to limit and/or award funds as necessary, prudent, and advantageous to the profession. Funds will be distributed on a "first come – first served" basis to those that meet all eligibility requirements and are selected by the Scholarship Selection Committee.

## History

Miriam Karlins was a pioneer in reforming the mental health system, a leader of volunteers, and a lifelong advocate for people with developmental challenges and other mental health issues. The Karlins Center (for adults with autism) in Plymouth, MN was dedicated in her name for the many years she spent working with and supporting Opportunity Partners. Miriam was the founder of the Association for Volunteer Administration. She was the first Chief Executive of Volunteer Services in the Minnesota Department of Public Welfare (now known as the Department of Human Services). In the 1970s Miriam was instrumental in the formation of the Governor's Office of Volunteer Services (GOVS). Governor Wendell Anderson brought Miriam in to write the first federal proposal for GOVS after recommending what a State Office of Volunteerism would do. Miriam was a beloved leader in the field of volunteerism and her memory is carried on today through the work of volunteer administrators. Miriam began this scholarship fund herself, in the hope of providing assistance for leaders of volunteers seeking professional development.

## Who is eligible:

- Individuals who are actively involved in volunteer administration on a paid or unpaid basis.
- Funds are available to Minnesota Association for Volunteer Administration members only.
- Recipient may receive only one award per calendar year and the amount will not exceed 50% of the requested registration fee.
- Note: Individuals volunteering more than 30 hours of time to a MAVA event will be allowed special consideration in regard to MAVA membership and the percentage of the registration fee granted.

## The following priorities will be considered:

- Individuals with a demonstrated commitment to the field and to assisting their colleagues in professional growth.
- Individuals for whom it would be a hardship to participate in the specified training experience without access to scholarship funds.
- Applicants from diverse types of statewide programs.
- Maximizing the impact of available fund.