

FULLER CENTER FOR HOUSING



TOOLKIT FOR WORKING PROFESSIONALS

THE PROBLEM:

You would love to spend a week volunteering to change the world, but that pesky little thing called a job gets in the way.

THE SOLUTION:

Asking your employer to sponsor your trip not by donating money, but by donating time. It's feasible for enterprises of all sizes:

- Many Fortune 500 companies have CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) programs that allow employees time away for volunteering.
- Smaller employers may find it an easy way to support the cause—and they realize it helps to boost morale and build employee engagement in addition to giving back to the community.



Below are some tips to help you prepare to pitch this idea to the right person in your company—it could be your HR team, your boss or the head of your department.

Getting Started

- If you're not sure, contact your HR business partner to see if your company has a CSR program and what it entails.
- Prepare for a conversation with the right decision maker in your company to pitch your idea and gain approval. Then, schedule a time to meet.
- Be sure to focus on how your volunteer work can enrich your organization while also supporting a great cause.

Questions to Consider

- Could some or all of your volunteer time be covered by your employer in lieu of vacation time?
- Has your company ever considered sponsoring a trip for staff as a team building event? (Optional)

Clearly Explaining the Business Benefits

- Integrating philanthropy with work makes people more productive and can reduce employee turnover by as much as 50%*
- Companies that include philanthropy in their brand message can command higher prices and attain greater market value*.
- Incorporating CSR into the business has become a prerequisite for competition and recruiting (especially with millennials).
- Giving back is an investment, not charity. New customers are enabled, innovations discovered, and presence is created in markets otherwise out of reach.

*Project ROI (ongoing study from Babson College funded by Verizon and Cambell's)