

# Hampton Roads Sanitation District (HRSD) Sustainable Water Initiative for Tomorrow (SWIFT) Community Commitment Program



National Environmental  
Achievement  
AWARDS

NEAA26 COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

## Community Commitment Program

HRSD SWIFT partners are delivering a positive impact on the communities we serve through our Community Commitment Program, with SWIFT partners submitting plans aligned to the program's pillars and HRSD's Strategic Plan.

### Community Commitment Pillars:

Environmental Stewardship

Economic Development

Growth of the Industry  
through Education

Workforce Development

Equitable Water Future

Support of Community Basic Needs



**7,549**  
volunteer hours



**10,559**  
pounds of trash  
collected

**\$76,500**  
**\$76,550**  
**\$29,365**  
**\$13,226**

donated to Chesapeake Bay  
watershed restoration activities

donated to various  
local nonprofits

donated to local schools,  
colleges, and universities

donated to Help 2 Others (H2O)  
Water Assistance Program



**\$26,403**  
Foodbank donations

**25,113**  
cans of food donated

**22+**  
hours volunteered  
at Foodbank of  
Southeastern Virginia

**10,403**  
total meals provided

**18**  
family Thanksgiving  
meals provided



**HRSD's Community Commitment Program:  
Building a Sustainable Future for Hampton Roads**



Hampton Roads Sanitation District (HRSD) is redefining how public infrastructure can benefit communities. Through the Sustainable Water Initiative for Tomorrow (SWIFT), a nearly \$3 billion investment, HRSD is protecting the region's groundwater, restoring the Chesapeake Bay, and addressing challenges such as sea level rise and saltwater intrusion. But HRSD knew that building infrastructure alone wasn't enough—its impact could extend far beyond pipes and treatment plants.

To make this vision a reality, HRSD launched the Community Commitment Program in 2018. The program requires all SWIFT business partners—ranging from national engineering firms to local contractors—to reinvest in the communities they serve. By doing so, partners help expand HRSD's Vision and Promise.

At the heart of the Community Commitment Program is the Community Commitment Framework, which guides partners through six pillars: Environmental Stewardship, Economic Development, Growth of the Industry through Education, Workforce Development, An Equitable Water Future, and Support of Community Basic Needs. Partners report activities through HRSD's Community Commitment Plan Portal, track outcomes, and submit annual plans and reports.

Since the program began, partners have contributed 6,202 volunteer hours, collected 10,559 pounds of trash, donated 22,417 cans of foods, labeled 191 storm drains, donated \$76,500 to Chesapeake Bay restoration, \$76,550 to local nonprofits, and

\$24,056 to food banks, while also building two playgrounds and renovating a high school courtyard.

In 2023, partners asked for guidance and support in the economic development pillar. HRSD has since launched the Mentor-Protégé Program, pairing Small, Women-owned, and Minority-owned (SWaM) businesses with SWIFT project partners. These protégés receive mentoring in management, finance, contracting, business development, and communications and marketing. Ten Virginia-based SWaM firms have already completed the program, gaining mentoring experience to help compete for future contracts throughout Virginia.

The success of the Community Commitment Program has inspired HRSD to scale the program across all future contracts, creating a first-of-its-kind initiative in the Eastern United States. By connecting infrastructure investment with meaningful community engagement, HRSD is building a more resilient, equitable, and sustainable Hampton Roads—one project, one partnership, and one community at a time.