



Years of preparation enabled grassroots organizations statewide to train tens of thousands of volunteers to act as constitutional observers and support families with safety patrols, food delivery, rides, and translation during Operation Metro Surge and Operation Parris in Minnesota from December 2025 to March 2026 and beyond.

\$7.7M IN MUTUAL AID

raised by Faith in Minnesota that directly supported nearly 13,000 people¹

IN A SURVEY, VOLUNTEERS INDICATED:

- **Only 1%** said they would not volunteer again, despite threats and other significant challenges faced.
- **Top emotions felt were:**
Anger, Grief, and Hope.
- **Top motivations for volunteering were:**
“Protecting my community” (81%);
“Faith or spiritual calling” (69%);
“Anger or urgency” (65%).
- **Top actions of volunteers:**
Vigils or gatherings (80%), Large demonstrations (78%); Small solitary gatherings (60%);
Mutual aid / fundraising (56%); Delivering food or supplies (45%).

6,500+ PEOPLE

were recruited and trained by members of Faith in Minnesota, a faith-based community organization.¹

50,000+ VOLUNTEERS

were trained by MN Unidos between February 2025 and March 2026 to be neighborhood observers through their non-violent peaceful action campaign, Monarca. Building off of this campaign, Monarca Democracy Defense was launched in April to create a network of people working towards safe, free, and fair elections.²

35,000+ VOLUNTEERS

were trained as constitutional observers, from November to the end of February in 82 of the 87 Minnesota counties, by the Immigrant Defense Network. The training expanded to Wisconsin, Iowa, South Dakota and North Dakota. It has further evolved into Democracy Protection Training, a program to “strengthen civic participation” and “create a stronger foundation for what democracy will need next.”³

1. Source: McMahon, L., & McKenna, L. (2026, September 22). “I want to care for and protect my neighbors”: The visible and hidden community defense work of ISALAH and Faith in Minnesota leaders during Operation Metro Surge [Executive Summary & Presentation]. Documenting the Impact of DHS Activity in Minnesota.
2. Source: Peters, J. (2026, August 24). “How ICE-response networks are being transformed for Minnesota elections.” Sahan Journal. <https://sahanjournal.com/democracy-politics/minneapolis-minnesota-voter-information-sessions-unidos/>
3. Source: Minnesota Truth Council testimony, Public meeting #3 (September 17, 2026)

MUTUAL AID NETWORKS PROVIDING RENT RELIEF TO NEIGHBORS

\$21M+

estimated rent relief
distributed in the
Twin Cities Metro

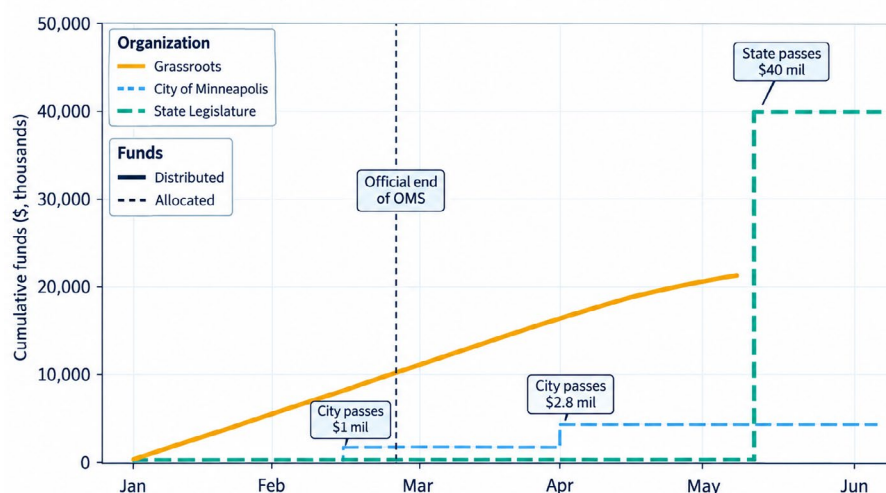
75%

of Jan.-Feb. relief
distributed through hyperlocal
neighborhood funds

42

faith, school, and
neighborhood funds provided
immediate rent relief

Figure 1. Cumulative funds distributed by grassroots organization and allocated by city/state government (January - May 2026)



Mutual aid networks provided immediate rent relief, while City and State rental assistance are moving through public funding processes on longer timelines.⁴

DATA INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVES

Community volunteers and nonprofit organizations used data collection efforts and legal resource networks to increase access to public information and fill in gaps of administrative data. Examples include:

HabeasDockets.org - A coordinated effort by vetted volunteers to digitize and enhance public access to federal habeas corpus case documents.

<https://habeasdockets.org>

Habeas Project - A national effort to connect unlawfully detained noncitizens with pro bono legal representation to seek release through habeas corpus petitions. The Minnesota chapter is based at the University of Minnesota Law School.

<https://nipnl.org/habeas-project>

Deportation Data Project - An initiative by UC Berkeley and UCLA using public records litigation to obtain, post, and analyze U.S. government immigration enforcement data.

<https://deportationdata.org/>

People Over Papers - A crowdsourced mapping project using anonymous reporting on immigration enforcement activity to produce real-time data across all 50 states.

<https://www.peopleoverpapersmap.com>

Third Country Deportation Watch - An initiative by Refugees International and Human Rights First to use transparency requests, on-the-ground sources, and public reporting to determine the number of removed third-country nationals.

<https://www.thirdcountrydeportationwatch.org>

4. Source: Murad, Y., Graetz, N., & Fairbanks, A. (2026, September 22). Mutual aid as the frontline response in a crisis: Rent relief efforts during Operation Metro Surge [Executive Summary & Presentation]. Documenting the Impact of DHS Activity in Minnesota.