

# FY 2011 CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET REQUEST

Prepared by  
The National Senior Corps Association



## Total Budget (Foster Grandparent Program, RSVP, Senior Companion Program)

Senior Corps Program	FY 2008 Enacted	FY 2009 Enacted	FY 2010 Enacted	FY 2011 President's Request	FY 2011 NSCA Request
Foster Grandparent Program (FGP)	\$108,999,000	\$108,999,000	\$110,996,000	\$111,100,000	\$132,962,147
RSVP	\$58,642,000	\$58,642,000	\$63,000,000	\$63,000,000	\$67,589,771
Senior Companion Program (SCP)	\$46,144,000	\$46,144,000	\$46,904,000	\$47,000,000	\$59,780,346

## FY 2011 NSCA Budget Request and Priorities

NSCA requests \$132,962,147 for the **Foster Grandparent Program (FGP)**, \$67,589,771 for **RSVP**, and \$59,780,346 for the **Senior Companion Program (SCP)** in FY 2011. This is an increase of \$39,432,264 over the FY 2010 enacted level. This level of funding will provide for continued support and a small administrative increase for existing grantees, competition for new grantees, and a stipend increase for Foster Grandparents and Senior Companions.

- **Support for Continuing Services - \$220,900,000 (FGP - \$110,996,000; RSVP - \$63,000,000; SCP - \$46,904,000).** These grant funds allow existing Senior Corps programs and the nearly 500,000 volunteers to continue providing critical services, including:
  - ◊ **Independent living services.** SCP volunteers provide companionship and support needed to help frail seniors remain independent and in their own homes at a cost lower than institutional care. RSVP volunteers provide a range of services to frail elders and people with disabilities, and respite to caregivers to help preserve independent living and reduce costly institutionalization.
  - ◊ **Mobilizing volunteers.** RSVP volunteers recruit or manage additional community volunteers to serve in local communities.
  - ◊ **Serving children and vulnerable families.** FGP volunteers tutor children with low literacy skills and mentor troubled teenagers and young mothers. RSVP volunteers tutor thousands of children, and steer disadvantaged children and youth toward a more productive and responsible path.
  - ◊ **Assisting in disaster preparedness and recovery.** Often the first national service participants to respond, RSVP volunteers staff emergency kitchens and shelters, distribute food and clothing, and assist in relocating affected individuals and families.
  - ◊ **Assisting with clean energy programs.** RSVP volunteers provide home-based services such as weatherization and handyman assistance to families in need of extra support.
- **New Initiatives - \$5,940,050 (FGP - \$2,047,550; RSVP - \$1,800,000; SCP - \$2,092,500).** 10 new FGP and 10 new SCP programs will be established in geographic areas that do not currently have existing programs and that address current priorities. 20 new RSVP programs will be established to support the work of nonprofit organizations that address current priorities. Current priorities include child obesity, high school completion, jobs, long-term care, and family caregiver support.
- **Administrative Adjustment - \$4,418,000 (FGP - \$2,219,920; RSVP - \$1,260,000; SCP - \$938,080).** Senior Corps programs will receive a 2% increase to expand organizational capacity and for other essential administrative costs. Support is particularly crucial in the current economic environment.
- **Stipend Increase - \$15,931,440 (FGP - \$10,377,360; SCP - \$5,554,080).** Foster Grandparents and Senior Companions will receive a \$.35 stipend increase from \$2.65/hour to \$3.00/hour. Amount is based on current volunteer levels.
- **Programs of National Significance (PNS) Grants - \$13,142,774 (FGP - \$7,321,317; RSVP - \$1,529,771; SCP - \$4,291,686).** PNS grants will be awarded to expand operations and services into new geographic areas, and increase the number of volunteers. PNS grants are awarded on a competitive basis.
- **Silver Scholarships.** While current legislation does not exclude Senior Corps volunteers from receiving Silver Scholarships, it does not specifically state that they are included. NSCA requests allowing flexibility in rule interpretation to allow Senior Corps program eligibility for Silver Scholarships. Silver Scholarships are \$1,000 transferable education awards for adults age 55 and older who serve 350 hours per year. The award may be given to their child or grandchild. NSCA requests \$1,000,000 for Silver Scholarships.

## Budget Summary (Foster Grandparent Program, RSVP, Senior Companion Program)

Senior Corps Program	New Initiatives	Administrative Adjustment	Stipend Increase	PNS	Subtotal
Foster Grandparent Program (FGP)	\$2,047,550	\$2,219,920	\$10,377,360	\$7,321,317	\$21,966,147
RSVP	\$1,800,000	\$1,260,000	NA	\$1,529,771	\$4,589,771
Senior Companion Program (SCP)	\$2,092,500	\$938,080	\$5,554,080	\$4,291,686	\$12,876,346



## PROGRAM SUMMARY

**SENIOR CORPS** is a federally authorized and funded network of national service programs that provide older Americans with the opportunity to apply their life experiences to meeting community needs. Senior Corps is comprised of the Foster Grandparent Program, RSVP, and the Senior Companion Program, through which about 500,000 Americans age 55 and older use their skills and experience to cost-effectively address vital community needs. It has been stated that baby boomer and senior volunteers represent our Nation's single and fastest growing resource. During this unprecedented economic crisis facing our Nation, the number of baby boomer and senior volunteers should be greatly expanded and mobilized as solutions to the problems facing our local communities. NSCA's 2010 budget request will provide the opportunity for thousands more older adults to serve in their communities and enhance the lives of those most in need, including children with special needs, the frail and isolated elderly striving to maintain independence, and expanding the services of local non-profit agencies.

**Foster Grandparent Program** provides one-on-one attention to children and youth most at risk in schools, shelters, correctional facilities, early childhood centers and after-school programs. Through a caring, nurturing, mentoring role, Foster Grandparents provide assistance and encouragement to help improve reading skills, school attendance, behavior and the well-being of children in their care. In 2009, 28,400 Foster Grandparents contributed 24 million hours to help 247,080 children and youth. Foster Grandparents served through 328 federally funded programs nationwide and partnered with over 10,000 community organizations. Of the 247,080 children served, almost 150,000 were mentored. Nearly 8,000 of these were children of incarcerated parents. Foster Grandparents are 55 years of age and older with limited incomes (200% of poverty), and serve weekly schedules ranging from 15-40 hours. They are provided with hourly stipends, mileage and meal reimbursements, so that they may volunteer at little or no personal cost to themselves.

**RSVP** connects volunteers 55 and older with service opportunities that impact positive change, improve quality of life and meet critical needs in their communities. RSVP volunteers help build capacity and improve sustainability in agencies and organizations where they serve. RSVP engages seniors in a wide array of community services including health, nutrition, human services, education, community and economic development, and public safety to nonprofit and community based organizations. In 2009, 405,000 RSVP volunteers contributed 62 million hours of service through 741 programs nationwide, and worked with more than 65,000 community organizations. RSVP offers flexible volunteer opportunities with commitments from a few hours a week to 40 hours a week. Volunteers do not receive monetary incentives or stipends.

**Senior Companion Program** provides assistance and friendship to frail individuals who are homebound and, generally, living alone. By taking care of simple chores, providing transportation to medical appointments, and offering contact with the outside world, Senior Companions often provide the essential services that enable frail citizens to remain in their homes. The program meets the growing need for cost effective long-term care for the aging by helping with activities of daily living, friendly visits and providing respite for primary caregivers. In 2009, 15,200 Senior Companions provided 12,200,000 hours of service through 194 federally funded programs nationwide to help 68,200 frail clients, preventing premature and costly institutionalization at an annual savings of over \$200 million. Senior Companions are 55 years of age and older with limited incomes (200% of poverty), and serve weekly schedules ranging from 15-40 hours. They are provided with hourly stipends, mileage and meal reimbursements, so that they may volunteer at little or no personal cost to themselves.

**The Senior Corps** - Foster Grandparent Program, RSVP, and Senior Companion Program - has over 35 years of successful, performance measurement and has provided cost-effective services to Americans who need attention or a helping hand - saving Americans millions of dollars. For decades, the Senior Corps programs and older volunteers have been the cornerstone of national service and civic engagement. During difficult Federal budget times, senior volunteers are a stabilizing force in communities across our nation by providing the most cost-effective service to those in need. Now, as our communities are faced with increasing needs and shrinking resources, Senior Corps volunteers are a vital natural resource to help our communities meet the critical health and social challenges facing our Nation.

**Through SENIOR CORPS, Foster Grandparent Program, RSVP, and Senior Companion Program volunteers provided 98,200,000 hours of service during 2009.  
The national dollar value of volunteer time was \$20.25 per hour.  
The total Senior Corps volunteer service value = \$1.99 billion.**