

FY 2012 CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET REQUEST

Prepared by
The National Senior Corps Association



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

Senior Corps Program	FY 2010 Enacted	FY 2011 Requested	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2012 President's Request	FY 2012 NSCA Request
New Initiatives					\$5,000,000
Foster Grandparent Program (FGP)	\$110,996,000	\$111,100,000	\$110,774,000	\$111,100,000	\$110,774,000
RSVP	\$63,000,000	\$63,000,000	\$50,299,200	\$63,000,000	\$62,745,480
Senior Companion Program (SCP)	\$46,904,000	\$47,000,000	\$46,810,192	\$47,000,000	\$46,810,192

FY 2012 NSCA Budget Request and Priorities

Restore RSVP funding to 2010 level (reversing 20% cuts from 2011 budget)

NSCA requests \$110,774,147 for the **Foster Grandparent Program (FGP)**, \$62,745,480 for **RSVP** (which reinstates \$12,446,280 cut from the 2011 budget), and \$46,810,192 for the **Senior Companion Program (SCP)** in FY 2012. NSCA also requests \$5,000,000 in new funding to study the community and societal impact of all Senior Corps programs. This is a total Senior Corps expenditure of \$225,329,680. This level of funding will provide for continued support to existing Senior Corps sponsors.

- **Support for Continuing Services - \$220,900,000 (FGP - \$110,774,000; RSVP - \$62,745,480; SCP - \$46,810,192).** 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 veterans and veteran's families.** RSVP and Senior Companions provide re-entry resources to US veterans as well as connecting families to a wide array of non-profit services available in local communities.
- **New Initiatives - \$5,000,000**

Funding for a study that looks at the impact of FGP, SCP and RSVP. This would be an extensive, scientifically reliable study that evaluates the societal and individual impacts created through Senior Corps programs. We believe it would reinforce the current anecdotal data that shows that Senior Corps programs have huge positive impacts for communities and the volunteers that participate in these efforts.



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.**