



NSCA e-Alert

June 18, 2009

House Mark Up Scheduled: action needed to support NSCA's 2010 Budget Request for increased Senior Corps funding.

All directors and friends of Senior Corps are being asked to begin the next phase of strategic actions as we move through the appropriations process to increase funding for the Foster Grandparent Program, RSVP, and the Senior Companion Program.

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, HHS & Education is expected to consider "mark up" of their appropriations bill immediately upon Congress' return from its Independence Day District Work Period (week of July 6) the first week of July. They will determine how funds will be allocated for the Department of Labor, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Education, and related agencies. Among those related agencies is the Corporation for National and Community Service and all of the programs under CNCS' authority, including Senior Corps programs.

In February 2009, NSCA began presenting its case to both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees calling for increased funding for all Senior Corps programs. The President's Budget, following closely on the heels of national service reauthorization, includes modest increases for Senior Corps programs, but increases nonetheless at a crucial fiscal crossroads. Since the release of the President's proposed budget, we have stressed the following:

- NSCA's 2010 Budget Request takes into account appropriations levels needed to support important provisions of the Serve America Act that affect Senior Corps.
- The Serve America Act includes authorization for stipend increases up to \$3/hour for Foster Grandparents and Senior Companions. The President's proposed budget does not include funding for stipend increases. NSCA is requesting funding to support stipend increases at \$3/hour. If we do not act now, the further away from reauthorization that we get, the tougher it will be to sustain these changes.
- The Serve America Act includes authorization for the Silver Scholars program -- a bipartisan effort endorsed by both former President Bush and President Obama. Despite new authority for the initiative, the President's proposed budget does not include Senior Corps funding for the Silver Scholars program. NSCA is requesting \$5,000,000 for RSVP for the newly authorized Silver Scholars program.

- Senior Corps programs have received less than a 1% administrative increase in the past five years. The President's proposed budget does provide a 1.5% administrative adjustment. NSCA is requesting an administrative adjustment that is in line with the current federal adjustment of 5.8%.
- New programs are needed to help meet critical challenges facing communities in areas unserved or underserved by Senior Corps. NSCA applauds the inclusion of funding in the President's proposed budget for 20 new RSVP programs. NSCA is requesting \$1,800,000 for 20 new RSVP programs.

Please join your fellow Senior Corps colleagues and call or email your U.S. Representative to support the NSCA's 2010 budget request. Ask that they contact Chair Dave Obey (D-WI) and Ranking Member Todd Tiahrt (R-KS) of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, HHS & Education Subcommittee to support this request.

To find your federal officials, [click here](#) and enter your zip code in the "Contact Your Legislators Zip Code" field.

Budget Comparison

Foster Grandparent Program

FY 2009 Enacted: \$108,999,000
 2010 President's Budget: \$110,900,000
2010 NSCA Budget Request: \$132,030,127

RSVP

FY 2009 Enacted: \$58,642,000
 2010 President's Budget: \$63,000,000
2010 NSCA Budget Request: \$72,243,648

Senior Companion Program

FY 2009 Enacted: \$46,144,000
 2010 President's Budget: \$47,000,000
2010 NSCA Budget Request: \$57,117,909

Budget Breakdown

(Line Item Increases Requested by NSCA)

Foster Grandparent Program

5.8% Administrative Adjustment: \$6,321,942
 Stipend Increase: \$10,951,403
 Programs of National Significance: \$5,757,782*
Total Increase Requested by NSCA: \$23,031,127
2010 NSCA Budget Request: \$132,030,127

RSVP

5.8% Administrative Adjustment: \$3,401,236
 New Programs (20 new programs): \$1,800,000
 New Initiatives (Silver Scholars): \$5,000,000

Programs of National Significance: \$3,400,412*
Total Increase Requested by NSCA: \$13,601,648
2010 NSCA Budget Request: \$72,243,648

Senior Companion Program

5.8% Administrative Adjustment: \$2,676,352
Stipend Increase: \$5,554,080
Programs of National Significance: \$2,743,477*
Total Increase Requested by NSCA: \$10,973,909
2010 NSCA Budget Request: \$57,117,909

**at least 25% of grants under Programs of National Significance must be to organizations currently not receiving CNCS assistance.*

[CLICK HERE for a one-page summary of the above.](#)

SAMPLE CALL or SCRIPT

"Hello. My name is (your name) from (city) in your congressional district.

As your constituent, I am calling to urge you to support a \$47.6 million increase in funding for our Senior Corps programs - the Foster Grandparent Program, RSVP, and the Senior Companion Program. I'm also asking that you contact Chair Dave Obey and Ranking Member Todd Tiahrt of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, HHS & Education to support this request.

The President has requested a modest increase for these programs. A new investment of \$47.6 million will yield hundreds of millions of dollars in services by our nation's seniors in our Senior Corps programs to meet unmet needs.

[If you are calling, please ask for a fax or email address to send the one-page budget summary mentioned above.]

[If you are sending an email, please inform your legislator that you've attached a one-page budget summary.]

Thank you."

HOUSE LABOR, HHS, EDUCATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Please note that these are the most important Members in this mark up process (with particular attention to majority Democrats).

MAJORITY
Chair: David R. Obey (WI)
Nita M. Lowey (NY)

Rosa L. DeLauro (CT)
Jesse L. Jackson, Jr. (IL)
Patrick J. Kennedy (RI)
Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA)
Barbara Lee (CA)
Michael Honda (CA)
Betty McCollum (MN)
Tim Ryan (OH)
James P. Moran (VA)

MINORITY

Ranking Member: Todd Tiahrt (KS)
Dennis R. Rehberg (MT)
Rodney Alexander (LA)
Jo Bonner (AL)
Tom Cole (OK)
Jerry Lewis (CA), Ex Officio

Important Reminder

We advise Senior Corps project directors that program staff and stipended volunteers can only engage in lobbying activities on their own time and not *"while charging time to a Corporation-supported program."*

Thank You,

Fred Lugo
President
National Senior Corps Association

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