

SAMPLE LETTER TO CONGRESS:

**Dear Senator/Congressman/woman \_\_\_\_\_,**

I write to request your support for an increase in funding for the Senior Corps Programs during consideration of fiscal year 2009 appropriations process. Specifically, I request your support to increase funding for the Senior Corps Programs to \$241.041 million per year (up from the current level of \$213.785 million). I request that the breakdown of these dollars be the following for each Senior Corps program: \$116.897 million for the Foster Grandparent Program; \$72 million for the RSVP program and \$52.144 million for the Senior Companion Program.

The President's budget supports level funding for RSVP and Senior Companion Programs and the drastic reduction of 40% in the Foster Grandparent Program. The Foster Grandparent Program will lose \$40,000,000 resulting in a decrease of over 9,000 Volunteer Service Years which translates into a cut of over 16,000 INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERS, a loss of over 9,396,000 HOURS OF SERVICE, and 135,040 LESS AT-RISK CHILDREN AND TEENS served, including those with special and exceptional needs.

The Senior Corps Programs are funded under the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education and Related Agencies within the Corporation for National and Community Service. I ask that you contact [**House: Chairman Obey (Democrats) and Congressman Walsh (Republicans) of the Subcommittee; Senate: Chairman Harkin (Democrats) and Senator Specter (Republicans) of the Subcommittee**] in support of this request.

The Senior Corps Programs offer seniors age 55 and older the opportunity to meet pressing needs in their communities. Foster Grandparents are limited-income seniors (125% of poverty) who serve at-risk children with special needs by providing one to one support in the classroom, head start settings and various other agencies. RSVP volunteers provide service in a variety of community non-profits agencies expanding the capacity to provide critical services. Senior Companions are limited-income seniors (125% of poverty) who serve at-risk, frail elderly reducing the need and premature placement in long-term care facilities.

In our program in [**\_\_\_\_\_ fill in with story of your local program, including examples of the people served and those who serve.**]

I ask your support for this request as a means to not only restore Foster Grandparent funding but to help serve unmet needs in all of our communities. (**Consider including numbers of children/clients in your program's waiting list for each Senior Corps program or the number of prospective volunteers interested in serving but cannot due to limited funding**).

Sincerely,

<< **Your Name** >>

<< **Your Street** >>

<< **Your City** >>

<< **Your State** >> << **Your Zip-Code** >>