



NEMCSA
Foster Grandparent &
Senior Companion
Volunteer Programs



AmeriCorps
Seniors

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FGP/SCP Community Advisory Group Meeting Highlights Monday, August 9, 2021

The combined FGP and SCP Advisory Group meeting was held via Zoom on Monday, August 10, 2021. FGP members Janet Callen, Madeline Hibner; SCP members Annie Hepburn; and staff Heidi Powers, Leslie Atkinson, and Wanda Gougeon joined the meeting.

Discussion Items

- Temporary (stipend) Pay allowance set to expire September 30, 2021 remains in place. Future extensions are not expected.
- The Drive Through Recognition events that took place in June were very well received and appreciated.
- The first In-Service Meeting to resume in person since the beginning of the pandemic is scheduled for August 18th at the APlex in Alpena. Wearing face masks will be required and Dr. Meyerson, Medical Director of Health Department #4 will be the guest speaker focusing on vaccine hesitancy and COVID precautions.
- Senior Companion Volunteers are starting to return to in-person service in small numbers and are increasing.

Director's Report

- Our AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion grants were awarded securing federal funding through June 30, 2022.
- Current volunteer census stands at 33 Foster Grandparents, down from a pre-pandemic count of 48 and 39 Senior Companions down from 44.
- As reported in May's report Foster Grandparent Volunteer Service Years or VSYS (stipend spending) is way behind schedule and short by at least 10 VSYS. When deemed appropriate to do so, we will need to embark upon a very aggressive and comprehensive recruitment campaign to return to acceptable enrollment. Senior Companion VSYS expenditures by contrast, are on target. They will still, none the less, be included as part of the recruitment as it is believed the Temporary Stipend Allowance is masking the true ability of the older volunteers to return to service. We anticipate some Senior Companions may not be able to return to service due to age-related limitations which may surface when they are able to reengage with clients face to face.

NEMCSA Board representative Madeline Hibner provided the group with updates from the Board of Director's meetings.

Round table discussions/updates were provided by all members present.

Next meeting: Monday, November 1, 2021, 9:30 am start time. Tentatively scheduled to be held in person.