



NEMCSA
Foster Grandparent &
Senior Companion
Volunteer Programs



AmeriCorps
Seniors

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**FGP/SCP Community Advisory Group
Meeting Highlights
Monday, May 10, 2021**

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

Discussion Items

- Temporary (stipend) Pay allowance set to expire March 31st was extended to September 31, 2021.
- Nearly 60% of Foster Grandparents have returned to in-person service in the classrooms.
- Senior Companions continue to be sidelined by the pandemic.
- An assessment of the volunteer's access to technology and abilities is complete and an analysis and decision regarding the purchase of devices and potential service plan will be forthcoming.

Director's Report

- Current volunteer census stands at 37 Foster Grandparents, down from a pre-pandemic count of 48 and 39 Senior Companions down from 44.
- 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 VSY expenditures by contract, 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.
- Effective July 1, 2021 the programs will no longer have access to one of our three funding sources leading to a restructuring of staff resources. The funding loss will be managed by reducing the Administrative Assistant position from full time to part time, the Services Coordinator employment status will be changed from full time / full year to full time / part year with an approximate eight-week furlough and the Project Director salary will be reduced. Federal and State grants appear to be stable and thus the programs are not at risk. As we work to restore our volunteer ranks, we will also be looking for new funding streams.

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, August 9, 2021, 9:30 am start time.