

SENIOR CORPS FY 2008 ANNUAL PLAN

OVERVIEW

The Senior Corps is comprised of three separate programs that together engage about 500,000 volunteers nationwide through over 1,300 grantees. Foster Grandparents serve children with special and exceptional needs; Senior Companions provide services to help keep people living independently in their homes; and RSVP volunteers provide a wide range of services that help meet many community needs.

The vast majority of the 1,300 grantees have held the grant for more than ten years. Annual appropriations must first be used to support the ongoing activities of existing grantees. When Congress provides an increase, the law stipulates that one-third of the increase must be made available to existing grantees.

Senior Corps grantees in all three programs are very supportive of the Corporation's strategic initiatives and deploy volunteers as appropriate in volunteer mobilization, mentoring, encouraging children and youth to engage in service, and engaging Boomers in service. The Senior Corps also enjoys a long history of connecting with small community organizations both faith-based and secular, and will continue to strengthen that connection in 2008.

Senior Corps grantees can also be counted on to respond enthusiastically when needed for disasters both natural and man-made. Senior Corps volunteers provided support after September 11th and after all of the recent hurricanes.

VOLUNTEER MOBILIZATION

Support community volunteer connector organizations

- ◆ Continue to provide grants to operate Senior Corps projects to existing volunteer centers and other volunteer connector organization sponsors.
- ◆ **Identify, catalog and disseminate effective practices as reported by Senior Corps grantees and State Offices to export learning and ideas to the entire Senior Corps network.**

Build volunteer management capacity and expertise in organizations that rely on volunteers

- ◆ Provide training and technical assistance to grantees to help guide development of appropriate placements for volunteers, including Baby Boomers, that maximize their contributions to meeting needs.
- ◆ Continue to engage RSVP volunteers as resources to mobilize other community volunteers.

- ◆ Support surveys on volunteering behavior to better target the agency's resources and inform community organizations.

Better connect faith-based and other community-based organizations to volunteer needs and efforts

- ◆ Continue to encourage grantees to place volunteers with community organizations, including faith-based, to help the organization build its volunteer management capacity.
- ◆ Encourage Senior Corps grantees to adopt effective strategies through examples, training and technical assistance.

Offer a national platform to promote volunteerism

- ◆ Build the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service into the nation's largest annual service event.
- ◆ Continue the agency's commitment to the National Conference on Volunteering and Service, **including requiring all Senior Corps grantees to attend in 2008.**

A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR OUR YOUTH

Provide more direct mentoring services through the Corporation's programs and help to expand mentoring services nationwide

- ◆ Continue to place Foster Grandparents to support children and youth with special or exceptional needs.
- ◆ **Continue to place RSVP volunteers as mentors to children and youth from disadvantaged circumstances.**

Engage children and youth in service

- ◆ **Encourage RSVP projects to place volunteers in intergenerational service opportunities with young people.**

BABY BOOMER INITIATIVE

Engage more Baby Boomers in service

- ◆ **Increase Baby Boomer participation in the RSVP projects from 5 percent in 2005 to 10 percent in 2010.**
- ◆ **Continue to work with Volunteer Match to sustain a vital and successful online recruitment portal for volunteers ages 50 and over.**

- ◆ **Continue to work with the Administration on Aging (AoA) to identify areas of collaboration available through the reauthorization of the Older American's Act, which includes a Civic Engagement focus:**
 - **Expand and/or formalize opportunities to meet shared goals in:**
 - **Attracting Baby Boomers to volunteering and service;**
 - **Placing RSVP volunteers to help other seniors access benefits and options, such as Medicare Part D;**
 - **Engaging in shared training and pooled resources on civic engagement;**
 - **Providing input into development of new civic engagement models at AoA such as volunteer leaders**
- ◆ **Continue training and technical assistance to grantees on both engaging Baby Boomers and on ways to make volunteer opportunities appealing and meaningful to them.**

Expand independent living services and support

- ◆ **Continue to place SCP volunteers to help their clients remain independent as long as possible.**
- ◆ **Continue to support existing RSVP volunteer placements focused on independent living.**
- ◆ **Continue to encourage Senior Corps projects to reach out to Baby Boomers to fill available volunteer opportunities.**
- ◆ **Continue working with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid to meet the shared priority of expanding cost-effective independent living services:**
 - **Update Medicare Waiver technical assistance document for Senior Companion projects;**
 - **Explore ways to collaborate at the national and regional levels to expand Medicaid Waiver options for Senior Companions.**