

FY 2009 CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET REQUEST

Prepared by
The National Senior Corps Association
(Based on FY 2009 Congressional Budget Justification - Dollars in Millions)



| Senior Corps Program | FY 2007 Enacted | FY 2008 Enacted | FY 2009 President Request | Increase (Decrease) From FY 2008 | FY 2009 NSCA Request |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) | \$110.937 | \$108.999 | \$68.174 | (\$40.825) | \$116.897 |
| RSVP | \$59.685 | \$58.642 | \$59.685 | \$1.043 | \$72 |
| Senior Companion Program (SCP) | \$46.964 | \$46.144 | \$46.144 | \$0 | \$52.144 |

| Requested Increases Breakout | | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Senior Corps Program | Rescission Restored | Administrative Adjustment | PNS | New Initiatives |
| FGP | \$1.938 | \$3.328 | \$2.632 | \$0 |
| RSVP | \$1.043 | \$3.6 | \$4.448 | \$4.267 |
| SCP | \$.820 | \$1.564 | \$1.998 | \$1.617 |

SENIOR CORPS is a federally authorized and funded network of national service programs that provide older Americans with the opportunity to apply their life experiences to meeting community needs. Senior Corps is comprised of the Foster Grandparent Program, RSVP, and the Senior Companion Program, through which about 500,000 Americans age 55 and older use their skills and experience to cost-effectively address vital community needs.

Foster Grandparent Program provides one-on-one attention to children and teens most at risk in schools, shelters, correctional facilities, early childhood centers and after-school programs. Through a caring, nurturing, mentoring role, Foster Grandparents provide assistance and encouragement to help improve reading skills, school attendance, behavior and the well-being of children in their care. In 2006, FGP contributed 27.9 million hours helping over 263,000 children, serving through 342 nationwide projects and partnering with over 10,000 community organizations. Foster Grandparents are 60 years of age and older with limited incomes (125% of poverty), and serve weekly schedules ranging from 15-40 hours. They are provided with hourly stipends, mileage and meal reimbursements, so that they may volunteer at little or no personal cost to themselves.

RSVP connects volunteers 55 and older with service opportunities that impact positive change, improve quality of life and meet critical needs in their communities. RSVP volunteers help build capacity and improve sustainability in agencies and organizations where they serve. RSVP engages seniors in a wide array of community services including health, nutrition, human services, education, community and economic development, and public safety to nonprofit and community based organizations. In 2006, 440,000 RSVP volunteers contributed 78.8 million hours of service through 770 projects nationwide, and worked with more than 65,000 community organizations. RSVP offers flexible volunteer opportunities with commitments from a few hours a week to 40 hours a week. Volunteers do not receive monetary incentives or stipends.

Senior Companion Program provides assistance and friendship to frail individuals who are homebound and, generally, living alone. By taking care of simple chores, providing transportation to medical appointments, and offering contact with the outside world, Senior Companions often provide the essential services that enable frail citizens to remain in their homes. The program meets the growing need for cost effective long-term care for the aging by helping with activities of daily living, friendly visits and providing respite for primary caregivers. In 2006, 16,000 Senior Companions helped over 62,000 frail clients, preventing premature and costly institutionalization at an annual savings of over \$200 million. Senior Companions are 60 years of age and older with limited incomes (125% of poverty), and serve weekly schedules ranging from 15-40 hours. They are provided with hourly stipends, mileage and meal reimbursements, so that they may volunteer at little or no personal cost to themselves.

PROPOSED ADMINISTRATION FY 2009 BUDGET CUTS AND THEIR CONSEQUENCES. 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 served, including those with special and exceptional needs.

The Senior Corps - Foster Grandparent Program, RSVP, and Senior Companion Program - has over 35 years of successful, performance measurement, and has provided cost-effective services to Americans who need attention or a helping hand - saving Americans millions of dollars. For decades, the Senior Corps programs and older volunteers have been the cornerstone of national service and civic engagement. During difficult Federal budget times, senior volunteers have been a stabilizing force in communities across our nation by providing the most cost-effective service to those in need. Now, as our communities are faced with increasing needs and shrinking resources, Senior Corps volunteers are a growing natural resource to help our communities meet the critical health and social challenges facing our Nation.

Through SENIOR CORPS, Foster Grandparent Program, RSVP, and Senior Companion Program volunteers provided 121 million hours of service during 2007. The 2007 dollar value of volunteer time was \$18.77 per hour. The total Senior Corps volunteer service value = \$2,271,170,000.