



Tapping Talents of the 55+ Population

Michigan's Senior Corps

What is Senior Corps?

Senior Corps connects Americans over the age of 55 with the people and organizations that need them most by helping them become mentors, coaches, or companions to people in need, or contribute their job skills and expertise to community projects and organizations. Senior Corps offers several ways to get involved, which are listed below. Volunteers receive guidance and training so they can make a contribution that suits their talents, interests, and availability.

- The Foster Grandparent Program connects volunteers with children and young people with exceptional needs. Volunteers mentor, support, and help some of the most vulnerable children in their communities.
- RSVP connects volunteers with service opportunities in their communities that match their skills and availability. From building houses to immunizing children, from enhancing the capacity of nonprofit organizations to improving and protecting the environment, RSVP volunteers put their unique talents to work to make a difference.
- The Senior Companion Program brings volunteers together with adults in their communities who have difficulty with day-to-day living tasks. Volunteers can be found assisting with grocery shopping and other errands, offering transportation to the doctor, sharing a meal, or engaging in socialization.

Senior Corps is administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service – Michigan State Office and Michigan's Office of Services to the Aging.

13,767 Michigan Senior Corps participants will serve with **55** programs in 2010.

1,882 of those volunteers serve in the Foster Grandparent Program through **19** programs.

11,105 of those volunteers serve in the RSVP Program through **22** programs.

780 of those volunteers serve in the Senior Companion Program through **14** programs.

Financial Impact

\$6,739,207 in Federal Funds was allotted to the Corporation for National and Community Service – Michigan State Office for 2009-2010 Senior Corps Programs.

\$4,829,348 in State Funds was allotted through Michigan's Office of Services to the Aging for 2009-2010 Senior Corps Programs.

More than **\$3 million in Match Funds** were leveraged by Senior Corps Programs in Michigan communities in 2009.

"Serving as a Foster Grandparent has given me an opportunity to help others and a purpose in my life. I look forward to getting up each morning and going to school each day. I am able to provide [the children I work with] individualized attention and encouragement on a daily basis."

Rae Leggett
Michigan Foster Grandparent



Foster Grandparent Impact

During the 2009-2010 program year, Foster Grandparent volunteers will provide support to young children struggling with social, emotional, or academic challenges.

Foster Grandparent Programs provide services in **59 Michigan counties**, with nearly **1.2 million hours** of assistance provided to **7,550 children**.

RSVP Impact

As part of the 2009-2010 program year, RSVP will serve as a safety net for many communities – conducting safety patrols, staffing food banks, tutoring and mentoring youth, and responding to natural disasters. More than **1,800 groups** across Michigan benefit from their services.

This year, RSVP will help nonprofit organizations enhance and expand the services they provide in **40 Michigan counties**, with nearly **1.3 million hours** of service logged.

Senior Companion Impact

In Michigan, Senior Companions provide one-on-one support individualized services to help homebound seniors and other adults maintain independence in their own homes.

Senior Companion Programs in **47 Michigan counties** will provide more than **450,000 hours** of assistance to **3,900 adults** this year.

The Impact of Senior Volunteers

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, volunteer services provided by older adults serving in Offices of Services to the Aging-administered programs equates to an economic value of nearly **\$56 million** annually.

The return on the more than \$4.8 million investment the State of Michigan places on Senior Corps volunteers is more than **500%**.

Older adults who volunteer have fewer health issues. When engaging in service, older volunteers report decreased aches and pains, lowered blood pressures, reduced needs for medication, less depression and loneliness, and an increased sense of purpose.

"I have seen so many people benefit from the Senior Companion program. There are individuals whose days are made brighter by a friendly visit, those who are persuaded to participate in a social activity, and those who are able to get out in the community – ONLY because of the assistance of a Senior Companion."

Michelle Cook
Facility Manager, Senior Living Community in Kalamazoo

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