



AGENDA REPORT

TO: Edward D. Reiskin
City Administrator

FROM: Sara Bedford
Director, Human Services

SUBJECT: Senior Companion Program/Foster
Grandparent Program (SCP/FGP)
Continuation Grant Applications

DATE: June 10, 2020

City Administrator Approval

Date: June 23, 2020

RECOMMENDATION

Staff Recommends That The City Council Adopt A Resolution Authorizing The City Administrator To:

- 1) Apply For And Enter Into Agreements For, And Accept And Appropriate, Grant Funds For Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-2021 From The Corporation For National And Community Services (CNCS) In Amounts Not To Exceed \$329,233 For The Senior Companion Program And \$37,881 For The Foster Grandparent Program; And**
- 2) Amend The Above Grant Agreements For, And Accept And Appropriate, Additional Grant Funds From CNCS For FY 2020-2021, Without Returning To Council; And**
- 3) Authorize A Contribution From The City's General Purpose Fund For Central Services Overhead Charges For FY 2020-2021 In An Estimated Amount Of \$32,609.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The adoption of the proposed resolution will provide low-income seniors, ages 55 and above, with stipend volunteer opportunities to support other seniors and adults with disabilities who are frail, monolingual and socially isolated with companionship, transportation and access to community resources. It also provides senior volunteer opportunities to support lower income children and youth with mentoring and reading assistance. The continuation grants are estimated at: \$329,233 for Senior Companions and \$37,881 for Foster Grandparents for a total of \$367,114. Both grants are funded by the Corporation For National And Community Services (CNCS). The Senior Companions Program (SCP) and Foster Grandparent Program (FGP)s provide needed support to both seniors and youth in the community and offers an opportunity for elders to be involved and engaged in these fulfilling volunteer activities

BACKGROUND / LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

The City has been a provider of the Senior Companion and Foster Grandparent programs since the first grant was accepted in 1977. The program has been continued since that time and the upcoming fiscal year (FY) 2020-21 is the forty-third year of operations. The program is authorized under the Domestic Volunteer Act of 1973.

The continuation grants require criminal background checks as specified in 45 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 2510, 2522, 2551, and 2552, the positions covered in this process include SCP and FGP volunteers and other participants and staff funded under the CNCS grants.

As mandated by the CNCS in January of 2015, and pursuant to City Council Resolution No. 85366 C.M.S., the Council authorized the City Administrator to conduct and document a National Service Criminal History Check (NSCHC) that includes fingerprint-based Department of Justice (DOJ) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) criminal history checks on individuals in covered positions such as volunteers and staff who began work on and after April 21, 2011 who have recurring access to vulnerable populations: children 17 years of age or younger and persons age 60 and older, or to individuals with disabilities.

ANALYSIS AND POLICY ALTERNATIVES

The Human Services Department provides opportunities for equal access for people with disabilities and senior citizens to all programs, services and activities that result in the preservation of dignity, the right to independence, and the ability to live self-directed lives.

The SCP volunteers assist frail, monolingual and socially isolated elders with escort assistance to doctor appointments, grocery shopping, and general companionship. Foster Grandparents provide mentoring and academic tutoring to Pre-K and K-12 children and youth who can benefit from added support and connection to an additional caring adult.

Both programs serve a dual function in that the elderly clients and youth benefit from the assistance and the volunteers gain a sense of accomplishment, civic responsibility and community connectivity. Taxi Up & Go (TUGO) is an extended service performed by SCP volunteers in partnership with the Oakland Paratransit for the Elderly and Disabled (OPED) by combining paratransit vouchers with clients in need of these added supports and subsidies. The SC volunteers escort program clients, family caregivers and adult/elderly residents to medical appointments and/or grocery shopping. The project provides bi-annual reports to OPED as required by Measure B. The project supports sixty-five (65) SCP volunteers and eight (8) FGP volunteers.

Measure B supports two (2) additional volunteers in the Taxi-Up & GO project. The General Purpose Fund supports staff, volunteers and community recognition activities.

The City of Oakland's SCP and FGP must meet the following guidelines and performance objectives as required by all grantees funded by the CNCS: Companions and Grandparents must be age 55 and above, have completed forty hours of pre-service training, and qualify as low-income to receive a monthly stipend. Certified SCP and FGP participants must volunteer 15

to 20 hours weekly and serve up to 1,044 hours annually. Program-wide Senior Companions must complete 67,860 hours of service and Foster Grandparents must complete 8,352 hours of service. All volunteers and staff with recurring contact with vulnerable, disabled and disadvantaged residents must undergo background checks, fingerprinting and review by the DOJ and FBI prior to pre-service training, to protect the clients they serve. Program volunteers are also required to have liability and accident coverage provided by CIMA Volunteer Insurance. All volunteers are required to be certified annually to start or maintain their participation.

Senior Companions and Foster Grandparents contributes a combined 76,212 hours of volunteer service annually. The Senior Companions assist upwards of 300 unduplicated clients who are frail, monolingual adults and/or elderly. Foster Grandparents tutor and mentor 100 children and youth.

FISCAL IMPACT

The grant monies provide for the volunteer support expenditures including fingerprinting, stipends, meals, transportation, liability insurance, appreciation and recognition of volunteers, uniform identification badges and other allowable expenses. There are no income requirements for the clients served by the volunteers. As required by the CNCS, 80 percent of the grant funds go directly to support low-income eligible volunteers. Grant funds are contingent upon the number of volunteer placements and hours of service annually.

These funds will be delineated in the Senior Companion and Foster Grandparent project cost centers for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-2021 as follows:

- Grant funds from the CNCS in the amount of \$ 329,233 in the Federal Action Agency Fund (2120), Senior Companion Program Organization (75241), and FY19-20 SCP/Federal Project (1004567).
- Grant funds from the CNCS in the amount of \$ 37,881 in the Federal Action Agency Fund (2120), Senior Companion Program Organization (75241), and FGP/Federal Project (1004570).
- The General Purpose funds will provide \$ 73,258 in Fund (1010), for Federal Match, fundraising, administrative and other volunteer programs costs associated with the Senior Companion and Foster Grandparent programs which is included in the Mayor's proposed FY 2020-2021 Midcycle Budget pending City Council adoption.

Based on the federal administrative cost caps and level of required funding to support the program, the Human Services Department (HSD) is requesting, as it has in prior years, a contribution from the General Purpose Fund in an amount equivalent to Central Services Overhead in an estimated amount of \$ 32,609.

PUBLIC OUTREACH / INTEREST

Under a memorandum of program guidance, Senior Companion and Foster Grandparent volunteers are assigned and placed in community-based programs. The programs include public and private organizations that work with Oakland residents and their families.

Volunteers are supervised at the following public and private community-based station sites including: East Oakland Health Center, Westlake Christian Terrace, Allen Temple Arms, Family Bridges, St. Mary's Community Center, Posada De Colores, Multipurpose Senior Services Program, Sojourner Truth Manor, deFremery Parks & Recreation Center, Centro Infantil De La Raza, Oakland Head Start, Oakland Unified School District, Reading Partners, Studio One Art Center and Safe Walk to School.

COORDINATION

The HSD Fiscal section, Office of the City Attorney and Budget Bureau were consulted in the preparation of this report and resolution.

PAST PERFORMANCE, EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP

Senior Companion and Foster Grandparent Programs assisted 400 clients with 76,212 hours of community services. The grant funded sixty-five (65) Senior Companions and eight (8) Foster Grandparent volunteers. Volunteers and clients served by the program come from all seven (7) Council Districts with the highest proportion from Districts 2 and 6 of both volunteers and clients.

The program assessment process does not include demographic data for minors participating in the Foster Grandparents Program. In compliance with CNCS confidentiality requirements the demographics of children and youth are not collected.

The SCP increased its outreach efforts to serve underrepresented populations throughout the City of Oakland in 2019. SCP has high participation among Chinese and Vietnamese communities because of how effectively the program addresses access and equity disparities among mono-lingual seniors by matching them with bi-lingual companions. Increased outreach to Hispanic seniors and to the Fruitvale District community to increase volunteerism and participation resulted in low returns. Additional presentations and outreach lead by Spanish speaking City Staff are being planned with consideration of the COVID-19 sheltering order for seniors. A breakdown of the ethnicity of volunteers and clients is provided in **Table 2** below.

Table 2: Mid-Year Program Volunteers and Clients By Ethnicity

Race	Volunteers	Clients
African American	16	43
Native American		2
Chinese	22	79
Vietnamese	17	69
Filipino	4	16

Race	Volunteers	Clients
White	1	8
Hispanic	1	4
Korean		2
Other	3	7
Declined		36
Total(s)	64	266

Additional Annual Program Service Assessment Surveys include:

1. SC/Taxi-Up & Go Project (TUGO) clients.
2. Annual Assessments of Children/Youth by station site supervisors of FG.
3. Annual Program Service Satisfaction Surveys of volunteers (includes all who served during FY 2019 and 2020).
4. Annual Program Service Surveys of 24 station supervisors.
5. Volunteer Performance Evaluations are completed by each station site supervisor.
6. The CNCS/program staff and/or, the Advisory Council, composed of public/private agencies and the Mayor's Commission of Aging, perform either an annual site visit and/or electronic reports to assess the program and fiscal management of both the SCP and FGP.

SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Economic: Fixed income senior volunteers receive non-taxable stipends. SCP clients receive no-cost assistance associated with aging, isolation, and limited supports that will help to prevent the high cost of institutionalization. In alignment with Oakland Promise, the Program improves socialization and reading skills among participating at-risk youth/children, and supports school attendance, which has an economic impact.

Environmental: This report has no environmental opportunities or impact.

Race & Equity: Through an extensive network of community-based programs, senior volunteers perform civic engagement interventions that make their neighborhoods stronger by helping frail and isolated elders, children and youth that are at-risk and have special needs with social, educational and health-related activities.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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For questions regarding this report, please contact Scott Means, Aging and Adult Senior Services Manager, at (510) 238-6137.

Respectfully submitted,



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