

July 2009

NAFGPD UPDATE & SENATE APPROPRIATIONS ACTION

NAFGPD held a Pacific Cluster meeting for attendees during the National Conference on Volunteering and Service in San Francisco, it was great to see acquaintances and meet several new directors as well. We shared information on the Peer to Peer Mentoring Program, the partnership with MENTOR, discussed possible partnership with League of Women Voters, gave an overview of plans to celebrate FGP's 45th Anniversary during 2010 and the National Volunteer Conference (previously known as the FGP Woody Cooper Conference for the foster grandparents) that will be held in either Chicago, IL or Kansas City, KS. More detailed information forthcoming.

Next year the National Conference on Volunteering and Service will be held in New York City, June 28 - 30, 2010, hope most of you will make plans to attend. NAFGPD Special Events Committee is busy planning several celebrations for FGP's 45th Anniversary throughout 2010 and we will definitely have a celebration in New York City!

Overall, the conference plenary sessions were very good and informative. During one of the sessions, they allowed Q&A and a Senior Corps director posed a question to the Chairman of the CNCS Board: Is CNCS going to ask for additional funding for our programs? His concise response was: it will be up to you, the program directors to get Congress to provide funding. Therefore, it's up to each of us to accept the responsibility to become "active advocates" in order to maintain the integrity and seek adequate funding for Foster Grandparent Programs.

Last month NAFGPD sent out an alert asking each of you to call your Congressmen/women in support of FGP. We sincerely thank you for all of your calls and e-mails. The House Labor-HHS-Education appropriations subcommittee is scheduled to mark-up a bill July 10th. Once the details of the mark-up become available we will let you know.

Now, Senate Appropriations Action is Needed:

We expect that the Senate Labor-HHS-Education appropriations subcommittee could mark-up on or around July 20th. Therefore, we would like you to take a few minutes next week to call your Senators and ask him/her to show their support for the Foster Grandparent program by asking the Senate Appropriations Committee to provide at least \$131.871 million for FGP in FY2010.

These calls should be completed by July 17, 2009.

IMPORTANT: If your Senator is one of the subcommittee members listed at the end of this message, your calls and emails are vital. I recommend that in addition to a phone call, you also send an e-mail.

FGP Talking Points

- Introduce yourself, state where your program is located and what areas you serve.
- Respectfully request that your Senator contact the Senate Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee Chairman Tom Harkin (D-IA) and/or Ranking Member Thad Cochran (R-MS) in support of critical funding needed for the FGP program by asking that the subcommittee recommend at least \$131.871 million in funding for FGP.
- Point out that the last time FGPs in the field realized any increases at all to cover the increased costs of doing business—especially in the area of transportation costs—was in FY 2005, when programs received an administrative cost increase of less than 1%.
- FGP face considerable stress in covering the rising costs of administering and maintaining quality programs. This situation is compounded by the current recession during which programs are in jeopardy of losing sponsors and raising local dollars is increasingly difficult.
- The NAFGPD funding proposal for FY 2010 would:
 1. Generate opportunities for some 1,386 new low-income senior volunteers to contribute 1,446,984 hours of service annually to nearly 6,000 additional children with special needs through competitive PNS expansion grants to existing FGPs.
 2. Provide a .35 cent stipend increase that would raise the stipend from \$2.65 an hour to \$3.00 an hour. Income eligible volunteers have not received a stipend increase since 2001.
 3. Provide a small administrative cost increase for all programs to help cover the staggering increases in administrative costs each is experiencing. (see snapshot below)
- Also thank him/her for his/her support of FGP in the past (if he/she has been supportive), and invite him/her to visit your program to see the great work your Foster Grandparents are conducting. **Many Senators and their staffs will be traveling to their home states for the month-long August recess. Reach out to your local district offices and set-up meetings.**
- Conclude again by respectfully requesting that your Senator contact the Senate Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee Chairman Tom Harkin (D-IA) and/or Ranking Member Thad Cochran (R-MS) in support of critical funding needed for the FGP program by asking that the subcommittee recommend at least \$131.871 million in funding for FGP.

Additional Points

The Administration's FY 2010 Budget Request for FGP is 110.996 million, which is an increase of \$1.9 million over the FY 2009 enacted level. NAFGPD was glad to see the new

Administration request an INCREASE for FGP rather than the proposed DECREASES recommended for FGP in the past. **Nonetheless, at least \$131.871 million in FY 2010 is the level of funding needed to ensure quality FGP programs can continue and to meet the needs of the volunteers serving.**

NAFGPD FY 2010 Appropriations Request Snapshot:

(Dollars in Millions)

Activity	NAFGPD Request For FY 2010
FGP	
<i>Grants to programs in the field</i>	
Continuing grants	108.999
Administrative cost increase	4.648
PNS expansions	7.624
Stipend increase	10.600
<i>Subtotal, grants to programs</i>	131.871
<i>Recruitment and Retention Grants.gov/eGrants support Training & Technical Assistance</i>	0
Total FGP Budget Authority	131.871

As always, thanks for your help and support of FGP. Your service is greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions please contact your cluster representatives.

Senate Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee Members:

MAJORITY

Chairman: Senator Tom Harkin (Chairman) (IA)

Senator Daniel Inouye (HI)

Senator Herb Kohl (WI)

Senator Patty Murray (WA)

Senator Mary Landrieu (LA)

Senator Richard Durbin (IL)

Senator Jack Reed (RI)

Senator Mark Pryor (AR)

Senator Arlen Specter (PA)

MINORITY

Ranking Member: Thad Cochran (MS)

Senator Judd Gregg (NH)

Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (TX)

Senator Richard Shelby (AL)

Senator Lamar Alexander (TN)