

Return on Investment Study: AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparent Program and Senior Companion Program

2020
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Background

AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparent program (FGP) engages volunteers ages 55 and over to serve as role models, mentors, and friends to children. The program provides a way for seniors to stay active by serving children and youth in their communities.

AmeriCorps Seniors Senior Companion program (SCP) engages volunteers to provide assistance and companionship primarily to elderly individuals—and also to people with disabilities—who have difficulty with daily living tasks, such as shopping or paying bills. The program aims to keep seniors independent longer and provide respite to family caregivers.

ROI studies measure and monetize program benefits. This includes using data from previous evaluations and other third-party sources to determine the benefits.

Methods

This study uses data from previous evaluations and other third-party sources to determine the benefits to FGP & SCP participants, FGP & SCP AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers, caregivers, private insurance companies, other healthcare payers, and the federal government.

Program costs for these two AmeriCorps Seniors programs consist of federal funds and budgeted match funds for each program for FY18.



Return on investment studies allow AmeriCorps to monetize program benefits and demonstrate that national service is a smart investment.

AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparent Program and Senior Companion Program provide significant economic returns for resources invested.

ROI Calculation	FGP & SCP Combined	FGP	SCP
Total Benefits per Federal Dollar	\$4.57	\$3.45	\$7.29
Total Benefits per Funder Dollar	\$3.50	\$2.75	\$5.08
Federal Government Benefits per Federal Dollar	\$0.69	\$0.16	\$1.97



For more information, contact emcdonald@americorps.gov.

Scan to download the full study and briefing documents

Results and insights

The magnitude of the positive ROI results is driven by:

- **Health care expenditure savings.** Volunteers, caregivers, program participants, private insurance, other healthcare payers, and the federal government realize significant savings in health care expenditures from the improvement in health outcomes of participants, volunteers, and caregivers because of FGP & SCP. Health care savings stem from reduced emergency department visits, reduced in-patient hospital stays, and overall improved health and wellness.
- **Assisted living expenditure savings.** Individuals that receive services from SCP volunteers report that they can stay in their homes while receiving the services rather than having to move into an assisted living facility. This generates significant cost savings for these program participants.
- **Value of in-kind services.** FGP & SCP program participants (and their households) that receive inkind services of considerable value. These services have monetary value and do not displace labor, but instead add the capacity needed to address unmet needs in communities nationwide.

What are the potential opportunities to apply the study fundings?

- AmeriCorps Seniors provides significant social value.
- This ROI study demonstrates that investment in AmeriCorps Seniors also makes good economic sense.
- ROI results can be used to demonstrate the economic benefits of FGP and SCP to private and public funders, policymakers at all levels, and all program supporters.