

As a sponsor of federal AmeriCorps Seniors grants, Dignity Health Connected Living engages volunteers aged 55 and older through the Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), Foster Grandparent Program (FGP), and soon, the Senior Companion Program (SCP). These programs empower experienced seniors to give back to their communities by supporting local organizations, mentoring youth, and assisting homebound adults.

Below is an overview of each AmeriCorps Seniors program:

Senior Companion Program (SCP) – Effective July 2026 in Tehama County

The Senior Companion Program enables active, older adults to provide crucial companionship and support to other seniors. These volunteers assist peers who may be struggling with loneliness, isolation, or require a little extra help to remain independent in their own homes.

Senior Companions build meaningful relationships, combat social isolation, and provide a vital link to the community. They offer a friendly face, share stories, assist with light errands, or simply offer a listening ear. For the volunteers, this service brings a renewed sense of purpose, promotes active engagement, and the opportunity to receive a small stipend and other benefits for their dedication. SCP is about fostering connection, promoting independence, and creating a stronger, more caring community for our older generation.

Foster Grandparent Program (FGP)

The Foster Grandparent Program creates invaluable intergenerational connections by pairing caring, older adult volunteers with children who need it most. Our Foster Grandparents dedicate their time to mentor, tutor, and support children and youth with special and exceptional needs, or those in troubled circumstances. These volunteers serve in schools, Head Start centers, after-school programs, and other community organizations.

They act as a guiding presence, a supportive friend, and a consistent role model, assisting with schoolwork, providing emotional support, and brightening a child's day. Children benefit from a trusted adult figure, improved academic and social skills, and feeling loved. Foster Grandparents find renewed purpose and experience the joy of making a profound difference in a young life, also receiving a small stipend and other benefits for their commitment. This program leverages seniors' wisdom and experience to enrich the lives of our youth, building bridges between generations.

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) serves as a bridge connecting active adults aged 55 and better to meaningful and diverse volunteer opportunities throughout our community. Unlike highly specialized programs, RSVP offers broad flexibility, catering to anyone over 55 who wishes to continue making a difference in their retirement years, whether by utilizing professional skills, pursuing a passion for helping, or simply staying active and engaged.

Our RSVP volunteers are critical to many local organizations. They might be found:

- Mentoring young people
- Assisting in schools or libraries
- Delivering meals to homebound individuals
- Staffing food banks or animal shelters
- Providing administrative support to non-profits
- Assisting with disaster preparedness initiatives
- Or contributing to community events

RSVP's beauty lies in its flexibility; volunteers can commit a few hours a week or more, choosing roles aligned with their interests. They gain new skills, build friendships, and contribute their invaluable wisdom and life experience to make our community a better place. RSVP empowers seniors to continue making a significant impact, fostering healthier individuals and stronger communities.

Stipend Information for FGP and SCP:

Both the Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) and the Senior Companion Program (SCP) uniquely provide tax-free, hourly stipends to income-eligible volunteers. This allows seniors to supplement their income without jeopardizing eligibility for other government benefits, further supporting their invaluable community service.