



## Senior Corps

# Retired and Senior Volunteer Program

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### What is the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)?

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) helps people age 55 and older find service opportunities in their home communities. RSVP participants serve from a few to over forty hours a week in organizations that range from hospitals and youth recreation centers to local police stations and education facilities. RSVP involves seniors in service that matches their personal interests and makes use of their skills and lifelong experiences.

### How does RSVP benefit communities?

RSVP volunteers provide hundreds of community services, ranging from tutoring at-risk youth to planning community gardens to setting up computerized information systems for community health organizations. Through such efforts, RSVP is meeting needs that strained local budgets cannot afford.

### How does RSVP operate locally?

Local public and private nonprofit agencies receive grants to sponsor and operate RSVP projects in their community.

### What organizations are eligible for RSVP assistance?

A wide range of community organizations may apply to be RSVP volunteer stations. Organizations interested in RSVP assistance can contact our local area RSVP project office at 800-786-5536.

### Who can participate in RSVP?

RSVP participants must be at least 55 years of age. Interested applicants should call our local area RSVP project office at 800-786-5536. The project director will meet with applicants to discuss interests and service opportunities.

### What is the National Senior Service Corps?

The National Senior Service Corps (Senior Corps) is a network of federally-sponsored programs that helps Americans age 55 and older find opportunities to address community needs through service.

### What is the Corporation for National Service?

The federally-funded Corporation for National Service offers opportunities for Americans of all ages and backgrounds to make their communities safer, healthier and stronger through service. In addition to the National Senior Service Corps, the Corporation oversees AmeriCorps (the new domestic Peace Corps) and Learn and Serve America programs for students.

## Retired and Senior Volunteers Provide Services Worth Millions

- Participants of the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) provide over 80 million hours of service annually to communities across the country. The value of this service is about \$1 billion and represents a 29-fold return on the federal dollars invested in RSVP. The federal cost of a RSVP participant is less than 45 cents per hour of service.
- Nearly 450,000 RSVP volunteers serve through more than 60,000 public and private nonprofit community organizations.

Area Agency on Aging of North Idaho

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