

Foster Grandparents Program (FGP)

What is the Foster Grandparent Program (FGP)?

The Foster Grandparent Program offers income eligible seniors, age 60 years and older, volunteer opportunities with non-taxable stipends to serve as tutors, mentors, and caregivers for children and youth with special and exceptional needs. They provide between 15-30 hours of weekly service to schools, Head Start programs, and non-profit organizations.

How does the FGP benefit communities?

Foster Grandparents offer emotional support, nurturing, friendship, and care to children who are disabled, are drug exposed, have learning problems, not reading at their grade levels, who are at risk, etc. They serve children on a one-to-one basis.

Who operates the program locally?

The Department of Human Services receives a grant from the Corporation for National Service (CNS). The state provides matching funds. The operational guidelines are determined by the federal funding agency (CNS).

What organizations are eligible for FGP assistance?

Schools, institutions, Head Starts, and most non-profit child and youth-oriented organizations are eligible to serve as volunteer stations.

What benefits do Foster Grandparents receive?

Foster Grandparents receive a modest tax-free stipend, reimbursement for transportation, meals during service or allowance, annual physical examinations, and accident/liability insurance while on duty. In addition to these benefits, the program gives participants the opportunity to share a lifetime of experience with children and join the half million older Americans who are strengthening communities nationwide as members of the National Senior Service Corps.

Who can be a Foster Grandparent?

Foster Grandparents must meet income eligibility requirements and be at least 60 years of age. They must be capable, with or without reasonable accommodation, of serving with exceptional or special needs children without be a detriment to himself/herself or the children served. Also, they must agree to abide by all requirements of the program.

The income eligibility criteria are updated annually. Please check with the below-listed offices for the current requirements.

For more information, please call:

O'ahu: 453-6357 or e-mail: rmata@dhs.state.hi.us
Hawai'i: 933-0952 or e-mail: fgp@hilo.net
Kaua'i: 241-3355 or e-mail: jstanwood@dhs.state.hi.us