

Foster Grandparent Program: Frequently Asked Questions

Do I take children into my home?

No. You will help children at a Volunteer Station such as a Head Start classroom, child care center, school or other child-based program.

How old are the children at the stations?

You can help children from the ages of 0 to 21 years old. However, the average age of children served are between 3 and 5 years of age.

When would I volunteer?

Schedules depend on the Volunteer Station and the Volunteer. Our program is flexible and tries to accommodate the schedules that are best for all involved.

The Foster Grandparent Program is federally funded by the Corporation of National and Community Service, a Senior Corps program that improves lives, strengthens communities and fosters civic engagement through service and volunteering.

Serving Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene and Washington Counties in Southwestern Pennsylvania.



**Foster Grandparent
Program**



Empowering People. Strengthening Communities. Transforming the Future.

Every day, the caring, highly trained staff of Wesley Family Services empowers children, adults and families to overcome challenges so that they can be part of a stronger community with a brighter future. When you or a loved one needs help, we'll be there.



**For more information about the
Foster Grandparent Program, call
412-660-6841**

www.wfspa.org



Providing a way for volunteers age 55 and over to stay active by serving children and youth in their communities.



Foster Grandparent Program

Foster Grandparents are volunteers who help, guide and assist and act as positive role models, sharing their time, talents and love with society's most precious commodity...our children.

The Foster Grandparent program provides volunteer opportunities to low-income individuals, age 55 and older, who give supportive one-on-one attention to children who are at-risk or have special needs. Foster grandparents serve through local organizations, including Pre-K programs, Head Starts, elementary schools, and other youth-based programming. Volunteers help children learn to read, provide one-on-one support and guide children at critical times in their lives. As a Foster Grandparent, you will provide comfort and love and help community youth achieve a brighter future.

“Anyone who does anything to help a child is a hero to me”...Mister Rogers

Program Goals

The goals of the Foster Grandparent program are to:

- Enable low-income individuals aged 55 and older to remain physically and mentally active and to enhance their self-esteem through continued participation in needed community services.
- Enable children with exceptional needs or special needs to achieve improved physical, mental, emotional and social development.
- Provide a stipend or other benefits that enable individuals to participate as Foster Grandparents without cost to themselves.

Benefits of Becoming a Foster Grandparent

- An opportunity to use your experience and skills to help children in need
- The chance to learn something new every day
- Supplemental accident and liability insurance
- Tax-free hourly stipend to those who qualify
- Ongoing monthly training
- Holidays and Paid Time Off
- Invitation to annual recognition events
- Transportation assistance/mileage reimbursement (certain restrictions may apply)

Eligibility Requirements

- Must be willing to serve within Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene or Washington Counties.
- Must be 55 years of age or older.
- Must have income that does not exceed 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines to receive tax free stipend.
- Must commit a minimum assignment schedule of 15 service hours per week.
- Must be willing to help, guide and assist as well as be a support for the needs of children.
- Must be able to pass required background clearances.

For Additional Information

All you need to join is the ability to give the kind of comfort and love that sets a child on the path towards a successful future. If you are interested in becoming a Foster Grandparent please contact:

Rebecca Maletto-Cornell, Team Leader

412-660-6841

or

Shelby Parisse, Coordinator

412-660-7303

