

**FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM (FGP)  
COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP (CAG)  
1805 E. California Ave. Fresno CA 93706  
Friday, March 28, 2025  
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM**

**AGENDA**

	<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Motion</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. <u>CALL TO ORDER</u>	Betty Brown		
2. <u>ROLL CALL</u>	Elaine Jalomo		
3. <u>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</u> September 27, 2024 Meeting Minutes	Betty Brown	Approve	2
4. <u>CURRENT CAG ROSTER</u>	Leah Struck	Information	5
5. <u>FGP GRANDPARENT CAG MEMBER</u> Introduction of new Volunteer Representatives	Betty Brown	Information	
6. <u>PROGRAM UPDATES</u>	FGP Team	Information	6
7. <u>OTHER BUSINESS</u> The next Community Advisory Group meeting is scheduled for September 26, 2025	Betty Brown	Information	
8. <u>PUBLIC COMMENTS</u> (This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the Council on items within jurisdiction but not on the agenda. Comments are limited to three minutes).			
9. <u>ADJOURNMENT</u>			

**FRESNO EOC FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM  
COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP (CAG)  
September 27, 2024 10:00 AM**

**MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Betty Brown called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM

**II. ROLL CALL**

Roll was called by Elaine Jalomo.

**Committee**

**Members (Present):**

Betty Brown  
Richard Saldivar  
Yvonne Hernandez  
Zina Brown-Jenkins  
Luis Martinez  
Alena Pacheco  
Floro Trujillo

**Staff (Present):**

Leah Struck  
Raquel Padia  
Blanca Alvarado  
Elaine Jalomo

**Absent:**

Margarita Cortez  
Julia Fowler

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Quorum approved minutes from April 26, 2024.

**IV. CURRENT CAG ROSTER**

Update of current Foster Grandparent CAG members. Introduce Fresno EOC board members within Community Advisory Group.

**V. NOMINATION OF FGP CAG MEMBER**

Quorum approves member nomination of Linda Jaurique, current FGP volunteer.

**VI. PROGRAM UPDATES**

- A. Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) was awarded its three-year base grant and will fund \$401, 468 for the first year, approximately \$390,000 for the remaining two years, two staff and 40-48 volunteers depending on hours served. Previously FGP had a second grant, Senior Demonstration Project (SDP), which proposed to expand the program into new areas but

unfortunately the expansion was only successful in finding new sites and a few new volunteers before ending June 30, 2024.

- B. FGP was awarded an expansion grant (Foster Grandparent Replacement and Expansion Opportunity) that will expand for another 3 years covering \$396,000 per year, two staff and additional 40-48 volunteers. Currently six potential volunteers are completing the enrollment process and 10 on the interest and application list.
- C. New staff positions/promotions: Leah Struck- Program Manager; Raquel Padia and Blanca Alvarado- Program Coordinators; and Elaine Jalomo- Volunteer Specialist.
- D. Generations Serving Together (GST) has been widely recognized for its value and innovation by the Eisner Foundation and AmeriCorps through a newsletter and presentation at the AmeriCorps Seniors Annual Convening in Baltimore, MD. Another accomplishment prior to the program ending June 30, 2024, GST partnered and funded a “Calming Room” at Pinedale Boys & Girls Club for club members to have a safe and relaxing space. In recognition for their efforts and dedication, volunteers were thanked and appreciated at a luncheon hosted by Raquel Padia, Program Coordinator.
- E. FGP hosted their annual picnic potluck at Holland Park West May 8, 2024. The program received several donations from the community for the event’s decorations and park transportation for volunteers. The venue will be booked for the following year (2025).
- F. Through funding from both grants, all FGP staff were able to attend AmeriCorps Seniors Annual Convening in Baltimore, MD. Due to a family emergency for Leah, Blanca, Raquel and Elaine attended the three-day convening that covered workshops and speeches from AmeriCorps Seniors and other program leaders.
- G. Access to Technology (ATP) funded through Fresno County Department of Social Services from California Department of Aging covered digital literacy training to over 300 clients, iPad devices, and internet costs for 2 years per client until September 30, 2024. The initial program was required to reach seniors with In Home Supportive Services and/or Adult Protective Services but the requirement was later removed. The program received additional funding from Senior Planet for 1 staff to continue a few training courses. Continued funding for the program has been applied for with California Department of Public Utilities- awardees will be announced in November.

## VII. UPCOMING EVENTS

- Fresno Fair Outreach (October 7 and 14, 2024)
- November In-service/ Thank You Luncheon (November 13, 2024)
- May Recognition Event (TBD)

- Monthly “Dine & Support” monthly fast food fundraising (TBD)

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM



Leah Struck, FGP Program Manager  
 Elisa Sgambellone, LCC Assistant Director  
 Sherry Neil Fresno EOC Programs Officer  
 Brian Angus Fresno EOC Interim Chief Executive Officer

**FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP (CAG)  
 2025 ROSTER**

<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Organization/Occupation</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
Brown	Betty	FGP CAG Chair FGP Volunteer	<a href="mailto:betty.brownfgp@gmail.com">betty.brownfgp@gmail.com</a>
Jaurique	Linda	FGP Volunteer	<a href="mailto:linda.jauriquefgp@gmail.com">linda.jauriquefgp@gmail.com</a>
Carrillo	Ralph	Head Start ECE Specialist	<a href="mailto:ralph.carrillo@fresnoeoc.org">ralph.carrillo@fresnoeoc.org</a>
Saldivar	Richard	Boys & Girls Club	<a href="mailto:richards@BGClubfc.org">richards@BGClubfc.org</a>
Hernandez	Yvonne	City of Fowler Senior Center Director CAG Vice Chair	<a href="mailto:yhernandez@ci.fowler.ca.us">yhernandez@ci.fowler.ca.us</a>
Lira	Diane	Fresno EOC Board Commissioner	<a href="mailto:dlira@fcoe.org">dlira@fcoe.org</a>
Pacheco	Alena	Fresno EOC Board Commissioner	<a href="mailto:alena.pacheco@fresnoeoc.org">alena.pacheco@fresnoeoc.org</a>
Lopez	Alfonso	Fresno EOC Head Start Volunteer Services Coordinator	<a href="mailto:alfonso.lopez@fresnoeoc.org">alfonso.lopez@fresnoeoc.org</a>
Rogers	Matt	Fresno EOC Board Commissioner	Mattrogers08@gmail.com

**FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM (FGP)**  
**PROGRAM UPDATES**  
**September 30, 2024 – March 28, 2025**

Current active as of March 28, 2025: 48 active in ongoing FGP grant.

7 new for FGP expansion grant

1. **FGP Current Status:** We are submitting the application for the continuation for year two of three for the ongoing AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparent and the Foster Grandparent Expansion grant. This will cover the dates July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026.

FGP Ongoing: \$398,968 with \$44,330 in match/in-kind support from other programs and the community. This grant has a Volunteer Service Years (VSY) count of 44. This grant is on track for goals.

FGP Expansion: First year 2024-2025 budget was \$396,000 per year with \$43,980 for match/in-kind. This second year would have been the same but the first year has not met recruitment goals so it is underspent, meaning we have an amount from the first year that we need to carry forward totaling \$210,000. This raises our second year budget to \$606,000 with \$67,333 match /in-kind and recruitment VSY number from 44 to 68.

All new recruited volunteers will be enrolled in the expansion grant.

2. **Accomplishments:** Our reporting to AmeriCorps Seniors on children served is based on the completion of the Assignment Plan form. The teacher chooses three to five children that have extra needs for the Grandparent Volunteer to work with. These forms are filled out for each child at the beginning of the year with the needs and the plan for the grandparent to use to work with the child. At the end of the year the form is completed by the teacher noting if there was advancement in the areas chosen. Historically, throughout AmeriCorps Seniors, these forms are difficult to get the teachers to fill out, discuss or return. With low returns, our reports show low engagement. Grandparents may be working with 120 children over all but only 50 assignment plans get returned.

With the new arrangement Raquel Padia, Program Coordinator has implemented, we have been much more successful with Assignment Plans being completed and returned.

3. **Executive Orders:** AmeriCorps was one of the programs affected by the Executive Order Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing signed January 20, 2025. February 14, 2025, we received an email from our AmeriCorps Seniors Portfolio Manager regarding needed changes in our existing grant language. Attached was a booklet titled Executive Orders Compliance Instructions dated February 13, 2025. Our current application for continuation of the grants was also required to change the narratives to remove any language regarding equity action plans, DEI or gender references. An amendment was open, changes were made, and the amendment was approved by AmeriCorps Seniors February 19, 2025. The language has now been revised in our current application and has been submitted with the adjustments. Award notices will come in June. Since this is a three-year grant in year two, there should be no issues being awarded.

4. **Partnership with Head Start 0-5** Presentations.

FGP has a monthly In-Service training where we use the time for presentations for training or invite community resource agencies in to provide information for our volunteers. We have greatly appreciated and benefited from the arrangement this year with Head Start. Ralph Carillo, ECE Head Start 0-5 has coordinated presentations each month from Head Start staff on topics that can be used for Head Start age children and adapted to older children and youth that our volunteers serve.

June: The Pyramid Model of Teaching

July: Literacy Training, Enjoying a Good Book

August: A Child's Personal Rights

September: Learning Through Play

October: Redirecting Children

November: Pumpkins! Active Reading and Three-Dimensional Art

February: Nutrition Services

March: Early Math Initiative

November In Service was our Turkey luncheon and Head Start presenters created a fun craft event for all our volunteers. CAG Vice Chairperson Yvonne Hernandez and her son were on hand with their photo booth to capture the memories.

5. **Event:** Our annual recognition event date has changed this year.

Usually, our event happens in December with a sit-down luncheon and recognition for years of service. We also have a scheduled November turkey lunch and May Spring Fling. Being in the first year of a three-year cycle the budget is smaller than we have had in the past. During the last three-year cycle, COVID restrictions were in place and money was unspent, giving a larger budget. Due to the smaller budget this year, we merged the December recognition into the May Spring Fling. This event is more of a potluck event, and we are able to invite more people. This will be May 7, 2025 at Holland Park West. Invitation is included in this packet.

6. **Access to Technology:** ATP started towards the end of 2023 and has continued to prove just how important and necessary it is to our community of seniors. Now on our 3rd round of funding we are still demonstrating to our senior participants how “it is never too late to start your digital journey.” Within just our first year of funding through DSS we were able to serve over 300 seniors in Fresno County, teaching computer literacy and creating a learning environment that is both non-intimidating and enjoyable to all our seniors. With the first year of funding completed we were able to extend the program with a smaller grant through our partner Senior Planet. During that time, we again proved how impactful and needed our program is, by exceeding our engagement requirements in half the time of the term agreement. With a new staff of 6 and many relationships now built in various senior living facilities and community centers we are confidently moving into our latest round of funding through the California Public Utilities Commission. Through this new round of funding, we are assured of making an even greater impact, covering 1,200 seniors each year for 2 years. With that, we are eagerly excited to be offering more extensive teachings to our previous participants and welcoming plenty of newcomers.

7. Upcoming Events:

- Spring Recognition Event May 7, 2025
  
- AmeriCorps Seniors Annual Convening August 26-28, 2025