

**FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM (FGP)
COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP (CAG)
1805 E. California Ave. Fresno CA 93706
Friday, March 27, 2026
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>COMMUNITY ACTION PROMISE*</u>	All		
4. <u>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</u> September 26, 2025	Betty Brown	Approve	2
5. <u>CURRENT CAG ROSTER</u> Introduction of new Board of Commissioner representatives	Leah Struck	Information	5
6. <u>FGP GRANDPARENT CAG MEMBER</u> Nominee Tamara Stoddard Nominee Deborah Carter	Betty Brown	Approve	
7. <u>PROGRAM UPDATES</u>	FGP Team	Information	6
8. <u>OTHER BUSINESS</u> The next Community Advisory Group meeting is scheduled for September 25, 2026. Review Program Evaluation.	Betty Brown	Information	
9. <u>ADJOURNMENT</u>			

***COMMUNITY ACTION PROMISE-** *Community Action changes people’s lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.*

**FRESNO EOC FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM
COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP (CAG)
September 26, 2025 10:00 AM**

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Betty Brown called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM

II. ROLL CALL

Roll was called by Elaine Jalomo and a quorum was established

Committee

Members (Present):

Betty Brown
Linda Jaurique
Yvonne Hernandez
Diane Lira
Alena Pacheco
Alfonso Lopez
Matt Rogers

Staff (Present):

Leah Struck
Raquel Padia
Blanca Alvarado
Elaine Jalomo
Tyus Bloom
Adian Perez

Absent:

Ralph Carrillo
Richard Saldivar

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The September 27, 2024 and March 28, 2025 minutes were approved.
Motion by Alfonso Lopez. Second by Yvonne Hernandez. Yays: all in favor. Nays: none.

IV. CURRENT CAG ROSTER

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

V. NOMINATIONS OF FGP CAG MEMBER

Nominees Tamara Stoddard and Deborah Carter were not present. Nominations will be moved to March 27, 2026 Community Advisory Group meeting.

VI. PROGRAM EVALUATION

The Foster Grandparent Program will be evaluated annually by Community Advisory Group (CAG) members in alignment with Fresno EOC's program evaluation. The evaluation process will begin after Fresno EOC completes its evaluation, and the results will then be shared with CAG members. CAG members will review Fresno EOC's evaluation to determine whether it complies with AmeriCorps guidelines and

requirements. In addition, CAG members will visit contracted stations to observe, assess, and evaluate the program.

VII. PROGRAM UPDATES

- A. Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) currently has 60 active volunteers between 2 grants with 11 on Leave of Absence. The program will need 30 more volunteers to meet both grant goals but has 10 in the process of enrollment.
- B. FGP base grant met required numbers for the 2024–2025 grant year, achieving the goal of 44 Volunteer Service Years (45,936 hours) and slightly exceeding the target. This is the first-time goals have been met since COVID. Unfortunately, the expansion grant did not meet 2024-2025 goals as determined. The estimate of unused hours and funds were submitted for carry-over into the 2025-2026 funding year. \$210,000 was successfully carried over into the current 2-year budget. The expansion grant came within 30\$ of actual spending and did not over spend.
- C. The program received 205 Assignment Plans for the 2024-2025 year with a 185 total for the base grant and 20 for the expansion grant. There was a 68% increase compared to the previous year, 2023-2024, of 122 Assignment Plans. Program Coordinator, Raquel, used a giveaway to entice station supervisors to return them.
- D. The 2025 Spring Recognition was held at Holland Park West with volunteers recognized for their years of service. Each volunteer received a gift consisting a \$50 gift card, AmeriCorps Seniors and year of service pins, and AmeriCorps Senior T-shirt. The event had multiple vendors to enhance the event.
- E. On September 12, 2025 FGP honored their volunteers during its monthly in-service for National Grandparents Day and FGP's 60th anniversary. Staff and volunteers connected with AmeriCorps Seniors and volunteers across the nation via Zoom. Each volunteer received a certificate signed by AmeriCorps Seniors Director honoring their years of service.
- F. The program faced uncertainty when AmeriCorps funding was excluded from the federal budget draft, leaving AmeriCorps Seniors programs relying on remaining funds from the 2024-2025 year and possible closure in September 2025. FGP did receive an approval to continue their grant for the 2025-2026 year in the Spring. In late August, AmeriCorps released \$184 million allowing programs with 3-year grant renewals to move forward with operations and signaling potential reinstatement of full funding in the October federal budget.
- G. Access to Technology (ATP) had 375 participants complete 8 hours of instruction and over 500 participants are now enrolled and participating in classes. Their goal is to deliver 8-10 hours of instruction to 1,200 participants by January 2026 and 2,400 by January 2027. ATP received \$20,000 from OATS/Senior Planet through AARP to conduct 3 classes at a local Verizon store with 2 8-hour classes for seniors. The event was covered by Verizon's corporate team and will be used as a media campaign for seniors. The program also received an additional grant by Fresno EOC's IT department. California Public Utilities Department funded \$150,000 to provide digital literacy training for adults from 18-59 in Huron, San Joaquin, Mendota, Parlier, Orange Cove, and Sanger. Outreach has begun with the goal of 306 participants completing 8 training sessions by June 2027. Donations are needed for the class and to fulfill the grant's match requirement.

VIII. UPCOMING EVENTS

- Fall Grand Gathering: November 4, 2025 at Nielsen Conference Center
- Outreach events
- Halloween Safe Night Out
- Next CAG meeting: March 27, 2026

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Alfonso Lopez shared 2 Head Start events: Annual Fatherhood Conference (October 25, 2025) and monthly parenting class via Zoom and at Kings Canyon Head Start.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:14 AM. Motion by Linda Jaurique. Second by Alfonso Lopez.
Yays: All in favor, Nays: none.



Leah Struck, FGP Program Manager
 Elisa Sgambellone, LCC Assistant Director
 Sherry Neil, Program Officer
 Steven R. Lewis, Chief Executive Officer

**FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM
 COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP (CAG)
 2026 ROSTER**

Last Name	First Name	Organization/Occupation	Contact Information
Brooks	Shawn	Fresno EOC Board Commissioner	Shorty559@me.com
Brown	Betty	FGP CAG Chair FGP Volunteer	betty.brownfgp@gmail.com
Carrillo	Ralph	Head Start ECE Specialist	ralph.carrillo@fresnoeoc.org
Dhillon	Rickie	Fresno EOC Board Commissioner	r.dhillon@keplerschool.org
Jaurique	Linda	FGP Volunteer	linda.jauriquefgp@gmail.com
Hernandez	Yvonne	City of Fowler Senior Center Director CAG Vice Chair	yhernandez@ci.fowler.ca.us
Lira	Diane	Fresno EOC Board Commissioner	dlira@fcoe.org
Lopez	Alfonso	Fresno EOC Head Start Volunteer Services Coordinator	alfonso.lopez@fresnoeoc.org
Rogers	Matt	Fresno EOC Board Commissioner	Mattrogers08@gmail.com
Saldivar	Richard	Boys & Girls Club	richards@BGClubfc.org



PROGRAM UPDATES FGP ATP October 2025 – March 2026

FGP Current Status

- Total Active Volunteers (including those on Leave of Absence): 59 (was 60)
- Total Volunteers on Leave of Absence (LOA): 4 was 11
- We need more than 90 active volunteers to meet both grant goals.
- Currently, 9 people on the interest list and 1 is in the enrollment process.

Accomplishments

AmeriCorps, including AmeriCorps Seniors, has been included in the 2026 Federal Budget through September 2026.

FGP is currently mid-year and no reporting is required until June.

AmeriCorps Seniors recently announced an opportunity for sponsors with multiple grants to merge them into a single grant. The Foster Grandparent Program currently operates under both a Base Grant and an Expansion Grant. We applied for and were approved to merge these grants.

As a result, the upcoming application cycle will change. Instead of submitting a continuation application for the third year of the current grant, we will now submit a Renewal Application for a new three-year grant period beginning July 1, 2026. The application deadline is April 3, 2026. This renewal application will include program information and a budget for Year 1 of the new three-year grant cycle, covering July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2029. As always, continuation of the program is dependent upon annual federal budget approval that includes AmeriCorps funding.

The Expansion Grant did not meet the targeted number of volunteers during Year 1, and remaining funds were therefore carried forward into Year 2. Some of these funds were allocated for advertising on the back of Fresno EOC transit buses. This plan was temporarily placed on hold while awaiting confirmation of the Federal Budget and the continuation of the AmeriCorps program. Now that the federal budget has been approved, the advertising purchase is moving forward. There will be wraps on the back of eight Fresno EOC transit buses advertising both the FGP volunteer opportunity and ATP tech classes. Hopefully these will be seen driving around Fresno and Madera county routes.

Due to the carryforward of funds, program goals were also carried forward. However, we will not be able to achieve the Expansion Grant volunteer goals in Year 2. Both the Base Grant and Expansion Grant will end on June 30, 2026. Any remaining unused funds from the Expansion Grant will be

returned to AmeriCorps. At this time, we are planning to complete the goals associated with the Base Grant.

November Grand Gathering Event

The Grandparents demonstrated their creativity during the table decoration contest, bringing a wide variety of clever and festive table décor. Judging the entries proved to be a difficult task due to the many creative submissions.

A turkey lunch prepared by Fresno EOC Catering was provided for the event. This gathering offers volunteers an opportunity to enjoy a shared meal and fellowship, which can be especially meaningful for those who live alone and may not otherwise have the opportunity to participate in a holiday-style meal.

May Recognition Event

The Annual Volunteer Recognition Event will be held on May 7 at Holland Park West, returning to the same location once again. This year, the program will introduce a “Sponsor a Grandparent” donation campaign.

- A \$60 donation will fully sponsor one grandparent.
- A \$30 donation will serve as a shared sponsorship.

Our goal is to encourage volunteer sites to sponsor their Foster Grandparent volunteer, while also inviting members of the community to support the program through donations. Appreciation cards will also be collected to accompany the recognition gifts.

Donations will help fund the following volunteer appreciation gifts:

- An AmeriCorps sports sling bag
- Lapel pins recognizing years of service
- A \$50 gift card

We have also contacted Binational Central California, which has supported our recognition events for the past four years.

Access to Technology (ATP) Current Status

- 729 participants are currently in process or have completed eight hours of digital literacy instruction through March.
- Program Goal: Deliver 8–10 hours of instruction to 1,200 participants by January 2026 and reach 2,400 participants by the end of January 2027.

February 12 marked the end of the first program year. The program did not meet the original first-year participation goal. A total of 639 participants will be reported, compared to the proposed goal of 1,200 participants.

ATP has two years starting February 2025 to meet the overall program goal of 2,400 participants by February 2027. Several new partnership opportunities and outreach efforts have recently emerged, and we are optimistic that these will help increase participation moving forward.

KMPH channel 26 celebrated 30 years of Kopi Sotiropulos on his retirement on March 22, 2026 with a segment from 6:00-7:00pm. ATP was able to purchase a 30 second spot during this segment to advertise the ATP programs. This has not aired at the time of writing this. We will tell you how it went at the CAG meeting.

ATP Grant – Ages 18–59

Fresno EOC's IT Department received a \$150,000 grant from the California Public Utilities Department to provide Digital Literacy training to adults ages 18–59 in six rural locations: Huron, San Joaquin, Mendota, Parlier, Orange Cove, and Sanger. This two-year grant runs through June 2027 with a goal of training 306 participants. This program will use a free source web based digital literacy curriculum customized to create the 8 sessions covering basic skills and online safety.

- 2 classes Huron, 2 classes Parlier, 1 class Mendota, 1 class Orange Cove. 35 completed by the end of March.

Upcoming Events

May Recognition Event – May 7, 2026

Holland Park West Event Center

- Time: 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM (Lunch served at 12:15 PM)

Next CAG Meeting

September 25, 2026