



Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc.

Elder Mentor Program

Rural Community Action Program's (RurAL CAP's) Elder Mentor Program, nationally known as the Senior Corps Foster Grandparent Program, has over 65 volunteers serving in schools throughout the state of Alaska. Elder Mentor volunteers are low-income individuals age 55 and older. They support the improvement of academic engagement and school readiness in children through in-school mentoring and the sharing of cultural values.

Our Elder Mentor volunteers serve children in public schools, Head Starts, and early learning centers. Volunteers help children, including those who are economically disadvantaged and/or living with special needs, prepare for a successful school career that results in graduation.

This program positively impacts the children, Elders, and teachers involved. Children benefit from individualized tutoring and mentoring while Elders stay active and share knowledge with future generations. As a result, teachers gain valuable classroom support and increased student engagement.

Eligibility

- Age 55 or older
- Income cannot exceed Alaska's income eligibility guidelines. See our application or contact us for further details.
- Must pass and maintain status in the Alaska State Background Check System, which involves having fingerprints taken.

Role

- Work directly with children to increase their engagement in school activities and learning, preparing them for further schooling.
- Supply students with compassion, social support, and cultural values.
- Lead activities that include reading, playing games, helping with assignments, modeling appropriate behavior, participating in crafts, telling stories, and teaching cultural skills.

Time

- Spend at least 5 hours per week with students during the school year.
- Encouraged participation in organized summer programs.
- Attendance at trainings which involve an orientation and various workshops.

Benefits

- An hourly stipend, averaging at about \$200/month, depending on the number of hours volunteered.
- Paid time off (PTO) leave accrual and paid holidays.
- Reimbursed transportation and meals (if not provided by volunteer host site), based on federal guidelines.
- Tax-exempt stipends that do not affect other benefits an Elder may be receiving (Medicaid, SNAP, etc.)
- Training, a Seniors Corps vest, and annual recognition.

Site Support

- Assign about four students to Elders based on special needs and goals.
- Complete an assignment form to guide Elders in activities and goals for each student.
- Review and approve monthly activity sheets completed by Elders.
- Fill out short surveys periodically accessing Elders' performance/program success.
- Provide documentation of Elders' ongoing training.

Contact Us | 907.865.7276 | eldermentors@ruralcap.org | www.ruralcap.org

Support provided by:



United Way of Anchorage



RurAL CAP does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. These activities include, but are not limited to, hiring, firing of staff, selection of volunteers and vendors, and provision of services. We are committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our staff, clients, volunteers, and subcontractors. Program Participants have the right to file a grievance if (s)he is not satisfied with the response to a complaint.