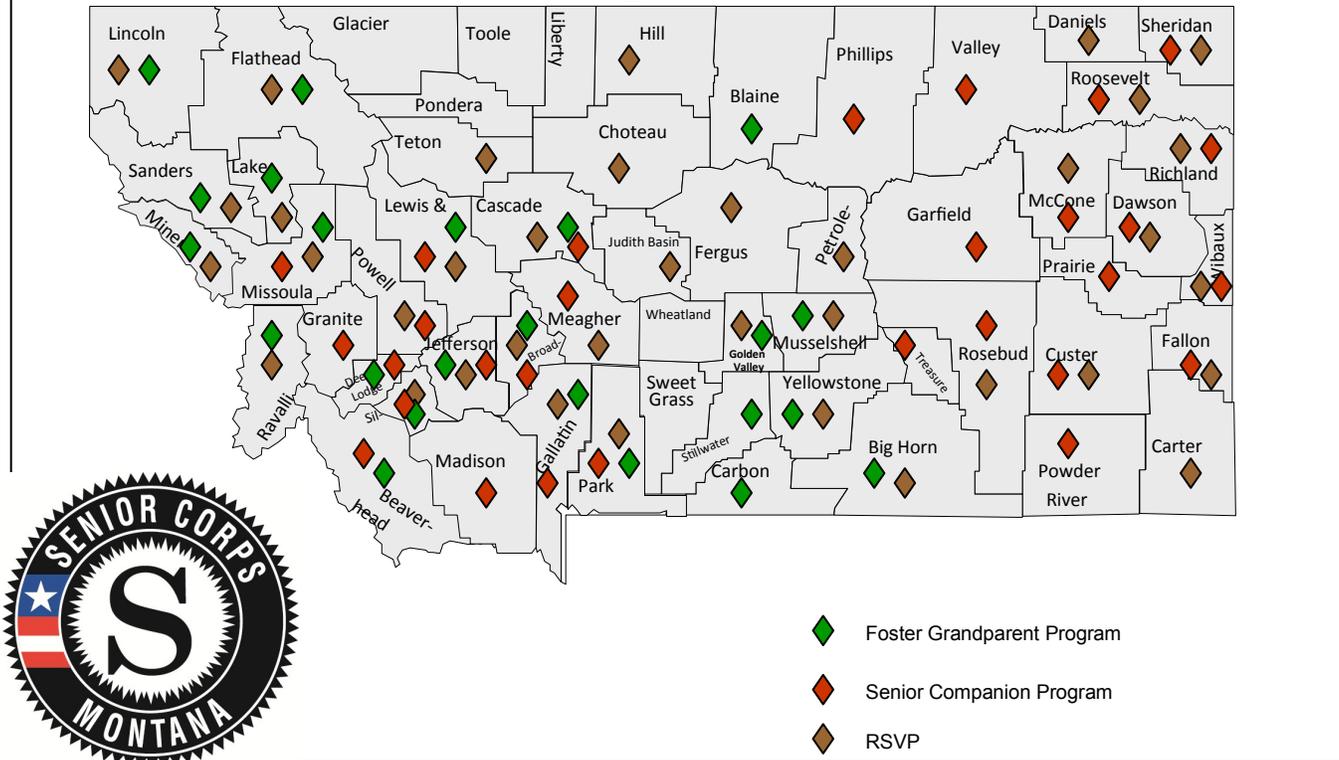


Senior Corps in Montana



Senior Corps is America's largest volunteer network for people 55 and older. There are **21 Senior Corps Programs in Montana, with another one being added 7/1/14**. Combined, they serve **1,136 non-profit organizations and agencies across the state**.

Senior Companions make independence a reality. By sharing their time, experience, and compassion they help seniors and other adults with mobility and self-care limitations to continue to live as independently as possible.

Foster Grandparents give the kind of comfort and love that set a child on the path toward a successful future. They are a role model, a mentor, and a friend to children in Head Start, schools, non-profit day cares, and other youth facilities.

RSVP volunteers share their lifetime of experience by tackling critical needs in our communities. RSVP is America's largest volunteer network for people 55 and older.

In just the last year, over 6,400 Senior Corps volunteers served throughout Montana:

- ◆ Three Senior Companion Programs with **190 Senior Companions** served **181,612 hours** in **31 counties and the Fort Peck Indian Reservation**.
- ◆ Five Foster Grandparent Programs with **208 Foster Grandparents** served **282,545 hours** in **23 counties, as well as the Fort Belknap, Crow, Northern Cheyenne, and Flathead Indian Reservation**.
- ◆ Thirteen RSVP Programs with **6,050 volunteers** served **775,717 hours** in **32 counties, as well as the Fort Belknap, Fort Peck, Northern Cheyenne, and Flathead Indian Reservations**.

Through Senior Corps in Montana:

Senior Companions **190** Senior Companions served **181,612 hours** through **58 non-profit health care agencies** and **1,131 at-risk seniors, of which 789 (or 70%) retained independence**, delaying use of Medicaid funds for nursing home placement. The average cost of care in a nursing home in Montana is \$72,226 annually of which residents pay approximately 32%, Medicaid pays 61%, and Medicare pays 7%. For those 789 seniors the cost would have been \$56,986,314 (789 x \$72,226). The annual cost to operate the 3 Senior Companion Programs: \$781,228 (CNCS Federal Funds) and \$240,245 (Local Funds) = \$1,021,473. **Overall cost savings – just under 56 Million Dollars (\$55,964,868).**

Foster Grandparents **Within 159 schools, after-school programs, Head Starts, and non-profit day-cares, 208** Foster Grandparents mentored and tutored **3,814** school-age students that had been identified as at-risk and below their appropriate level of reading and/or math skills. **By the yearend, 87% were at appropriate level.** And **821** children in Head Start or non-profit daycares that were tested at below their appropriate level of pre-literacy and/or social skills. **By yearend, 73% were at appropriate level.**

RSVP RSVP volunteers served with **1,136 non-profit organizations and agencies**, addressing the critical needs in their communities. Some primary focus area examples include:

Lead With Experience

- In **Education**, across the State last year volunteers mentored, tutored, and provided other support activities for **21,286 children** in schools, after-school programs, and other youth organizations.
- To ensure **Healthy Futures**, volunteers helped **9,152** at-risk seniors by giving rides, delivering meals on wheels, and other support services. Of these at-risk seniors, **8,046 or 88%** remained independent in their own homes.
- In **Disaster Preparedness**, **187** volunteers were trained and are training other community volunteers in Great Falls, Butte and Sidney in Disaster Preparedness and Neighborhood Watch. Of the many impacts shown by law enforcement officials, a tip from one volunteer resulted in a drug bust and **over \$200,000 in illegal drugs**. As part of their on-going training, volunteers help with mass flu immunization clinics. In Missoula alone, **20,000 were immunized**.
- In **Environmental Stewardship**, Great Falls and Missoula RSVP volunteers collect and transport cardboard for recycling. In the last year, the amount of waste entering the landfill was reduced in these two communities by **798,344 lbs.** as a result of their efforts.
- In **Economic Opportunity**, 42 trained RSVP volunteers in Helena prepared taxes through Free Tax Preparation Clinics in five locations. These dedicated volunteers 984 Federal and 1,014 state returns that resulted in refunds in the amount of **\$1,084,937 for seniors and low-income individuals**.
- In service to **Veterans**, 37 Area VI Agency on Aging RSVP volunteers provided 10,190 hours of service to **1,360 veterans** in 6 rural communities of Montana including **4,435 rides to medical appointments and Fort Harrison VA Hospital**, helping with the Homeless Veterans Stand Down, serving with the Veteran Center, and prepared video histories for the Library of Congress Veteran History Project. A survey of veterans served resulted in **94%** indicating that the services provided by RSVP volunteers improved their access to healthcare and other support services.