



PASSAGES – Volunteer Services

Abstract

Passages Volunteer Services oversees three AmeriCorps Seniors Programs: Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions, and RSVP, as well as the National Community Care Corps Program through our Medical Chaperone Project.

AmeriCorps Seniors is a federal initiative managed by AmeriCorps and has been operational since 1965. For the past 26 years, PASSAGES, in partnership with Chico State Enterprises, has sponsored AmeriCorps Seniors projects with an annual budget of \$800,000.

Community Care Corps is a national program designed to promote innovative local models where volunteers provide non-medical care to family caregivers, older adults, and individuals with disabilities, helping them maintain their health and independence.

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The Medical Chaperone Program

The Medical Chaperone Program is a unique, volunteer-driven service designed to help older adults and individuals with disabilities maintain their independence while accessing essential services. Our trained volunteers provide compassionate companionship and reliable transportation, offering door-through-door support. This ensures that our clients are not only transported to their appointments and essential errands but also receive care and assistance throughout the journey.

What We Do

We recognize that transportation to appointments or essential errands can be a significant challenge for many older adults in our rural communities. The Medical Chaperone Program is available for assistance. Services include:

Transportation & Chaperone Services

Medical appointments
Outpatient procedures
Grocery shopping
Pharmacy pickups

Door-Through-Door Assistance

Volunteers assist clients from the moment they leave their home to the moment they return. This includes:
Pre-Appointment Check-in
Helping with mobility aids (walkers, wheelchairs, etc.)
Navigating clinics and hospital buildings
Providing a calming presence and note-taking during essential appointments
Assistance with prescription pick-ups

Before, During & After Support

Assistance with appointment check-in and paperwork
Staying with clients during appointments (when requested)
Post-appointment follow-up and emotional support



Why It Matters

Many older adults and individuals with disabilities face barriers to care due to a lack of reliable transportation or assistance. The Medical Chaperone Program addresses this issue by offering much-needed support.

- Health Equity
- Improved Access to Care
- Reduced Caregiver Burnout
- Enhanced Quality of Life
- Connection to other Services and Resources

Volunteers Are the Heart of Our Program

Our trained volunteers receive ongoing support and guidance to ensure they feel confident and connected in their roles. Whether you're a retiree looking to give back or simply someone with time and compassion to share, you can make a meaningful difference. Studies show that older adults who volunteer tend to have better mental and physical health.

Next Steps

Expanding our Senior Companion Program with additional funding to maintain current services. Build community support and access to local funding to expand program services.

Learn more: <https://www.passagescenter.org/senior-corps/>

AmeriCorps Economic Impact in California

AmeriCorps Members & AmeriCorps Seniors Volunteers	18,323
Service Locations	2,568
Total AmeriCorps Funding	\$132.8 million
Return on Investment	\$2.258 billion

For every \$1.00 allocated by Congress = a \$17.00 return on investment!

