

Foster Grandparents Advisory Council Agenda

Meeting date: April 22, 2026

Meeting time: 3pm

Location: AVRE

In attendance: Lucia Esposito, Robin Alexander, Danielle Clemens, Julia Jurena, Richelle Lawrence, Youjung Lee, Victoria Rucker, Nancy Ellwod

Advisory Council discussion:

- Welcome new members:
 - Tammy Treaster (current FGP)
 - Julia Jurena (Community member, Social Worker at Whitney Point Central School District)
 - Richelle Lawrence (Community Member, Assistant Professor at SUNY Broome)
 - Danielle Clemens (Community member; past OFA employee, current AgeOn Board member)
- FGP Bylaws that provide overview of expectations

Program status:

- Active Grandparents in program as of 04/01/2026: 25
- In addition to the 25 active FGs, we have 3 Grandparents on Leave of Absence

- 3 resigned since September 2025
- Since September 2025 we interviewed and approved 9 new volunteers

New FGs:

- Most recent orientation was held in April with 4 new volunteers who already have a placement: Windsor, UE, Chenango Forks, Family Enrichment network

Current FGP sites:

- We are currently in Whitney Point, Windsor, Harpursville, Susquehanna Valley, Binghamton, UE, Chenango Forks, BC Library, YWCA, Endicott Preschool
- New sites:
 - Calvin Coolidge elementary (Preschool)
 - Southern Tier Community Center (Former B&G club in Endicott) – summer programs
 - Charles F. Elementary (in UE)
 - Floyd Bell Elementary (Windsor)
 - FEN Cherry Street (Infant room)
 - Deposit Elementary
 - Vestal Hills Elementary

- Sites asking for more FGs: Francis Donnolly Elementary (SV)
- Advisory council members discussed the unique Borrow a Foster Grandparent Program and the potential to expand to other libraries. Dr. Lee brought up collaborating with BU MSW program that may be placing MSW students at libraries.

Recruitment efforts:

- Tabling at senior housing
- Continuing to advertise in Senior News
- New ad was created for Senior News and FB that included the monthly income limit
- Advisory Council members had an idea about a new ad to recruit new volunteers. The ad could reference “This is your era. Come join FGP as a volunteer”. Lucia and Robin will work on this.

Income limits & mileage:

- Eligibility increased to \$31,920 single household \$43,280 two-person household; Annual re-assessments can go up to 20% over income

Staffing update:

- We interviewed two candidates for the FG Director position.
- The candidate hired is pending background check and is scheduled to start 05/04
- Working on a training plan
- Robin full time effective 4/6

In-Service Planning:

- In-Service was held in April, two more scheduled
- All volunteers were provided with a Direct Deposit form to receive their monthly stipend & mileage electronically versus getting checks mailed to them. Most signed up.

Recognition:

- Grandparents acknowledged through local school and articles – most recent was a post by CF School District featuring John Steinbeck. This was then shared by SEPP housing in their newsletter.
- Save the date for Recognition Dinner on June 17th at 5pm – Riverwalk Hotel dinner and recognition of volunteers who can invite up to two guests (usually a teacher and/or spouse)
- Recognition Dinner Gift Ideas – in the recent years we have purchased Gift Cards which most volunteers can use and appreciate

Funding Update:

- The grant application was submitted in late March.
- We should hear in middle of June

Next meeting: TBD in May/early June