



## Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

**Meeting date / Time:** February 12, 2026

**Attendees:** Lucia Esposito, Robin Alexander, Victoria Rocker, Youjung Lee

**Location:** BC Library in Binghamton

**Program status:**

- Active Grandparents in program as of 01/01/2026: 21
- 5 Grandparents are on LOA
- 3 resigned since September 2025

**New FGs:**

- 3 new FGs completed orientation in January (recruited: word of mouth and flyer at JCC)  
Placed one at Vestal Hills (new to us), Pre-K Calvin Coolidge & SV ( they have wanted FG for a while)
- One new FG will be oriented in February. Already has a placement at CF and the library (replacing another FG that has left & library)

**Recruitment efforts:**

- Put on hold tabling events due to weather and time constraints
- Continuing to advertise in SN
- New ad was created for Senior News and FB that included the monthly income limit
- Will update flyers to include that info
- Trying to find tabling opportunities with younger demographic.

**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
- Mileage went up to 0.725/mile in January

**Staffing update:**

- I received several resumes for new FG Director but didn't interview due to uncertainty with funding; planning to interview in Feb & March
- Robin will be full time effective 4/1 (if approved by Legislature in March)

## Foster Grandparents Advisory Council

### **In-Service Planning:**

- Restarting In Services in March
- April in service will be Volunteer Recognition month (will cater the food for a special lunch)
- All volunteers will be provided with a Direct Deposit form to receive their monthly stipend & mileage electronically versus getting checks mailed to them

### **Recognition:**

- Mailed all FG's valentine card and candy
- Mailed SRO appreciation cards to all of the school districts
- Grandparents acknowledged through local school and articles (Robin will obtain for us to repost on FB)

### **Funding Update:**

- The grant application was released for us to Renew our 3-year grant
- It will be due Friday April 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Lucia is working on different sections of the grant
- OFA Fiscal Manager will design a budget that will include a FT Director and FT Field Supervisor position

### **Other Challenges:**

- We had a recent injury while the FG was at a field trip outside of the regular site
- Discussion: this is not the first time this happened. Other FGs reported having issues with finding the locations when on the field trip and driving their vehicle. We discussed how being outside of their regular site poses risks and liability issues.
- It was discussed that volunteers are safer when at their regular sites and engaging in their planned activities.
- Field trips can be chaotic due to kids being excited to be outside of their schools. Some destinations are challenging due to locations, terrain, weather etc.
- Advisory Council will vote on a change to policy where volunteers will not be permitted to go on field trips. Once this is approved by council, we will inform the schools and the volunteers at the March in service.

### **Advisory Council discussion:**

- Need to add more members
- Preferably one more from community and several FGs
- Review of Bylaws that provide overview of expectations

**Next meeting: TBD in May**