



Experience Matters
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Experience Matters RSVP Senior Corps Program **Program Year 2017-2018**
Phoenix, Arizona **Federal Legislative District(s) 3, 6, 7, 8, and 9**

PROGRAM FAST FACTS

Congressional District(s): 3,6,7,8 & 9
State Legislative District(s): 01, 15, 19, 21, 22, 24, 27, 28 & 30
Service Area by County/City: Maricopa
Project Federal Share: \$95,034
Project Local Match: \$28,510
2016-17 Volunteers Recruited: 167
2016-17 Volunteer Hours Served: 12,540
Value of Volunteer Hours:\$295,568
2016 – 17 Cash and In Kind Support Generated: None reported
 *[2016 Independent Sector Rate](#) for the Value of a Volunteer Hour in Arizona is \$23.57

Community Need

The need for youth tutoring and mentoring is documented by data showing that education achievement in Arizona, when compared to other states, is below average. In metro Phoenix, one in five young adults is disconnected from education and career planning versus the national average of one in seven. Arizona is also below national average in math, reading, science, and writing at the fourth and eighth grade levels. There is a pressing need to improve educational outcomes for Arizona students, especially for the large number of at-risk children.

National Priority Area:

Literacy / Math Tutoring

- We serve over 400 K-3 students per school year. 90% of students show improved reading as measured by the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS). 130 RSVP volunteers will be working in programs tutoring children in Math and Literacy.

Youth Mentoring

- Partnering with agencies and schools, EM will place RSVP volunteers in 5 volunteer stations in the Greater Phoenix area. Once trained and matched with a student or group of students, mentors commit to meet with the youth on an ongoing, regular basis and help improve outcomes for these students.

Aging in Place

- Lack of transportation, food insecurity issues, and the inability to access food due to mobility or transportation issues, impacts independent living. Trained volunteers at partner agencies provide rides and deliver food enabling older adults to stay in their homes.

Program Activities

- 1)Education: K-12 Success – School Based Literacy Tutoring**
Working through our well-established network and partnerships, we recruit, train, and manage volunteer literacy and math tutors (age 55+) for grades K-8 in Title I schools in the RSVP Geographic Service Areas of Phoenix, and the north and west valley.
- 2)Education: K-12 Success / Opportunity Youth –Youth Mentoring**
Working with agencies and schools where we have existing relationships, Experience Matters will identify and recruit agencies and programs that provide youth mentoring services for youth from school age and opportunity youths
- 3)Aging in Place: Transportation / Food Delivery**
Working with agencies throughout our service area we will place RSVP volunteers who will provide transportation and meal deliveries to seniors who can no longer drive or prepare meals themselves.

Program Impact

As a collaborative partner in Read On Arizona, Experience Matters is committed to playing a leading role providing services to improve literacy outcomes for Arizona’s children. Experience Matters will leverage both our AmeriCorps and Senior Corps programs as well as our Encore Fellow Program to provide the necessary management, coordination and resources to place literacy tutors in designated elementary schools throughout the Phoenix area. Our AmeriCorps Members serve as Program Coordinators in the school districts whose primary responsibility will be to engage and manage Senior Corps RSVP volunteers to serve as literacy tutors at the schools. These Senior Corps RSVP volunteers will be trained in using the highly effective AARP Foundation Experience Corps literacy tutoring models before being deployed to an elementary school. Our AmeriCorps Program Coordinators will manage these volunteers and the data collection required to track literacy outcomes. The help of the caring and trained RSVP volunteers at Northwest Valley Connect enables older adults to travel to medical and other important appointments



RSVP Reading Tutors work with Students at Title I Elementary Schools

Experience Matters RSVP Senior Corps Program

Mission

Connecting the skills and talents of experienced adults with the diverse needs of nonprofit organizations to build a stronger, more vibrant community is the mission of Experience Matters.

Vision

Experience Matters is at the forefront in a national movement to transform models of civic engagement and healthy aging. True to their pioneering spirit of the 1960s and 70s, national studies show that more than 70% of baby boomers are still hungry to make a difference in the world. In Maricopa County, that translates to approximately 700,000 boomers -- many of whom are or will soon be seeking meaningful service opportunities in local social purpose organizations. Experience Matters, recognizing the documented positive relationship between well-being and volunteering, works strategically to enhance organizational capacity to recruit, engage, and retain this generation of volunteers.



History

A local nonprofit, we have been serving Maricopa County for seven years, we served over 2000 individuals and more than 550 social purpose organizations through a best practice platform model that connects passionate skilled adults aged 50+ with community organizations. Our programs offer the variety and flexibility that Boomers have told us they need in terms of structure (schedule, commitment, experience level, continued income) and purpose (interest area, connections, outcomes) in order to use their experience effectively and to address specific community needs. Experience Matters views national service as a powerful pathway for Boomer adults to engage in and strengthen our community while helping them shift to social service endeavors and positively impact the community. Experience Matters receives both an AmeriCorps grant through the Arizona Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism and the Senior Corps RSVP grant. Both programs have a primary focus on education, specifically school-based literacy tutoring and youth mentoring. Through collaborative partnerships, Experience Matters is committed to playing a leading role in providing services to improve academic outcomes for Arizona's children.

Partnerships

The Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust has been and continues to be a major supporter and strategic partner in carrying out the mission of Experience Matters. Encore.org and their Encore Fellow Network is another strategic partner. Experience Matters is part of this national network of organizations that deliver the Encore Fellow Program to their community. In addition, BHHS Legacy Foundation, Nina Mason Pulliam Trust, Bruce T. Halle Foundation, Suns Charities, Phoenix IDA, and Thunderbird Charities have all made significant investments in Experience Matters to support the development and implementation of our programs and services we offer nonprofit organizations to effectively engage skilled community talent age 50+. We have built significant partnerships to directly support our goals with our RSVP program including:

- Read On Arizona and their affiliate networks in the Maricopa County area
- City of Phoenix
- City of Surprise
- Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Central Arizona
- City of Buckeye
- ASU's Global Pathways Institute
- And multiple school districts throughout Maricopa County

OTHER

Broadly speaking, through our National Service Programs Experience Matters is providing an innovative intergenerational approach to improve education and strengthen communities while supporting the changing expectations and needs of people 55 and over in Maricopa County.



RSVP Mentors assist Youth and Young Adults in building a college and career path.