

SerVermont

Supplemental State Service Plan for Adults Age 55 and Older

2016 - 2018

Introduction

Vermont's State Service Plan is inclusive of all individuals. This supplemental plan outlines additional goals specific to Vermont's population of adults 55 and older. SerVermont aims to keep seniors engaged in and connected to their communities through service, and to support national service programs and members that provide services to seniors.

Background

Estimates indicate that by 2030 one in four Vermonters will be over the age of 65. Vermont's population is aging twice as fast as that of the nation as a whole. Nationwide, growth among citizens 65-74 years old is set to soar, and is anticipated to climb from 22 million in 2010 to an estimated 39 million by 2030, a 78% increase. Successful service and volunteer programs must serve the aging population, and engage seniors in service, improving their lives as well as the lives of others.

Vermont has many opportunities for adults 55 to engage in national service. This includes service positions specifically for seniors through Vermont's Senior Corps Programs, including Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions, and RSVP. It also includes opportunities for seniors to serve in any position in any AmeriCorps Program. SerVermont is supportive of Senior Corps programming, and aims to foster the relationship between Senior Corps and AmeriCorps programs and members under this plan.

Goals and Strategies for the State Service Plan Cycle

Goal 1: Increase the service opportunities available to seniors in Vermont.

Strategies:

1. Build the capacity of national service programs which engage seniors as national service members.
2. Develop service opportunities which utilize seniors' extensive skills and life experience to improve their communities and the lives of others.

Goal 2: Increase opportunities for national service members to serve seniors.

Strategies:

1. Build the capacity of national service programs which provide services to seniors.
2. Develop service opportunities which provide services to seniors, including services that support independent living, aging in place, and engage seniors in intergenerational community activities.

Goal 3: Increase awareness of seniors in service as a resource in solving community challenges.

Strategies:

1. Recognize Vermont seniors for their service through the Governor's Service Awards.
2. Share stories of seniors in service and the accomplishments of senior national service members with the community through SerVermont's website, social media, and traditional media.
3. Promote seniors in service as a solution to community challenges through Public Service Announcement campaigns.