



SUPPORT HB 704: MAINTAINING SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS



NH'S SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

Senior volunteer programs benefit everyone in New Hampshire and are essential to our state's long-term services and supports (LTSS) system. They tap into the skills, experience, and wisdom of older adults, mobilizing them as vital community assets.

THE RETIRED SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM (RSVP)

RSVP connects volunteers ages 55+ with diverse service opportunities in New Hampshire. It **advances local solutions** by immersing volunteers in projects that **respond to community needs**, allowing them to serve alongside organizations improving lives and creating lasting change.

Some of the volunteer services include:

- Visiting isolated neighbors
- Tutoring children
- Giving older adults rides to medical appointments
- Grocery shopping for older adults

HB 704: A SMART INVESTMENT

HB 704 supports individuals living in the community by funding RSVP in New Hampshire, an existing, high-impact volunteer program. Through RSVP, communities grow stronger, individuals receive needed support, and volunteers themselves gain purpose, connection, and continued engagement in community life.



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THE BENEFITS FOR OLDER ADULTS

Senior volunteer programs offer valuable benefits not only to the individuals and communities they serve but also to the volunteers themselves. Volunteers experience improved health and well-being and a stronger sense of community.

84% of volunteers report stable or improving health after one year of service¹

88% of volunteers who felt a lack of companionship reported fewer feelings of isolation after becoming a volunteer¹

THE IMPACT IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

One RSVP program in New Hampshire, implemented through the Friends Program, demonstrates the program's impact. In 2022, RSVP volunteers provided **1,600 rides** to important appointments, drove **3,952 miles**, and instructed **2,000 Bone Builders** classes.²



For every \$1 invested in these programs, there's an estimated return of \$11.80.³

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Sources:

1. AmeriCorps Seniors. (n.d.). Information session. <https://media.thesocialpresskit.com/ameri corps/AmeriCorps Seniors101.pdf>
2. Friends Program. (2026). Healthy Aging. <https://www.friendsprogram.org/healthy-aging>
3. Voices for National Service. (2020). *AmeriCorps and Senior Corps: Quantifying the Impact*. https://voicesfor service.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/ICF_AmeriCorps-and-Senior-Corps_Quantifying-the-Impact_FINAL.pdf