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Executive Director of Communications

**The HAP Foundation Awarded \$332,000 to Support Senior Volunteer Service through  
Community Education**

*Funding will support 75 AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers*

The HAP Foundation announced today that it has received an AmeriCorps Seniors grant of more than \$332,000 from AmeriCorps, the federal agency for national service and volunteerism, to support 75 volunteers to expand community education on serious illness care in five Central and Western Illinois counties over three years. The pilot program will begin in Peoria County with Knox, Macon, Rock Island, and Sangamon Counties to follow.

“We are extremely proud to receive the AmeriCorps Seniors federal grant award as it gives The HAP Foundation new opportunities to expand community education and outreach into Central and Western Illinois communities through partnerships with serious illness care providers and community organizations,” said Joseph Matty, President of The HAP Foundation. “Senior adults, many of whom have their own experiences with serious illness and caregiving, will be providing service to their friends and neighbors.”

With this new funding, The HAP Foundation will train AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers as Community Health Workers and leverage their newly acquired skills and lifetime of experience to increase community awareness of and equitable access to serious illness care in the counties of focus. These AmeriCorps volunteers will receive education on serious illness topics including Understanding Palliative and Hospice Care, Advance Care Planning, and Support for Family Caregivers. With significant shortages of health care workers, HAP aims to identify, train, and integrate more Community Health Workers into the workforce to increase access to care for people living with serious illness in communities statewide. Employers who are interested in hosting an AmeriCorps Seniors volunteer, contact Rachael Telleen, Executive Director of Workforce Development, at [RTelleen@thehapfoundation.org](mailto:RTelleen@thehapfoundation.org).

“AmeriCorps Seniors Workforce Development grants provide key funding and resources to increase impact in communities, while also improving the lives of our AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers” said Atalaya



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Sergi, director, AmeriCorps Seniors. “This investment makes it possible for older adult volunteers to leverage their experience to help those most in need, while also gaining training, new skills, and certifications to support them in returning to the workforce. AmeriCorps Seniors is proud to partner with the HAP Foundation to make a meaningful impact in Chicago communities, while also making a difference for older adults seeking their next career and a stable financial future.”

AmeriCorps Seniors serve in all 50 states and the territories of Guam, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. The programs also enable adults over the age of 55 to gain valuable skills through service, helping them gainfully return to the workforce. AmeriCorps adapts to meet some of the most pressing needs of communities, advance civic engagement and empower individuals across the generations to improve lives and communities all over the country. Learn more about AmeriCorps Seniors opportunities at [AmeriCorps.gov/Seniors](https://AmeriCorps.gov/Seniors).

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#### **About The HAP Foundation**

*The HAP Foundation is an independent nonprofit that provides education, advocacy, workforce development, and research on hospice, palliative care, and grief for all ages. With four decades rooted in direct patient care, it currently focuses on educating communities and professionals on hospice and palliative care; engaging in community-based research to better understand and impact disparities in hospice, palliative care, and grief support; and advancing policies that assist individuals and families during end of life. Also, The HAP Foundation offers association management and consulting services.*

#### **About AmeriCorps**

*AmeriCorps, the federal agency for national service and volunteerism, provides opportunities for Americans to serve their country domestically, address the nation’s most pressing challenges, improve lives and communities, and strengthen civic engagement. Each year, the agency places more than 200,000 AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers in intensive service roles; and empowers millions more to serve as long-term, short-term or one-time volunteers. Learn more at [Americorps.gov](https://Americorps.gov). AmeriCorps offers opportunities for individuals of all backgrounds to be a part of the national service community, grow personally and professionally, and receive benefits for their service. [Americorps.gov/serve](https://Americorps.gov/serve).*



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