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AmeriCorps Seniors Workforce Program launches in Sangamon County

The HAP Foundation trains seniors aged 55+ as Community Health Workers

[The HAP Foundation](https://www.thehapfoundation.org) announced the launch of the AmeriCorps Seniors Workforce program today in Springfield. Active recruitment is occurring for U.S. citizens, aged 55 and older living in Sangamon County to participate in the program. Interested participants can apply at www.TheHAPFoundation.org by June 21st. Springfield Mayor Misty Buscher and Chatham Village President Dave Kimsey joined the press conference in support of this program. Courtney Geib, Senior Portfolio Manager with AmeriCorps joined the press conference.

The HAP Foundation will train individuals aged 55+ as Community Health Workers. Community Health Workers are trusted members of the community who demonstrate compassion and empathy for others and enjoy connecting resources to promote a healthy lifestyle. HAP's AmeriCorps Seniors Workforce program will work with The Alzheimer's Association, Senior Services of Central Illinois, Salvation Army, Illinois Assistive Technology Program, Traditions Health, and Ollie Home Care as host sites for program participants.

"We are excited to help seniors in Sangamon County re-enter the workforce through our AmeriCorps Seniors Workforce Program," said Joseph Matty, President, The HAP Foundation. "This program is committed to strengthening the existing community by engaging Community Health Workers to share resources with their neighbors and friends in hopes of providing better health outcomes."

Participants will receive at least 40 hours of training in nationally recognized core competencies to become a Community Health Worker. Also, job training will be provided through host health care or community organizations. Participants must commit to 10 hours a week, with a monthly stipend of \$200, beginning on Thursday, July 18th. After the program is complete, each participant is eligible to receive an additional stipend up to \$1,000 through a grant from the Illinois Public Health Association.



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At the Illinois State Capitol, representatives from partner organizations and local government officials gathered to show their support for this meaningful initiative.

Earlier this year, HAP's AmeriCorps Seniors program launched in Peoria County with 11 volunteers. Over the next three years, this program will expand to Knox, Macon, and Rock Island counties. In July 2023, [The HAP Foundation announced that it was awarded \\$332,000](#) to support senior volunteer service through community education from AmeriCorps Seniors. AmeriCorps is a federal agency for national service and volunteerism that provides opportunities for Americans of all backgrounds to serve their country, address the nation's most pressing challenges, and improve lives and communities.

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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; increasing the Community Health Worker workforce to strengthen and share serious illness resources and education in the community; and advancing policies that assist individuals and families during end of life. Also, The HAP Foundation offers association management and consulting services. www.thehapfoundation.org

