are required to implement standardized national performance measures. All competitive applicants in FY 2013, including incumbent grantees and new applicants, were required to include the new performance measures in their grant applications. Applicants utilized a new e-grants performance module that requires grantees to report on the performance measures in their application work plans, which will increase grantee accountability. Senior Corps has also provided recommended instruments to support grantee adoption of the performance measures such as the independent living and respite care performance measure. CNCS also provided technical assistance and training on performance measure implementation through the FY 2013 Senior Corps Virtual Conference.

The remainder of RSVP projects will adopt the new performance measures when they are competitively awarded a grant, either in FY 2014 or FY 2015. Based on this phased-in approach, the first comprehensive performance measures data for RSVP, as reflected in the new measures, will be in FY 2016. The schedule of implementation follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Percent of Portfolio to Complete</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>32 percent of all projects implement national measures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>31 percent of projects adopt national measures for the 1st time 63 percent of all projects implement national measures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>37 percent of projects adopt national measures for the 1st time 100 percent of projects implement national measures</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The majority of the new RSVP standard performance measures reflect CNCS agency-wide priority and supporting measures, augmented by a number of program-specific measures. CNCS will require all grantees to adopt subsets of CNCS’s priority performance measures to track and report their effectiveness and impact. CNCS anticipates that the concentration of programming in strategic focus areas, using priority performance measures, will be as follows:

In RSVP, 70 percent of activities must occur within the Agency-Wide Priority and Complementary Program Performance Measures. RSVP grantees will also be required to identify a primary focus area. RSVP grantees must commit to reporting a combination of Agency-Wide outputs and outcomes related to the primary focus area. The primary focus area must account for at least 25 percent of the RSVP volunteers enrolled in the project. Thirty percent of volunteers can be placed in community priority assignments that are outside the scope of the CNCS Strategic Plan. In the FY 2013 competition, the Healthy Futures focus area (Independent Living, Access to Care, and Food Security) represented 80 percent and Education represented 13 percent of the focus areas of the new grants. For example, AARP-Experience in Action was announced as the new RSVP grantee in Chicago. They will be recruiting 500 new RSVP volunteers to serve 6,375 students using the Literacy Experience Corps model.

**BUDGET ACTIVITY 7:**

**Foster Grandparent Program**

*(Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973, Title II)*

**Program Summary**

The Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) is an intergenerational program first established in 1965. It connects volunteers aged 55 and over with opportunities to provide one-on-one mentoring, nurturing, and support to children with special or exceptional needs, or who are at an academic, social, or financial disadvantage. Foster Grandparents help young children with special or exceptional needs gain skills and confidence to succeed in school, tutor children in literacy, and assist children in the child welfare system.

A Foster Grandparent can serve as a caring and consistent adult presence in a child’s life. This support, provided at critical stages in the development process, can help a child gain the confidence and skills to be successful in school and expand their economic opportunities later in life. In turn, Foster Grandparents derive significant emotional and health benefits from their service, which can improve their quality of life and provide them with a strong sense of purpose.

Foster Grandparents serve between 15 and 40 hours per week. Volunteers, who are at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level, receive a modest stipend of $2.65 per hour to help offset the cost of volunteering. Volunteers also receive service-related insurance, mileage reimbursement, and other non-monetary incentives. Grants are provided to eligible sponsoring organizations, including nonprofit organizations and state, local, and tribal governments. Grantees contribute at least 10 percent of the total budget in non-federal funds and an amount equal to 80 percent of the federal budget must be expended on direct volunteer costs. Grants are awarded for a period of up to three years.

**FY 2012 Accomplishments and Program Impact**

In FY 2012, 28,250 FGP volunteers, of whom 1,000 were veterans, delivered 23.7 million hours of service in their communities. Volunteers...
served a total of 215,700 children, including mentoring more than 110,300 children, 3,038 of whom were children of military families.

In 2012, states and local communities contributed $26 million in non-federal funds to support Foster Grandparents, well above the required 10 percent non-federal share. The additional funds, including $6.8 million in state appropriated dollars, demonstrate the value of essential services that Foster Grandparents provide to children with special or exceptional needs in their communities.

**Foster Grandparent Program in Action: Program Examples:**

**Serving Children of Military Families — Senior Volunteer Connection Foster Grandparent Program of South Central Georgia**

Foster Grandparents serving at Moody Air Force Base (AFB) Child Development Center mentor and nurture children, many of whom experience separation anxiety as their parents prepare for and go out on deployment. The nine Foster Grandparents from the Senior Volunteer Connection FGP serving at the center ensure that the children remain on track developmentally and academically and that they continue to develop age-appropriate motor, language, and social skills. They continue to serve the children while the parents are deployed.

One child came to the center from Germany. His mother was deployed and the father and three children were reassigned to Moody AFB. The sudden separation from his mother and familiar surroundings to a new environment was very traumatic and the child became withdrawn from his father and siblings. The consistent nurturing by the Foster Grandparent helped the child become a strong little boy who went from being led to leading others as his confidence and self-esteem grew. He began to speak English and worked harder on his other cognitive developmental skills. In 2011, the Foster Grandparent Program received the Moody Air Force Base “Angel” Award.

**Academic Achievement — Iowa and Kentucky**

During the 2011-2012 school year, 74 Foster Grandparents in the Rock Valley, Iowa Foster Grandparent Program served 547 children in 21 elementary schools. The Teacher Evaluations from these schools showed that 83 percent of the students increased their reading skills.

The Foster Grandparent Program of Southern Kentucky in Bowling Green has 78 Foster Grandparents who serve in 40 sites throughout Southern Kentucky. Between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012, these Foster Grandparents have provided more than 81,000 hours of service to children with special or exceptional needs. Ninety-three percent of the 35 children served in Special Education classes advanced to the next grade level while 92 percent of the 89 children served in elementary schools improved their math and reading comprehension. Foster Grandparents also serve youth in the juvenile justice system. Based on reports by facility staff, 85 percent showed improvements in education, citizenship, and self-esteem.

**School Readiness: California, Georgia and Washington DC — Jumpstart Community Corps**

During the 2012-2013 school year, Jumpstart became a Foster Grandparent grantee in Los Angeles. Jumpstart trained 60 Foster Grandparents as “Community Corps” volunteers to serve 162 young children. Jumpstart also began partnerships with the FGP grantee in Atlanta and Washington DC to supplement their traditional “college corps.” Jumpstart’s incorporation of Foster Grandparents brings an evidence-based intervention that has utilized AmeriCorps members and resulted in gains in early literacy, school readiness, and socio-emotional
skills. Children in Jumpstart have also displayed substantially greater literacy and school-readiness gains than children in a comparison control group. The inclusion of Foster Grandparent volunteers in their “Community Corps” demonstrates the flexibility of the Foster Grandparent model and the ability for Senior Corps to work with AmeriCorps to strengthen early childhood education through high-quality programs.

FY 2014 Budget Request and Performance Plan

In FY 2014, CNCS requests $110.565 million for the Foster Grandparent Program, the same as the FY 2012 enacted level. The funding will support approximately 28,250 Foster Grandparents, the same number of volunteers as FY 2012.

Non-grant activities include funding for operations such as business support, Senior Corps Week, and the Senior Corps evaluation\(^6\). CNCS is conducting an evaluation of the potential health benefits of volunteering in the Foster Grandparent Program, as compared to a comparable subset of the 22,000 participants of the Health and Retirement Study (HRS), administered by the National Institute on Aging at the National Institutes of Health. This evaluation will, for the first time, survey all Foster Grandparents. The use of shared instruments from HRS will allow for quasi-experimental analyses, including propensity scoring, multivariate analyses, and statistical accounting for the clustering of data by sponsor. This current evaluation will allow CNCS to determine the feasibility of a future longitudinal Senior Corps evaluation that could determine the potential health benefits of volunteer participation for new Foster Grandparents. The current evaluation and the resulting power calculations will lay the ground work for this possible future study by confirming that it would be sufficiently powered to measure expected changes in the self-efficacy of FGP volunteers as compared to a similar population of Americans who are not Senior Corps volunteers.

CNCS is planning an evaluation of the implementation of national performance measures in FGP using a recommended data collection instrument that will be used to measure gains in school readiness. This study will evaluate the fidelity of school readiness service activity and data collection in 100 percent of FGP grantees, who will be adopting the national performance measures as part of their grant renewals in FYs 2013, 2014, and 2015. This evaluation will provide an evidence-based approach for future technical assistance and training for FGP grantees in school readiness as part of a broader Administration effort to support early childhood education through high-quality programming.

Proposal to Introduce Full Competition into FGP: Proposed Amendments to the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 (DVSA)

CNCS proposes competition authority for FGP to enhance efficiency, accountability, and impact. Proposed amendments to the DVSA would authorize CNCS to conduct a competition for FGP grants. CNCS envisions implementing this competition for the first time in FY 2015, which is the 50th anniversary of the FGP. As with the other Senior Corps programs, this proposal represents an important step forward in ensuring greater return on the long-term investment in FGP. It also reflects CNCS’s commitment to modernization, program impact, and accountability. CNCS believes that competition strengthens programs and community impact, and can be done in a way that minimizes disruptions to both the current volunteers and the communities they serve.

CNCS’s experience with the RSVP competition demonstrates that CNCS can successfully conduct competition in FGP. Implementation of the FY 2013 RSVP competition also demonstrates CNCS’s ability to address stakeholder concerns about competition in FGP, while ensuring that the resulting portfolio of grantees will be the best qualified to meet the needs of children with special or exceptional needs. CNCS proposes to emphasize quality and outcomes, while preserving rural investments. Competition is a powerful tool to ensure accountability and reflects how grantmaking is moving across the federal government. Competition will also help ensure FGP volunteers get the meaningful service experience they desire, and that communities can provide the services that all children deserve.

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\(^6\) Section 416 (a) of DVSA
Beginning in FY 2013, FGP grantees entering the first year of a new grant period are required to incorporate national performance measures in their grant applications. Grantees will utilize a new online performance module that will require grantees to report on the performance measures in their application work plans that will increase grantee accountability. Senior Corps has also provided recommended instruments to support grantee adoption of the performance measures such as the school readiness performance measure. CNCS also provided technical assistance and training on performance measure implementation through the FY 2013 Senior Corps Virtual Conference. Moving forward, FGP grantees that renew or enter the first year of a new grant in FY 2014 and in 2015 will be required to adopt the new measures at the time of renewal. Based on this phased-in approach, the first comprehensive performance measures data for FGP, as reflected in the new measures, will be in FY 2016.

The majority of the new FGP measures are part of the CNCS agency-wide priority and supporting measures, augmented by a number of program-specific measures. CNCS will require all grantees to adopt subsets of CNCS’s priority performance measures to track and report on their effectiveness and impact. CNCS anticipates that 75 percent of FGP activities will focus on Education Priority outcomes related to school readiness, academic engagement, and academic performance. Grantees will be permitted to direct the remaining activities toward an additional Priority Measure and/or child safety/welfare and health issues that reflect the statutory requirements for Foster Grandparents to serve children with special or exceptional needs.

### Table 17. Percentage of the FGP Portfolio implementing National Performance Measures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Percent of Portfolio to Complete</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>36 percent of all projects implement national measures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>29 percent of projects adopt national measures for the 1st time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>65 percent of all projects implement national measures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>35 percent of projects adopt national measures for the 1st time</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>100 percent of projects implement national measures</td>
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### Mandatory Performance Measures with a Focus on Outcomes

The Senior Companion Program (SCP) provides a cost-effective option in the continuum of care available to the nation’s aging population. Each year, Senior Companions, age 55 and older, serve tens of thousands of older and frail adults by providing companionship, transportation, help with light chores, and respite to assist seniors to remain in their own homes. Senior Companions help aging Americans and veterans maintain their dignity and quality of life, while enriching their own lives through their national service experience. Senior Companions’ traditional clients are frail seniors, particularly women over the age of 85 who live alone. Other clients include individuals with disabilities and their caregivers.

Research conducted by the program suggests that Senior Companion clients received significant, long-term mental health benefits from SCP services, including reduced rates of depression. Companionship provides benefits to both the Senior Corps volunteer and companion, as social ties and perceived social support are linked with long-term health outcomes. Senior Companions also serve family and other informal caregivers, who provide daily support to frail seniors living at home. Caregiving can have a negative impact on the caregiving family’s economic opportunities, and caregiver burnout is an important contributor to nursing home use.

Senior Companions serve between 15 and 40 hours per week. Volunteers, who are at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level, receive a modest stipend of $2.65 per hour to help offset the cost of volunteering. Volunteers also receive service-related insurance, mileage reimbursement, and other non-monetary incentives. Grants are awarded to eligible sponsoring organizations, including nonprofit organizations and state, local, and tribal governments. Grantees are required to contribute at least