Agenda

• Introduction to AARP Foundation Experience Corps and the Social Innovation Fund
• Scaling Reading Success
  • Overview
  • Evaluation
  • Host Agency Requirements
  • Eligibility
• Application Process and Timeline
• Questions
AARP Foundation Experience Corps (EC): Our Mission

Experience Corps engages highly trained adults 50+ who help children attain literacy proficiency by the end of 3rd grade so that children succeed and older adults thrive.
EC Overview

- An evidence-based, volunteer-led, literacy program that helps children become strong readers by the end of third grade

- Provides both older adults and children with opportunities to enrich their lives through literacy tutoring

- Experience Corps works side-by-side with schools and community-based 50 and older volunteers to provide children with opportunities to improve their lives

- During the 2014-2015 school year, over 2,000 AARP Foundation Experience Corps volunteers tutored 31,000 students in 22 cities across the country
Reading proficiency by third grade is the most important predictor of high school graduation and career success

- More than 80 percent of low-income children, millions of children across the nation, miss this crucial milestone
- Experience Corps’ evidence-based one-on-one volunteer tutoring model has proven success to help high-need students achieve this milestone
- The number of volunteers needed for one-on-one limits the students that can actually be served
- Scaling Reading Success provides a solution to substantially increase the scale of one-on-one programs
Scaling Reading Success Goal/Approach

One Goal:
• Volunteer tutors help struggling students in high need communities read on grade level by the end of third grade

Two Approaches:
• Sustained small group (three to four children)
• Sustained small group plus classroom-wide literacy assistance
Scaling Reading Success Objectives

• Target schools in high need communities with large percentages of students who are below grade level in reading

• Serve students in kindergarten through third grade

• Provide well-trained adults who are 50 and older as volunteer tutors
Scaling Reading Success Expectations

AARP Foundation:
- Funding
- Training
- Technical Assistance
- Evaluation

Subgrantee:
- Volunteers
- School or District Relationship
- Data Capturing and Sharing
- Cash Match
# Scaling Reading Success: The Role of Subgrantee

## Core Elements

- Host organization whose mission is focused on, or clearly compatible with, AARP EC vision and purpose.
- Focus on impact driven by clearly articulated outcomes / performance measures.
- Effective volunteer support and retention; long-term commitment from older adults.
- Key local relationships and partnerships in communities with a critical mass of K-3 students reading below grade level.
- Adherence to guidelines set by the EC national office, and participation in the national program network.

## Core Functions

- Resource Development
- Communications
- Financial Management
- Risk Management
- Data capture
- Analysis and Reporting
- Evaluation
- Volunteer Recruitment, Training and Management
- Funders
- Schools systems
- Local governments
- NGOs supporting recruitment efforts
- Compliance with EC policies and procedures
- Compliance with EC program standards
- Compliance with brand guidelines
- Grant compliance
Social Innovation Fund: Mission and Approach

**SIF Mission**
To find solutions that work and make them work for more people

**SIF Approach**
- Implement
- Evaluate
- Sustain & Scale
AARP Foundation Experience Corps and the Social Innovation Fund: Working Together

• In August 2015, AARP Foundation received a $3 million grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service’s (CNCS) Social Innovation Fund (SIF) to grow and evaluate the Scaling Reading Success model.
• AARP Foundation provides cash match dollar for dollar
• Subgrantees must match their subgrants in cash dollar for dollar
• Public/private partnership multiplies community investment
• Rigorous evaluation to confirm effectiveness
SIF’s Evidence Framework and Evaluation

**Preliminary**
Program model is supported by theoretical framework and/or previous research

Minimum level of evidence required to receive SIF funding

**Moderate**
Evaluations that support causal conclusions but cannot be generalized beyond the study group

All grantees must reach moderate in 3-5 years.

**Strong**
Completed evaluation(s) that support causal conclusions with large range of participants (multiple geographies) or multiple evaluations supporting the same Conclusion.
Subrecipient Eligibility
Subrecipient Eligibility

“AARP Foundation will invest in community-based non-profit host organizations with the mission alignment, school system relationships, capacity and sustainability to adopt and implement the Experience Corps Program.”

- 501(c)(3) organizations in one of 19 target states (see next slide).
- Documented commitments from school systems or districts.
- Intention to implement small group sustained tutoring alone or supplemented with literacy assistance.
- Access to student data and ability to participate in external evaluation.
Target States – 19 total

- Arizona
- California
- Florida
- Georgia
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Oregon
- New Jersey
- New York
- Ohio
- Pennsylvania
- South Carolina
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Virginia
- Washington
Subrecipient Program Experience

• Compelling student need
• NPOs experienced in working with low-income students by providing academic assistance to reduce barriers to grade-level reading or other academic area
• Clearly demonstrated relationship with schools or school districts
• Demonstrated experience recruiting new 50+ volunteers
• Existing volunteer base with demonstrated engagement in long-term activities
Service Goal

- Ideally, applicants will serve around 600 students through a combination of small group tutoring and small group tutoring plus classroom literacy assistance.
- Goal of 600 students per year is not an eligibility criterion.
- All target numbers will receive equal consideration.
- Target number provides an understanding about the number of schools and volunteers committed to your project.
- The percentage of classrooms in each school being served by small group tutoring plus classroom literacy assistance must not be lower than 25% or higher than 50%.
Application Process and Timeline
Grant Award Overview

• Awards of $100,000-$200,000 per year
• Grant term: February 1, 2016-June 30, 2020
• At least seven subrecipients

Application Process Webinar
October 8
3:00 PM ET
www.aarpfoundation.org/sif
Application and Award Timeline

- **October 8**: Application Process Webinar
- **October 21**: LOI deadline
- **November 17**: Proposal deadline
- **Early December**: Clarification Period
- **Early January**: Site visits to finalists
- **Late January**: Decision finalized
- **February 1**: Subrecipient agreement signed
- **March 9-10**: New subrecipient onboarding convening
- **Fall 2016**: Program implementation starts in schools
How Do You Apply?

Step 1: Get Familiar with Scaling Reading Success Project and the RFA
Step 2: Submit a Letter of Intent
Step 3: Ask Questions and Prepare and Apply

www.aarpfoundation.org/sif
Questions

Scaling Reading Success
www.aarpfoundation.org/sif

Send questions to:
sif@aarp.org
Appendix: Key Definitions--Sustained Tutoring

Sustained tutoring, either one-to-one or small groups of up to four students, is one of two strategies that Experience Corps volunteers employ in EC classrooms. In sustained tutoring…

Sustained tutoring is support provided by volunteer tutors to help students reach **individual literacy goals**. A student or small group of up to four students meets with a volunteer 2 to 5 times per week with sessions lasting 20-40 minutes depending on age and need. The expectation is for the student(s) and volunteer to work together for a sustained period with a target of 35 sessions through the school year. Students referred for sustained tutoring are below grade level in one or more of the foundational literacy skills or overall reading, have an **attainment goal** established by the classroom teacher, and are **tracked for progress**.

80% or more of volunteer hours are devoted to sustained tutoring.
Appendix: Key Definitions--Sustained Tutoring

Literacy Assistance is another strategy that Experience Corps volunteers employ in EC classrooms. In literacy assistance…

*Literacy assistance is support provided by volunteer tutors to reinforce literacy skills or concepts introduced in daily lessons.* The teacher assigns the volunteer tutor to work with a small group, individual student, or an entire class while the teacher works with other students in the classroom. *Literacy assistance is employed to meet a specific lesson-related goal,* rather than individual student goals. *Individual student progress for literacy assistance is not tracked* although some sites do collect whole class data.

Literacy Assistance accounts for 20% or less of volunteer hours.