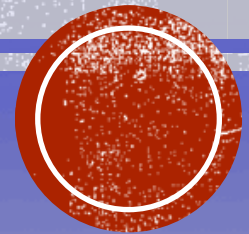


RURAL CAP ELDER MENTORS



PROGRAM MISSION:

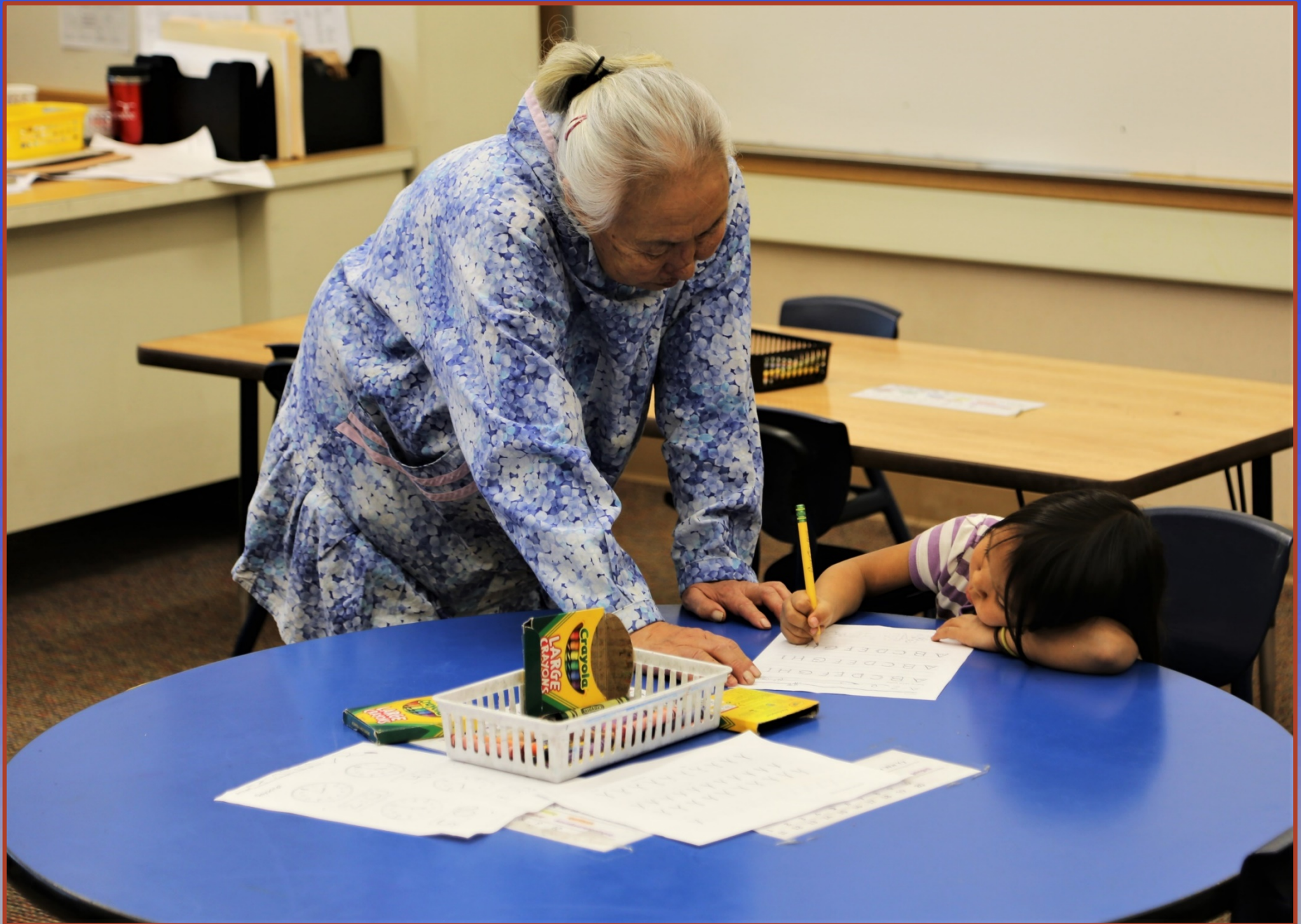
Improve children's
school success,
cultural identity
and well-being
through the
invaluable support
and wisdom of
Elders in the
classroom



OVERVIEW OF THE ELDER MENTOR PROGRAM

- The Foster Grandparent Program was piloted on August 28, 1965, to encourage lower-income people 60+ to get involved in community service
- Originally developed as a cooperative effort between the Office of Economic Opportunity and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare
- In 1971, the Foster Grandparent Program became part of the National Volunteer Agency, ACTION, which also administered the Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA), Peace Corps, and Senior Companion programs
- In 1993, ACTION programs were absorbed by the newly created Corporation for National & Community Service (CNCS), which has supported AmeriCorps and Senior Corps programs for more than 25 years.





OVERVIEW OF THE ELDER MENTOR PROGRAM (CONT'D)

- **CNCS's mission is to "support the American culture of citizenship, service, and responsibility"**
- **RurAL CAP's Elder Mentors are part of the national Senior Corps Foster Grandparent Program, and the program is funded by CNCS, the State of Alaska's Department of Health and Social Services, the United Way of Anchorage, and Donlin Gold**
- **The Foster Grandparent Program has been in operation in the State of Alaska for more than 35 years, with RurAL CAP taking over administration of the program in 2013**
- **All 50 states currently have Foster Grandparent Programs, with a total of over 30,000 active volunteers nationwide**





PROGRAM REACH

- 48 active Elder Mentors currently serving Alaskan youth
- Elders typically contribute an average of 20 hours per week



- Most serve 4 or 5 days per week
- 1,400+ students served during the 2018-2019 school year
- Volunteers contributed 47,400+ hours last school





PROGRAM SUPPORT

- Program Manager
- Program Coordinator
- Volunteer Advisory Council
- Volunteer Service Sites
 - Schools
 - Head Start Programs
 - School-Sponsored Afterschool Programs
 - Youth Correctional Facilities



PROGRAM GOALS

- **Elder Mentor volunteers create inter-generational relationships that are critical for healthy child development**
- **Volunteers are expected to interact directly with children during their service hours**
- **Program goals include increasing school readiness for pre-school children, increasing school success for K-12 students, and reinforcing social skills, cultural values and resilience for all children**
- **Elder Mentors:**
 - **Act as role models and culture bearers**
 - **Provide academic, social, and emotional support to at-risk youth**
 - **Assist teachers in the classroom by being an extra set of eyes and hands**
 - **Provide individual attention to students by working one-on-one as needed**



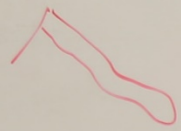


PROGRAM GOALS (CONT'D)

This program has a direct impact on three special groups:

- ***Students*** who are economically, socially, or developmentally disadvantaged increase their school success through individualized mentoring
- ***Lower income Elders*** who stay active in their communities, sharing their skills and receiving a small, tax-exempt stipend as well as reimbursement for meals and transportation
- ***Education Professionals*** benefit by having a supportive role model for the classroom and a mentor who can work with children needing extra help. Teachers often report that students are more engaged in learning when an Elder is present

KIPUN



- 3. Dr. Blaschke
 - a. Alaska
 - b. Eastern part gets vaccinated
 - c. western part latey 1876 vaccinated half the population
- 4. Atka district
 - a. Netsvetov
 - b. tsuhs spread the epidemic
- 5. Cook inlet 1838
 - a. vaccinations fail
 - b. villages - Every one dies
 - c. Chichenov-dad left to...
- 6. South western Alaska
 - a. Afanasii K...
 - b. Disaste...
 - c. Br...



ELDER MENTOR VOLUNTEER ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To become an Elder Mentor, applicants must:

- **Be 55 years of age or older**
- **Pass an FBI Fingerprint Background Check**
- **Receive program and on-site orientations**
- **Receive 24+ hours of training annually**
- **Commit to volunteering 5+ hrs. per week**






ELDER MENTOR VOLUNTEER STIPEND

& REIMBURSEMENTS

Elder Mentors can earn a tax-exempt stipend for their volunteer hours as well as reimbursements for meal and transportation expenses

- **Must be income eligible based on household size**
 - \$30,360 for one person household, \$41,160 for two person household, etc.
 - **Hourly stipend is \$2.65 per hour for eligible volunteers**
 - **Lunches are reimbursed at \$3.55 if not provided by service site**
 - **Transportation to and from the service site is reimbursed at the federal rate, currently \$0.58 per mile (cars, snow machines, ATVs, etc.)**
- 



ELDER MENTOR TRAININGS

Trainings are currently held on a quarterly basis for Anchorage-based volunteers

For Elder Mentors in our rural communities, trainings are conducted twice per year during April and October in the hub communities of Dillingham and Bethel

- **Airfare, lodging, and meals are provided for volunteers participating in training events**

Training topics vary, and have included:

- **Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)**
 - **Injury Prevention**
 - **Youth Mental Health First Aid**
 - **Self-Care and Resilience**
- ...and many others**





VOLUNTEER SITE SUPERVISION

- **Staff (often a principal or director) from participating service sites enter into an agreement with the Elder Mentor Program**
- **The agreement designates a site supervisor, who receives a brief orientation to the Elder Mentor program, which covers:**
 - **How the program evaluates the volunteer's contributions to the school and impacts on the students they serve**
 - **Administrative procedures, such as completing and submitting volunteer timesheets**
 - **Permissible and prohibited volunteer activities**
 - **Proper ways to address issues that may arise with the volunteer**





VOLUNTEER SITE SUPERVISION (CONT'D)

- Each year, the supervisor will work with the Elder Mentor to complete a Volunteer Assignment Plan, identifying the teachers and students the volunteer will work with throughout the year
- Site supervisors are also responsible for signing off on and submitting volunteers' monthly timesheets
- Volunteer sites are asked to complete brief surveys periodically throughout the school year to evaluate how well Elder Mentors are helping teachers reach their classroom goals





WAYS ELDER MENTORS CAN SERVE

As assigned by teaching staff:

- Model their culture and values, and share traditional wisdom
- Support children's social and emotional needs
- Teach daily living and social skills
- Help children learn to read or tutor in math
- Teach traditional language, subsistence and crafting skills
- Mentor troubled youth
- Provide extra support for children with disabilities or special needs

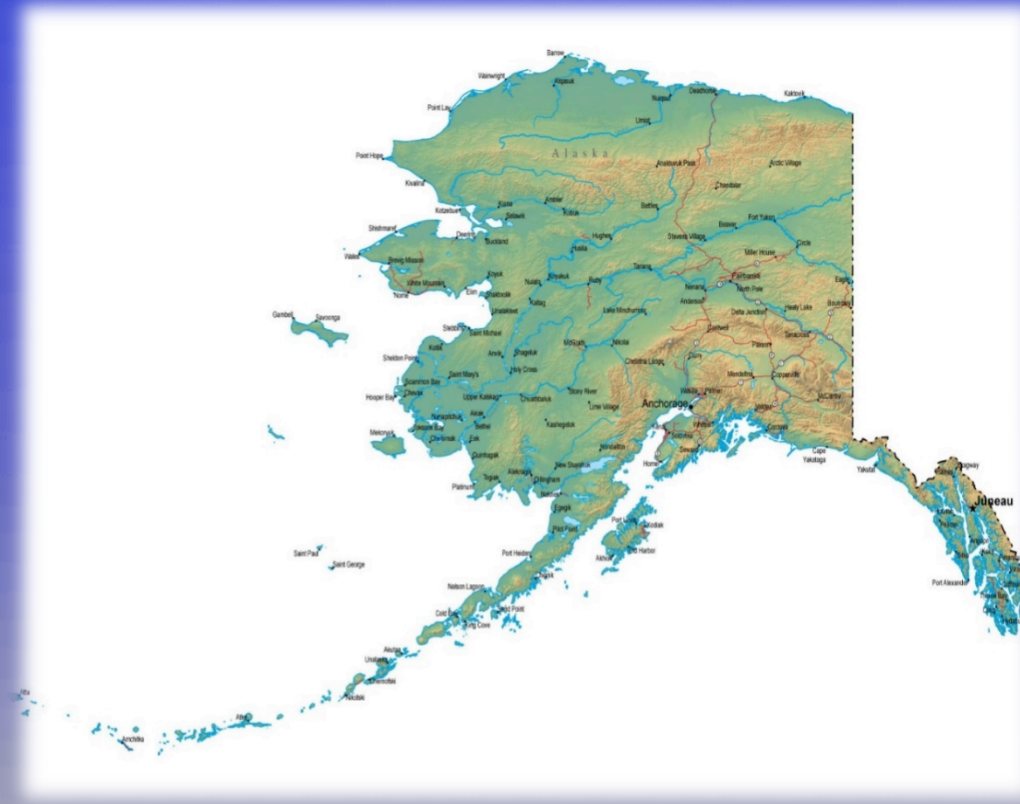




COMMUNITIES INVOLVED

Alakanuk
Anchorage
Akiachak
Akiak
Bethel
Chevak
Elim
Emmonak
Hooper Bay
Kasilof
Kenai
Ketchikan
Kiana

*Elders Are Currently Serving In 26
Different Communities & Counting!*



Kodiak
Kotlik
Kwethluk
Lower Kalskag
Manokotak
New Stuyahok
Nome
Palmer
Pilot Station
**Russian
Mission**
Soldotna
Togiak
Tuluksak



INTERESTED IN HAVING AN ELDER MENTOR AT YOUR SCHOOL?

- Complete and sign Memorandum of Understanding agreement

View Site Orientation & Procedures [PEM or E-Ment](#)



- Provide Elder Mentors an orientation to your school and on-going feedback
- Participate in on-line surveys 2x per school year
- Complete Assignment Form(s)
- Provide meaningful assignments for Elder Mentors
- Review and approve monthly time sheets



INTERESTED IN JOINING THE ELDER MENTOR ADVISORY GROUP?

- Plan recruitment and placement priorities
- Advocate for Elder and input to program
- Find Mentors in your community
- Meet with schools and potential volunteers
- Help develop local resources





QUESTIONS?

TO REQUEST FURTHER INFORMATION, ELDER
MENTOR APPLICATIONS, OR LOCAL RECRUITMENT
MATERIALS,
PLEASE CONTACT:

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ELDER MENTOR PROGRAM COORDINATOR

TIRVIN@RURALCAP.ORG

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731 E. 8TH AVE
ANCHORAGE, AK 99501





THANK YOU!

