

# Public Platform to Promote Productive Engagement of Older Adults

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## Assumption

- Productive engagement of older adults is desirable.
  - Improve health and psychosocial well-being
  - Enhance economic status of older adults
  - Promote participation
  - Capacity building
  - Enhance civic society



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## The Challenge

- How to promote and sustain productive engagement of older adults?
- Two perspectives:
  - Residual perspective
  - Institutional perspective of



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## Residual Perspective

- Market driven
  - Supply and demand determine who and to what degree older adults engage in productive activities.
- Minimal state intervention
  - Temporary
  - To enhance market system, not to replace it
- Individual factors are prominent
  - Depends on older people's ability to participate: Health, education, wealth, skills, income, social network, etc.



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## Residual Model

- Potential problems
  - Externality leads to market inefficient. Therefore, the level of engagement is below optimum.
  - Full participation is a privilege for those who have, not a basic right regardless of one's resources
  - Do not build capacity.
  - Do not encourage different ways of thinking and behaving.
  - Reinforce the age drain perspective.



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## Institutional Perspective

- Being human has an intrinsic value.
  - Man is not a productive machine with an useful life span.
- Full and meaningful participation throughout life course is a basic right for all humans, not for a few privilege people.
- Social program and policy to provide universal opportunity for productive engagement through the life cycle regardless of resources



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## Institutional Perspective

- Promote culture change
  - New way of thinking: Work and retirement, employment practice and law, role of older adults in society
  - New way of behaving: Work and leisure balance, hiring practice, college admission practice, etc.
- Potential problems
  - Expensive: Government funding are needed.
  - Can be seen as a coercion



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## Public Platform

- Social policy
- Social program



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## Senior corps

- Federal Government program
- Authorized under the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973.
- For older adults age 55 or older
- Three programs:
  - Foster Grand parents
  - RSVP
  - Senior companion.



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## Foster Grand parents

- began in 1965
- 27,900 volunteers
- 110.7 million federal government funding
- provides loving and experienced tutors and mentors to children and youth with special needs.
- Provide support in schools, hospitals, drug treatment centers, correctional institutions, and child care centers.
- Working one-on-one and serving up to 40 hours a week.



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## Foster Grand parents

- Working one-on-one and serving up to 40 hours a week.
- Those who meet certain income guidelines receive a small stipend.
- All FGP volunteers receive accident and liability insurance and meals while on duty, reimbursement for transportation, and monthly training.



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## Senior Companions

- Established in 1974
- helps frail seniors and other adults maintain independence primarily in the clients' own homes
- Upto 40 hours / week
- assist with daily living tasks, such as grocery shopping and bill paying; provide friendship and companionship; alert doctors and family members to potential problems, and provide respite to family caregivers.



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## Senior Companions

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## RSVP

- Established in 1971
- America's largest volunteer network for older adults.
- Connects older adults with service opportunities in their communities that match their skills and availability.
- No monetary incentive, sponsoring organizations may reimburse them for some costs incurred during service, including meals and transportation
- you'll receive pre-service orientation, training from the organization where you serve, and supplemental insurance while on duty



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## AARP Experience Corps

- Social program in 19 cities across the country
- Established in 1998
- Connects older adults with children across the country to promote and increase literacy in kindergarten through third grade.
- Older adults commit to serving for an entire school year, frequently in schools in their own communities so that they directly give back to — and help children in — their neighborhoods.



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## The Peace Corps

- Established in 1961
- International volunteer program, serves in 79 countries.
- Puts Americans overseas in places of need.
- Married couples are allowed to join together.
- 7% of volunteers are older adults age 50s and older



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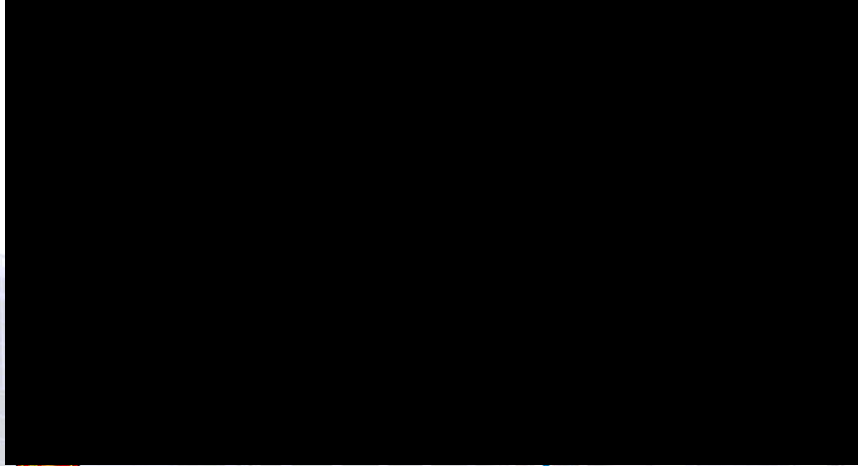


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## Video



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## Ginkgo House of HK



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# Discussion

- Residual or institutional?



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# Thank you



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