

TO: Kansas Department on Aging

FROM: Senior Companion Program  
Fort Hays State University

RE: Public Comments

DATE: July 13, 2006

On behalf of Fort Hays State University and the Senior Companion Program, we extend our sincere appreciation for the funding in the amount of \$25,000 provided by the Kansas Department on Aging in support of Senior Companion volunteers serving frail, socially isolated and chronically ill elderly in western Kansas.

During FY06, funding from the Kansas Department on Aging supported 14 low-income older volunteers providing in-home services to 43 individuals in Ellis, Ford, Gove, Hodgeman, Ness and Pawnee counties in western Kansas.

Services included assistance with daily living activities, transportation, companionship-outreach and respite care. These services were provided for \$3.68/hour. Of the funding provided, 94% went to the direct support of the low-income older Senior Companion volunteers.

In FY07, the Senior Companion Program will utilize a KDOA Special Projects Grant in the amount of \$25,000 to continue these services.

The Fort Hays State University Senior Companion Program, in collaboration with the Kansas Soldiers' Home, respectfully requests consideration of funding in the amount of \$20,000 from the KDOA FY08 budget to support at least four Senior Companion volunteers who are US veterans to serve veterans with special or exceptional needs on site of the Kansas Soldiers' Home, Fort Dodge, KS.

The Kansas Soldiers' Home provides Long Term Care and Domiciliary Care to qualified veterans and eligible dependents. Currently, more than 140 veterans and their dependents live on the Campus of the Kansas Soldiers' Home.

Services provided by the Senior Companion/Veteran volunteers would include in-home support to enable those living in cottages to remain living independently; respite services for family caregivers; transportation assistance; and companionship services to those living in Halsey Hall, the adult care facility on the Campus of the Kansas Soldiers' Home.