

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 865

H. P. 685

House of Representatives, March 1, 1979

Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Reeves of Pittston.

Cosponsors: Mrs. Wentworth of Wells and Mr. Joyce of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-NINE

AN ACT to Provide Matching Funds to Support and Expand the Foster Grandparent Program.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

Appropriation. The following funds shall be appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

	1979-80	1980-81
HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF		
Maine's Elderly, Bureau of		
All Other	\$43,799	\$43,799

Of this sum, \$16,930 shall be granted to Portland West Neighborhood Planning Council and \$26,867 shall be appropriated to the Bureau of Maine's Elderly.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The Foster Grandparent Program is a federally-funded volunteer program

through the ACTION agency which recruits low income older citizens to work with children with handicaps or special needs. While children are given the support and guidance of caring adults, these foster grandparents are provided with 20 hours per week of meaningful activity for which they receive a weekly stipend of \$32.00 as well as fringe benefits such as the provision of one meal a day, an annual physical examination and transportation to and from work sites. Each foster grandparent generally works with 2 children but often works in group settings such as Headstart and day care centers.

Continued funding by ACTION is dependent upon the project's ability to provide a minimum of 10% of total program costs as match. Presently, 2 foster grandparent programs exist in Maine. The first and statewide program is operated through the Bureau of Maine's Elderly and sponsors 72 foster grandparents in 13 sites in 5 counties of the State. The 2nd, a local and new program, is operated through the Portland West Neighborhood Planning Council and sponsors 65 foster grandparents. The Portland West program plans to continue at this level through December 30, 1979 and requires cash match to assist in that continuation. The bureau's program plans to expand to 8 counties of the State next year and to increase to 100 the number of foster grandparents it sponsors.

Federal regulation requires that each program provide at a minimum a 10% match of their total budget which is \$16,930 for Portland West and \$26,867 for the Bureau of Maine's Elderly.

This bill will provide funds to guarantee the availability of these matching funds and insure the continuation and expansion of the Foster Grandparent Program.