

900 Royal Heights Rd., Belleville, IL 62226



SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (SCSEP)

Providing job training and placement for individuals age 55 or older with limited financial resources and to provide employers with trained, motivated workers.



SCSEP Newsletter

November 2020

Caritas Receives \$773,700 Senior Community Service Employment Program Grant

Caritas Family Solutions has been awarded a \$773,700 grant from the Center for Workforce Inclusion, Inc. (the Center). Almost 90 percent of this grant – originally from the U.S. Department of Labor – will provide temporary employment to no less than 106 low-income older Illinoisans living in Bond, Clinton, Fayette, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Madison, Marion, Montgomery, Scott, and St. Clair.

These older adults will participate in the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) a cornerstone program of the Older Americans Act. SCSEP is celebrating its 55th anniversary this year.

SCSEP, the only federal job training program targeted exclusively to low income seniors, promotes personal dignity and self-sufficiency through work. Its' temporary part-time community service jobs provide a hand-up, not a hand-out for older, unemployed low-income Americans. The Senior Community Service Employment Program allows eligible persons to participate for up to four years, but the average tenure nationally is 19 months with the experience and training they receive leading them to permanent employment.

As one of the largest U.S. Department of Labor National Grantees of SCSEP, the Center works through a network of local partners delivering various career training programs for eligible 55-plus-year-old workers in 33 states. To date, the Center has placed over 90,000 older workers into permanent employment through the SCSEP program. "Our long-term, local partners are a key to the strength of the Center and provide the systems to train older Americans into strategic advantage for employers and the Country." said Gary A. Officer, Center for Workforce Inclusion President and CEO. "We are very pleased to continue our support of the Caritas Family Solutions for the 46th consecutive year."

"SCSEP has been a god send during the COVID-19 pandemic," said Gary Huelsmann, Caritas Family Solutions, CEO. "SCSEP participants have been able to continue to be paid emergency pandemic sick leave while they stay at home and in many cases continue to receive training."

Continuing to receive funds has prevented participants from becoming homeless. And now, the participants are slowly starting to be able to safely return to their training sites

where they help local community, faith-based, and public agencies carry out their mission.

Huelsmann concluded, "SCSEP is providing hope and the dignity of work to low income 55+ who are not job ready and have the toughest employment challenges. The grant from the Center is vital to our being able to deliver this program in the communities we serve."

For more information about SCSEP, contact 618-688-1180.

From the Manager's Desk



The holiday season can be a time of joy or a time of loneliness for seniors. One of the joys about SCSEP, in addition to the income seniors are able to earn, is the added sense of "family" developed.

Through their SCSEP community service assignments, bonds are formed and friendships are made. Participants who have no family have mentioned that they have spent Thanksgiving Day with another SCSEP participant or other workers that they've met at their SCSEP training site. To hear this is very heart-warming and brightens the holiday spirit.

From the Caritas SCSEP staff to all of you, we would like to wish everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving!

Gary D. Woods
SCSEP Program Mgr.



Caritas SCSEP provides Computer Tablet Training for Participants

CTT4S



Computer Tablet Training 4 Seniors

Caritas SCSEP realizes that a majority of our participants have very limited computer skills, which makes employment seeking very difficult. Today, more and more companies require applications and resumes be submitted through an on-line process.

Recognizing this dilemma, through a grant from National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP), for supportive services, training, etc., we developed the CTT4S (Computer Tablet Training 4 Seniors) program, designed to teach basic computer skills to assist them with their efforts to rejoin the workforce. Along with this training, each SCSEP participant has received a computer tablet to assist them with their job searches, time sheets, and career exploration.

The Veterans Court Technology Clinic Inc., (VCTC) is a 501(C)(3) organization that has been contracted to instruct our Caritas/SCSEP participants, under the CTT4S program. "The workplace today is 95% computerized, and no matter where you find employment there is a good chance a computer or tablet will be a basic tool you will use," says Kennedy Davis, Founder and Executive Director of VCTC. In the past six years, VCTC has helped over 750 people gain marketable competence in computer skills, including office software usage and hardware maintenance, and prepared them for employment, self-employment, or higher education.

www.caritasfamilysolutions.org/scsep

