

Senior Community Service Employment Program

Senior Service America, Inc. (SSAI) is a non-profit organization that provides civic engagement and employment opportunity for adults over the age of 55 who wish to re-enter the workforce. SSAI is one of 18 national sponsors of the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP).

SCSEP (pronounced SEE-sep) began as part of the War on Poverty 40 years ago and was so successful that it became a national program under the Older Americans Act in 1973. To participate in SCSEP, a person must be:

- Age 55 or older;
- Legally eligible to work in the United States;
- Living in a household with income no more than 125 percent of the federal poverty level.

By law, SCSEP gives special attention to those who are any of the following:

- Are 65 years of age or older;
- Have a disability;
- Have limited English proficiency or low literacy skills;
- Reside in a rural area;
- Are a veteran;
- Have low employment prospects;
- Are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

SCSEP participants are paid minimum wage while they gain marketable job skills working part-time in non-profit and public organizations, including senior centers, schools, and libraries. The program provides a win-win for participants and their communities. Participants benefit by: building confidence; learning new skills; providing paid training, in-demand work experience, and added income.

SCSEP benefits community service and government agencies by:

- Providing older workers who, while training, expand agency's capacity to provide services;
- Providing agency opportunity to evaluate loyal workers in training for possible hire;
- Reducing "loss of productivity" due to reduced absenteeism from dependable older workers.

SCSEP benefits employers by:

- Providing a pool of experienced, dependable and qualified candidates for a variety of jobs;
- Saving training dollars by providing loyal workers;
- Accessing local agencies that know your area and business needs.

Agencies offering SCSEP services in our area are:

Melinda Goode
Director, Senior AIDES Program
Northwest TN Human Resource Agency
Martin, TN 38237
Phone: 731-364-3228 ext 127
Email: melinda.goode@nwthra.org

Jenny Manor
TN Community Services Agency
1604 West Reelfoot Avenue
Union City, TN 38281
Phone: 731-884-2630
Counties: Dyer and Obion

Counties: Crockett, Dyer, Gibson, Lake, Obion

Senior Citizens Services

4700 Poplar Avenue, Suite 100

Memphis, TN 38117

Phone: 901-766-0600

Counties: Lauderdale and Tipton