

## Senior Community Service Employment Program **Fact Sheet**

If you are 55 or older, unemployed and looking to re-enter the workforce, you may qualify for the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP).

The National Indian Council on Aging (NICOA), is one of 15 national nonprofit agencies serving as a grantee to provide SCSEP.

SCSEP is administered by the U.S. Department of Labor under the authority of the Older American Act of 1965.

NICOA, operates in fourteen designated counties in the following 14 states: Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Minnesota, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wisconsin. Although NICOA operates through an American Indian set aside grant from the Department of Labor, we provide services to anyone in our service area eligible for the program.



Subsidizing job training and building real world skills are the key to NICOA SCSEP's success in Indian Country since 1989.

### **GOALS OF SCSEP**

SCSEP helps low-income job seekers age 55 and over gain the skills needed to re-enter or remain in the workforce.

The program serves a dual purpose:

- Providing participants with temporary, useful part-time training and grant sponsored income to prepare them for finding employment in the community.
- Helping employers address their workforce shortages by promoting transition to unsubsidized employment and becoming a resource for trained, qualified mature workers.



### **NICOA'S OBJECTIVES ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

- Enhance communications and cooperation with community service providers and other aging organizations that represent and advocate for American Indian and Alaska Native Elders.
- Network with appropriate agencies to maximize resources, and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the service delivery systems for Elders.

## BUILDING JOB SKILLS FOR PARTICIPANTS

Once a jobseeker is accepted to the program they become a participant of SCSEP. NICOA provides a range of training opportunities for its participants:

- Community Service Assignments: The primary location for job training is the **Host Agency**—a nonprofit or public agency that serves as a work/training site.
- Community Based Training: NICOA partners with many community resources to offer training opportunities for services such as basic skills, ESL and computer literacy. NICOA prepares its participants to become better skilled applicants. NICOA staff thoroughly assess each participant's skills, interests, and attitudes before referring the applicant to potential employers.

## NICOA HELPS LOCAL EMPLOYERS

NICOA and local work force offices work closely with employers for job placement opportunities. We help employers find mature workers with qualifications that fit their work environment.

## VALUE OF MATURE WORKERS

NICOA considers mature workers to be a valuable resource and “markets” them through community contacts and employer partnerships.

## NICOA SCSEP MOTTO

***“Your job is to get a job, our job is to help you!”***

## MATURE WORKER FACTS

While many people think of older adults as retirees, the truth is millions of Americans aged 55+ work full or part-time jobs every day. According to the National Council on Aging (NCOA) the reasons they work are varied, but for many it's a matter of necessity to remain financially secure and independent. Others work to stay active and engaged in their communities. NCOA also states that as the population ages, older Americans will play an increasingly important role in our economy and America's leadership in the world marketplace. By 2019, over 40% of Americans aged 55+ will be employed, making up over 25% of the U.S. labor force.

According to the U.S. Labor Department the national data that's available for American Indian and Alaska Natives paints a gloomy picture. More than 1 in 4 native people live in poverty and their labor force participation rate—which measures the share of adults either working or looking for a job—is 61.6%, the lowest for all race and ethnicity groups. At 11%, the native unemployment rate in the third quarter of 2014 was almost double the national rate of 6.2%.

## FOR QUESTIONS

Please contact the NICOA SCSEP main office at (505) 292-2001.

