

## **OLDER AMERICAN COMMUNITY SERVICE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (OACSEP)**

Authorized by the Older American Community Service Employment Act (Title V of the Older Americans Act, the Department of Labor has established and funded each state's programs). The program is referred to as the OACSEP, the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), or the Title V Program. The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) of the Department of Labor operates the program by means of grants, contracts, and other agreements with eligible organizations such as governmental entities, and certain public and private nonprofit agencies and organizations. In North Carolina, the Department of Labor contracts with the North Carolina Division of Aging and Adult Services (NCDAAS) for a statewide program. NCDAAS in turn allocates funds to designated state planning regions to operate the local programs.

The Centralina Council of Government's Area Agency on Aging (AAA) submits a regional OACSEP plan to NCDAAS to receive funds to operate the program in seven of the nine Region F counties. Upon approval of the plan and execution of a sub-grant agreement, the AAA contracts with local governmental units and nonprofit agencies in each county.

The purpose of the program is to provide, foster, and promote useful part-time employment training opportunities to eligible low-income individuals aged 55 and above in public and private nonprofit agencies and organizations. The program is designed to benefit both program participants and the local community in which the program operates.

While in the program participants may receive job counseling/coaching, skills training such as computer or GED's, and assistance with resume writing, job search and job interviewing techniques. Other support services, such as physical exams or eye glasses, are provided on an as needed basis to individuals.

One of the program measurement benchmarks is to place a certain percentage of program participants in unsubsidized employment. Each year the percentage amount is negotiated between DOL and NCDAAS. Once determined, the CAAA in conjunction with each county agency provides needed support services to participants to enhance their potential for placement into an unsubsidized position in the public or private sector. Program rules also require that participants must be tracked for a period of one year to assure retention in their jobs.