

## FEATURE STORY

### ***U.S. Seniors Are Employed at Highest Rates in 55 Years***



In 2017, the number of seniors participating in the workforce is higher than at any point since 1966. Bloomberg reports that more and more Americans are spending their golden years on the job. Almost 19% of people age 65 and older were working at least part-time in the second quarter of 2017, according to the U.S. jobs report released mid-July.

For many seniors, the pursuit of a job is a financial necessity. Longer life expectancy and increased health costs have made retirement more expensive. Stagnant wages, market crashes, and decline of the traditional pension have made it harder for mature workers to save.

AARP reports that 20 million low-income people age 50 and over do not have adequate financial resources to meet their basic needs. Barriers such as lack of basic job skills, gaps in work history, and age discrimination often make it difficult for older Americans to find meaningful work that is needed to support themselves.

The Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) is the only federal job training program focused exclusively on helping low income seniors find employment. Trainees earn income while building their self confidence and learning skills valued by local employers.

The MaturityWorks SCSEP program provides seniors with an opportunity to return to the workforce through job skills training and work experiences in community service positions that will assist them in finding permanent, unsubsidized employment. The program invests in unemployed older Americans age 55 and older, who in turn provide valuable supports to non-profits and government agencies, pay additional taxes, spend wages in their communities, and regain a sense of purpose.

*Sources: AARP, Bloomberg*

### **MaturityWorks OPENS NY HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK CITY**

MaturityWorks has secured new office space in Harlem (NYC) at 126th Street to house staff members and SCSEP participants. The building is located in the heart of Harlem enabling staff to provide service to over 320 participants in the four boroughs - Manhattan, Bronx, Brooklyn and Staten Island.



### **WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR MaturityWorks?**



Maturity Works is committed to helping older Americans train for work while reducing employment barriers faced by many low income seniors. To be eligible for enrollment in

*MaturityWorks*, participants must be at least 55 years of age, unemployed, and have a family income of no more than 125% of the federal poverty level.

A key qualification for entering *MaturityWorks* is that the person is not job-ready. Enrollment priority is given to seniors who are:

- Veterans or qualified spouses
- Over age 65
- Disability
- Low in literacy skills or English proficiency
- Residents of rural areas
- Homeless or at risk of homelessness
- Low employment prospects
- Failed to find employment after using WIOA services

## ONE GOOD LEAD DESERVES ANOTHER. Host Agency Referral Program

*MaturityWorks* is partnering with the bluegreen Research Institute to offer an exciting new incentive for existing non-profit and government host agency training partners who refer organizations to become new host agencies.

*MaturityWorks* focuses on providing job training and employment opportunities to seniors through paid training at not-for-profit organizations and government agencies. With recent cuts to non-profit budgets, many organizations no longer have resources needed to research new funding sources. When you refer, and we accept, a non-profit to our program, we'll provide your organization with 90-days of Opportunity Watch grant monitoring services from the bluegreen Research Institute.

bluegreen specializes in grant writing, program development and research services for a variety of public, private and governmental entities that impact workforce and economic development in the United States. It has successfully assisted non-profit organizations secure over \$100 million in competitive grants over the past 10 years. The 90-day Opportunity Watch grant monitoring service will provide notifications of grant announcements from federal and state agencies, as well as private funding sources. **REFER TODAY!**

### OPPORTUNITY WATCH

#### How It Works

1. Reach out to local non-profits in your area that could benefit from hosting *MaturityWorks* participants in a training capacity.
2. Direct the agency to complete a short application online at: <http://bit.ly/MaturityWorksHostAgency>
3. Once applications are reviewed and approved, the 90 day grant monitoring service will begin.

### SUCCESS STORY



Before joining the *MaturityWorks* SCSEP Program, Mr. Michael Britton had a long track record as a Security Officer. He had worked for private companies and educational institutions maintaining the safety of facilities, workers, and students.

Mr. Britton enrolled in SCSEP in July, 2016 and started his training assignment at Mid-Manhattan Adult Learning Center as an Operations Assistant to gain additional experience in operations and take computer training.

With the support of his career counselor, Michael expanded his work experience by completing an operations training. He updated his resume, and learned enhanced interviewing skills, online job search skills, and job readiness skills. Ready to go back to unsubsidized employment, Mr. Britton accepted a full-time position as Security Officer with Windfield Security with full benefits. According to Mr. Britton, the program helped him get much needed support to reinvent himself with additional informational technology and computer training that he is now using daily in his new job.

### APPLY NOW!

Government agencies, and 501(c)(3) non-profit groups can expand services by hosting a subsidized *MaturityWorks* trainee.

**For more information,  
call 866-683-1682**

### PARTNER HIGHLIGHT



Founded in 1936, Selfhelp Community Services is one of the largest and most respected not-for-profit human service agencies in the New York metropolitan area. The program operates 27 sites that offer programs for more than 20,000 elderly New Yorkers each year. Their mission is to maintain the independence and dignity of seniors and at-risk populations through a spectrum of housing, home health care and social services.

Selfhelp partners with the *MaturityWorks* Senior Community Services Employment Project to support their various home care programs, increase service delivery, and provide on-the-job training to participating seniors. Senior Recruiters conducted a company evaluation to identify open and potential job positions, and conducted a in-depth company orientation for trainees.

Trainees were placed in administrative roles in various home care programs, and received on-the-job training in administrative, organizational, and general computer skills that prepared trainees for permanent employment.

As a result of trainees' outstanding evaluations from program managers, two *MaturityWorks* participants in the first training cohort were offered full-time positions at Selfhelp. Recruiters are confident that the two current trainees will also be offered unsubsidized employment with Selfhelp.