



# MERS/GOODWILL SCSEP

## SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM



### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) is a community service and work based training program for older workers. Authorized by the Older Americans Act, the program provides subsidized, service-based training for low-income persons 55 or older who are unemployed and have poor employment prospects.

Eligible Participants must be at least 55, unemployed, and have a family income of no more than 125% of the federal poverty level.

MERS/Goodwill administers SCSEP in St. Louis and the surrounding counties, along with many counties in Southeast Missouri, and Southern Illinois.

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE:**

SCSEP has a long history of placing participants into volunteer positions at local non-profit and government agencies. SCSEP participants can assist agencies with duties like customer service, reception, data entry, filing, inventory, stocking, janitorial, and food service. Participants are usually required to have a 20-hour per week schedule, and all expenses and liability, including wages and fringe benefits, are covered by MERS/Goodwill through the grant, so there is no cost to the host organization.

### **WORK-BASED TRAINING:**

During their community service, SCSEP participants will learn valuable work skills and experience, but the positions are not jobs. One of the primary goals of the SCSEP is to train the participants on the skills they need in order to eventually find permanent employment (either at the host organization or elsewhere). A skills assessment and an Individual Employment Plan (IEP) help define and focus the training and employment goals for each participant.

### **PLACEMENT SERVICES:**

Another important goal of SCSEP is help each participant find permanent employment. After training objectives have been achieved and a participant is ready for work, then an intensive search for a job begins. Staff will assist each participant with methods of job search, resumes & applications, and interview coaching.

Please call MERS/Goodwill SCSEP at **1-888-651-4177** with any questions, or to obtain information on how to participate in the Senior Community Service Employment Program.