Department of Employment and Economic Development

Lorrie Janatopoulos | CareerForce Director
Current policies and programs that highlight Age-Friendly

Programs

• Senior Community Services Employment Program (SCSEP)
• State Services for the Blind (SSB) Senior Services Unit (SSU)
• Services provided through CareerForce Locations statewide
  • Job Search for Mature Workers workshop
  • CareerForceMN.com resources for over-50 workforce

Policies

• One Minnesota WIOA State Plan 2020-2023
  • Added “age” to the goal of building an inclusive, employer-led talent pipeline
• Increase access to telemedicine throughout the state
• Expand broadband access to unserved and underserved parts of Minnesota
Partners

- Governor’s Workforce Development Board (GWDB)
- Service delivery partners for SCSEP
- SSB SSU Aging Eyes Initiative
- CareerForce location partners
  - Minnesota Department of Education Adult Basic Education (ABE) Providers
  - Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS)
  - DEED’s Jobs for Veterans State Grant (JVSG)
  - Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs)
  - Other employment and training providers
Gaps/Opportunities in Programs

**Gaps**
- Workforce programs serve regardless of age but no comprehensive strategy for older adults
- Capacity issues for SSB SSU
- Adjacent workforce issues such as housing, transportation and technology
- Differing understandings of what the "aging population" is

**Opportunities**
- Coordinate efforts of DEED as well as those of workforce partners
- Expand SSB SSU services to meet growing demand
- Utilize current data to better target services for older career seekers
- Enhance interdepartmental work among state agencies
- Leverage CareerForceMN.com and other platforms to enhance digital learning opportunities for career seekers and employers
Labor Market Information (LMI)

- 2019: Employment to population 65+ ratio 23.7%.
- 2019 Unemployment Rate among 65+ – 2.2%
- Employment during 2019 Second Quarter
  - Workers 65 and older held 5% of jobs, earned a median hourly wage of $16.99 and worked a median of 249 hours (520 hours is full time for a quarter)
  - Transportation and Warehousing was the industry with highest share of total jobs held by people 65+ at 9.2%
- In development: analyzing COVID-19 impact on aging workforce:
  - Between March 16th and May 9th, 179,027 people 65 and over have applied for Unemployment Insurance benefits.
    - That represents 21.6% of the labor force 65 and over and 6% of all the applications filed during that period.
  - Labor force participation rates have declined significantly since March 16 – some of this could be due to retirement earlier than planned.
CareerForce
• 2019: 52% of customers over the age of 40 and 31% over the age of 65.

SCSEP Performance Measurements
• Number of individuals served, and ratio of most-in-need individuals served; hours of community service employment; effectiveness in serving.

SSB SSU
• Number of individuals served including demographic information, types of services, and "control and confidence" measure.
• In development - a semi-annual, qualitative survey to determine program outcomes for consumers (delayed due to COVID).
Thank You!

Lorrie Janatopoulos, CareerForce Director

Lorrie.Janatopoulos@state.mn.us

651-259-7572

651-583-1478