"Tomorrow's Workforce: Strategies for Appalachia's Future"

Appalachian Regional Commission

New Views for A New Appalachian Workforce

Tony Sarmiento

Senior Service America Inc.

Senior Service America and SCSEP.

Giving Back: The Story of SCSEP

How older Ohioans overcame age—and poverty—to serve their communities

From *Aging in Appalachia* (Haaga, 2004):

"In many ways, the 1990s and the 2000s have been the calm before the storm for all institutions working with the elderly." (p. 22)

From *Aging in Appalachia* (Haaga, 2004):

"This same period is the last chance to prepare at every level of government for the revenue and expenditure effects that the baby-boom retirement will bring. The Appalachian region will hardly be alone in dealing with the challenges. But the stresses will be most visible in Appalachia, with its markedly older population." (p. 22)

Is the storm here?

"The slumping stock market, falling housing prices, and weakening economy have serious repercussions for the 94 million Americans 50 and older who are approaching retirement or already retired."

- ***How is the Economic Turmoil Affecting Older Americans?,*** Urban Institute, October 2008.

Is the storm here?

"More and more older Americans are working to bolster their retirement incomes, but the rising unemployment rate, now 6.1 percent, limits their prospects."

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About ten million Americans currently need long-term care, projected to increase by another eight to ten million.

- ***Long-Term Care in the U.S. and the Appalachian Region,*** Senior Service America Inc. (forthcoming).

Is the storm here?

"The tendency for older residents of Appalachia to be poorer, more impaired, and more likely to live alone … will make long-term care a more pressing public policy challenge for states within the region."

- ***Long-Term Care in the U.S. and the Appalachian Region,*** Senior Service America Inc. (forthcoming).

Is the storm here?

"States, especially in the Appalachian Region, and the federal government will have to do much more over the next five to ten years than they have done for the past 20 years…to meet the need for long-term care services over the next two to three decades."

- ***Long-Term Care in the U.S. and the Appalachian Region,*** Senior Service America Inc. (forthcoming).

Our Challenge.

To serve a larger and more diverse number of older adults through our

- workforce development
- adult education
- aging network systems.

Our Challenge.

Number of 55 and older adults who exited WIA Title I programs in the US, PY2006:

48,700

Our Challenge.

Number who took the GED Test in Appalachian states in 2007:

All ages:	249,000
50 and older:	7,300

(Less than 3%)

Our Challenge.

- Better coordination among programs.
- More funding.

From *Aging in Appalachia* (Haaga, 2004):

"the older population has to be seen as a resource, not just consumers of public services." (p. 18)

For more information:

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