

News Article for Local COA Newsletters September/October 2010

How Getting a Job Has Changed – Referral to Career Centers – Announcement of the Next Wisdom Works (WW) Job Search Skills Program (where applicable)

The Importance of Extending Your Employment Years

For the past few decades, the health of older Americans has been improving, while changes in occupations associated with the growth of the service economy have made work less physically demanding. In addition, life expectancies have increased steadily, increasing in turn the financial resources required to maintain one's standard of living over throughout one's life.

In the past, generous retirement benefits made it attractive for Americans to retire at younger ages despite their increased life expectancy. In the future, however, financial realities are likely to make it more attractive for Americans to keep working later than age 62, the most popular age for retiring. The continuing shift away from defined benefit retirement plans and retiree health insurance will mean that that many more Americans will need to save even more to ensure adequate income throughout one's retirement.

Yet a 2006 survey of adults conducted by the Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI) showed that many do not fully understand how these changes affect their retirement security, and, among those who do, few have altered their savings behavior to compensate for the decline in generosity of retirement income provided by employers. For these reasons, staying employed until later years is more important than ever.

Searching for full time or part time jobs can be difficult for several reasons. Here are some of the challenges facing adults age 55 and older in obtaining employment:

- ◇ The methods for finding jobs as changed. Today, nearly 85% of all jobs are posted only on the Internet! Many adults may not know how to use the internet or how to best utilize it to find new work.
- ◇ Job search techniques have changed. For example, résumé formatting has changed over the years.
- ◇ The importance of social networking has increased over time. We really need to seek jobs via social networks — ads and unions alone are not enough.
- ◇ Older job applicants must develop savvy methods for dealing with age biases that job interviewers may have.

If you are unemployed or underemployed and want to find a new job, you should make sure you visit on the One-Stop Career Centers in Massachusetts.

Get Help at the One-Stop Career Centers across Massachusetts

An extraordinary variety of employment-related services for job seekers are available at the Commonwealth's network of One-Stop Career Centers. Services for job seekers include:

- ◇ job search assistance and access to online job listings
- ◇ career counseling
- ◇ coaching on job search skills
- ◇ Workshops on a variety of job search strategies
- ◇ access to resources including PCs, reference materials, resume building software, and economic data
- ◇ networking groups
- ◇ unemployment insurance walk-in services

There are 32 One-Stop Career Centers located across the state in every major city, with branch offices in additional communities. In addition to individual and customized services, Career Centers hold workshops, sponsor job fairs, and work with local employers to recruit workers for available job openings. Most all services are free of charge.

In many centers, services are available in languages in addition to English. Depending on location, these languages may include Spanish, Chinese, Portuguese, Russian and Vietnamese plus others.

Call 617-626-5300 for more information or to locate a Career Center.

=====

A New Job Search Skills Training Program Offered at the Local Council on Aging

(For the 12 COAs with Wisdom Works Program)

The _____ Council on Aging is offering a new job search skills training program. The program includes 4 2-hour training sessions led by HR professionals who serve as volunteer workshop leaders. Job search techniques training help adults to update and re-shape their résumé, understand how to use social connections to find their next job, and learn how to deal with questions about being overqualified. (In fact, older workers can often be more reliable than younger workers!)

The next workshop at the _____ Council on Aging starts on _____(date). You may call _____(name) at 781-xxx-xxx to reserve a seat in the training.