



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **NATIONAL ABLE NETWORK AWARDED \$774,382 GRANT**

#### ***Older adults to work and receive training in local agencies serving the community***

**Chicago, IL.** (October 10, 2014) National Able Network announced today that it has received a grant of \$774,382 from Senior Service America, Inc. Almost 90 percent of this funding--originally from the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL)—will pay wages and benefits to at least 117 low-income older adults living in Cook or DuPage Counties to work in temporary, part-time jobs through June 30, 2015. These older adults will participate in the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), established by the Older Americans Act more than 40 years ago. Administered by USDOL, SCSEP is the only federal government program mandated to assist unemployed older adults seeking to rejoin the workforce.

Earlier this year, National Able Network competed successfully for its first grant award from Senior Service America. Both Senior Service America and National Able Network are among 15 organizations selected through a national competitive process by the U.S. Department of Labor. National Able Network is one of Senior Service America's five local partner agencies operating SCSEP in Illinois. "National Able Network is excited about this opportunity from SSAI," said Patricia Wilkins, Vice President, Workforce Development. "This grant allows us to expand our quality services to additional 100 low-income mature workers in need in Cook and DuPage Counties."

Participants will also gain access to National Able Network's signature employment services, including its nationally-recognized Job Readiness Training Program. "We are thrilled to offer our Job Readiness Training Program which utilizes a unique live-remote instructional approach helping mature workers build both computer literacy and employment skills," Wilkins said.

While training as SCSEP participants, mature workers will be assigned to more than 50 local nonprofit and government agencies, including Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago, Housing Opportunities and Maintenance for the Elderly, Franciscan Outreach Association, and Executive Service Corps of Chicago. The mature workers also will receive on-the-job training to enhance their opportunities in the local job market.

Charles Whisett's a recent Past National Able Network SCSEP participant, had an employment goal to work for an organization that provides substance abuse and recovery services. He was assigned to the Franciscan Outreach Association which provides housing for homeless individuals as well as a variety of services including substance abuse counseling. While at the organization, Charles was able to train in his desired career path, enhance his customer service

skills, and increase his computer literacy. A few months later, Charles was offered a permanent position from the Franciscan Outreach Association as a part-time overnight supervisor.

“Far too many low-income older adults are among the long-term unemployed,” says Tony Sarmiento, Senior Service America Executive Director. “This program provides them with skills and renewed hope as they serve their community. Older Illinoisans are fortunate to be served by the dedicated staff of National Able Network.”

***About National Able Network***

National Able Network, Inc. is a leading non-profit organization specializing in providing employment counseling, training, and placement services for disadvantaged job seekers. National Able Network’s services for job seekers includes individualized short- and long-term career planning, nationally-recognized Job Readiness Training, access to wraparound services to meet basic needs, connections to post-secondary education and training, and job placement assistance. Each year, National Able Network provides service to 125,000 individuals in Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire. For more information, visit us at [www.nationalable.org](http://www.nationalable.org) or call 855-994-8300.

***About Senior Service America, Inc.***

Senior Service America, Inc. (SSAI) is a national nonprofit organization that provides civic engagement and employment opportunities to low-income older adults. As one of 15 national SCSEP grantees of the U.S. Department of Labor, SSAI is based in Silver Spring, Maryland, and provides more than \$40 million annually to a diverse network of 81 local partner organizations in 16 states. For more information, go to [www.seniorserviceamerica.org](http://www.seniorserviceamerica.org), call (301) 578-8826, or email [tsarmiento@ssa-i.org](mailto:tsarmiento@ssa-i.org).

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