

For Immediate Release
July 19, 2010

Contact: Lisa Cohen, 310-395-2544
lisa@lisacohen.org

ELDERSOURCE, MAKES AVAILABLE NEW RESOURCE TO ASSIST OLDER JOB SEEKERS WITH THE JOB SEARCH PROCESS

With Unemployment Rates For Older Workers At Record Levels and Older Adults Struggling to Return to the Workforce, ElderSource, the Area Agency on Aging for Northeast Florida, Releases New Brochure Created by Eldercare Locator and Senior Service America Inc.: "Employment Options: Tips for Older Job Seekers"

Jacksonville, FL –Although the economy is showing signs of recovery, the unemployment numbers in America are at record levels, and the situation is especially troubling for the older adult population. More than 2.1 million people aged 55 and over were unemployed in May 2010 (7.1 percent.)¹ Studies show that entering or reentering the workforce at later ages is more difficult than at younger ages. Average duration of unemployment for jobseekers aged 55 and older was little changed from January 2010 at 35.6 weeks, but substantially above the 28.3 weeks for the unemployed under age 55.²

To assist older job seekers—many of whom are attempting to return to the workforce for the first time in many years—ElderSource is making available a new brochure developed by the Eldercare Locator (www.eldercare.gov) and Senior Service America, Inc. (www.seniorserviceamerica.org), "*Employment Options: Tips for Older Job Seekers.*" The tips and information are geared toward the older worker who has not searched for a job in many years and is looking for tips on how to use new technologies, find job leads, write a resume, interview and identify other useful employment resources.

"ElderSource is committed to helping Seniors who are seeking employment. In addition to the brochure that we are releasing today, we partner with Experience Works to assist persons 50 and above obtain jobs," states ElderSource Executive Director, Linda Levin.

"Entering or re-entering the workforce at later ages can be more difficult than at younger ages. The tips for older job seekers in this new brochure can provide older adults with the information and confidence they need to pursue new employment opportunities." said Kathy Greenlee, Assistant Secretary for Aging, U.S. Administration on Aging."

"Older workers bring experience and a sense of leadership that is critical for every work environment," said Assistant Secretary of Employment and Training Administration,

¹ <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empisit.pdf>

² <http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/ppi/econ-sec/fs176-employment.pdf>

Jane Oates. “This brochure will help break down barriers for a population that deserves a fair chance to continue to bring value to the workplace.”

“Employment Options: Tips for the Older Job Seeker,” available through the Eldercare Locator Resource Center (www.n4a.org/programs/eldercare-locator/resources), offers advice on various stages of the job seeking process, including:

- How skills and experiences can be applied to a particular job
- How to identify job leads when many positions are not advertised
- Specific resume and application tips
- Interview tips
- How to find and take advantage of community and online resources

“As daunting as the job search process seems, many people over the age of 55 have something younger workers do not have: experience,” said Sandy Markwood, CEO of the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a). “The tools the brochure provides were developed to help older adults take advantage of that experience during the job seeking process. Even if an older adult has not applied for a job in many years, this guide provides a framework to increase the odds of finding employment.”

For more information or to set up an interview to discuss employment issues for older adults and/or speak with older job seekers, please contact Experience Works 1 (888) 859-1051.

The Northeast Florida Area Agency on Aging d/b/a ElderSource

ElderSource is the one stop shop for Seniors and their caregivers in Northeast Florida. As the Aging Resource Center for this region, ElderSource offers a variety of services to persons 60 and above.

ElderSource helps you find information, resources, and services for aging related issues. The Elder Helpline is the portal to a variety of community resources including direct services, like home care & meals and free, unbiased Medicare/Medicaid counseling. We encourage active seniors with wellness and preventative activities. Please go to our web site: www.myeldersource.org or call the Elder Helpline at 888.242.4464

About Eldercare Locator

The Eldercare Locator is the first step to finding resources for older adults in any U.S. community and a free national service of the U.S. Administration on Aging (AoA) that is administered by the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a). Contact the Eldercare Locator at 800.677.1116 or www.eldercare.gov

About Senior Service America, Inc. (SSAI)

SSAI is a non-profit organization that provides civic engagement and employment opportunities for adults over the age of 55 who wish to reenter the workforce. SSAI is one of 18 national sponsors and 56 units of state and territorial governments of the Senior Community Service Senior Employment Program nationwide.

###