

FIWI Awarded America Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Grant

Douglas F. Small, Deputy Assistant Secretary of DoEA stated: “The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, enacted by Congress and signed into law by President Obama on February 17, 2009, is intended to preserve and create jobs, promote the nation’s economic recovery, and to assist those impacted by the recession. ARRA allocated \$120 million to the Department of Labor for use by the Senior Community Service Employment Program to serve additional low income, unemployed seniors.”

SCSEP is a program operated by the U.S. Department of Labor that serves individuals with low incomes who are 55 and over and have poor employment prospects. Eligible individuals are placed in part-time community service assignments in not for profit organizations or governmental entities with a goal of transitioning to unsubsidized employment.

On April 17, 2009, the Department of Elder Affairs executed a contract with FIWI to provide additional SCSEP services under the ARRA. FIWI currently serves 67 participants in eleven counties; the ARRA allocated funding to further serve 38 eligible individuals through June 2010. The Department of Elder Affairs distribution of funding demonstrates a sharp increase in the opportunities for eligible individuals in rural, underserved communities.

Those served under ARRA will be assigned to the growth industries emphasized by the Recovery Act—healthcare, child care, education, green jobs, energy efficiency and environmental services—either at a 501 (c)(3) or public entity.

The additional SCSEP placements have been concentrated in the following counties; Alachua, Citrus, Dixie, Hamilton, Hernando, Levy, Putnam, Sumter, Suwannee and Union.

To learn more about FIWI and the Senior Community Service Employment Program contact Carrie Tam at (352) 244-5142 or ctam@fiwi.org.