

Upcoming Events

Annual AARC Conference
DATE: October 8-11
LOCATION: Orange Beach, AL

Masters Games
DATE: October 16-19
LOCATION: Auburn, AL

Endless Opportunities
DATE: October 19-20
LOCATION: Ingalls Harbor

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SCSEP Program Awarded \$210,317

Center for Workforce Inclusion, Inc. awards grant directed to assist in workforce training for job-seekers 55 years and older.

North Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments announced today that it was awarded a \$210,317 Workforce Inclusion grant from the Center for Workforce Inclusion, Inc. (Center).

Almost 90 percent of this grant – originally from the U.S. Department of Labor – will provide temporary employment to no less than 38 low-income older Alabamians living in Cullman, Lawrence, and Morgan Counties. These older adults will participate in the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), a cornerstone program of the Older Americans Act and the only feder-

al job training program targeted exclusively to low-income, older jobseekers.

In its 59th year, SCSEP promotes personal dignity and self-sufficiency through work. The training attained through SCSEP provides in-demand skills for older, unemployed, low-income Americans. The Center, a top-tier U.S. Department of Labor National Grantee of SCSEP, works through a network of local partners delivering career training programs for eligible 50-plus-year-old workers across the United States. To date, the Center has served more than 500,000 qualified older workers in permanent employment through the SCSEP program. "Our long-term, local partners are key to the strength of the Center and provide the systems to train

older Americans into a strategic advantage for employers across the country," said Gary A. Officer, Center for Workforce Inclusion President and CEO. "We are very pleased to continue our support of the North Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments for the 46th consecutive year."



Daffney Harris
SCSEP Coordinator

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Navigating Medicare

Insurance can be tricky, especially understanding your options and selecting the best coverage.

To help combat this and assist older adults, the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) provides unbiased, one-on-one counseling by trusted individuals to older adults 60 years and older to review their Medicare options and help them choose the best plan.

The NARCOG SHIP Counselor, Julie Campbell, assists several Medicare beneficiaries monthly by providing them with information on Medicare, related health insurance, and low-income resources. Specifically, Campbell can help with:

- Medicare
- Medicare Supplements
- Medicare Saving Programs

- Medicaid
- Prescription Drugs
- Plan Comparisons
- Billing and Claims
- Rights and Protections
- Long-Term Care

Medicare Open Enrollment begins October 15 through December 7.

Medicare beneficiaries interested in reviewing plans, having questions answered, or needing help signing up should call Campbell at 256-355-4515, ext. 245, or email jcampbell@narcog.org to set an appointment.

SHIP counselors are not associated with any insurance company and will not attempt to sell you insurance.

Open Enrollment Dates

October

- 16 – NARCOG Office
- 17 – City Center Village
- 18 – NARCOG Office
- 23 – NARCOG Office
- 24 – NARCOG Office
- 27 – NARCOG Office

November

- 13 – NARCOG Office
- 14 – Hartselle Senior Center
- 15 – NARCOG Office
- 21 – Lacey's Spring Senior Center
- 22 – NARCOG Office
- 28 – Presbyterian Tower
- 29 – Presbyterian Tower

December

- 1 – NARCOG Office
- 4 – NARCOG Office
- 5 – NARCOG Office
- 6 – NARCOG Office

Robby Cantrell | Executive Director

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NARCOG Team Attends Conferences

Members of the NARCOG Aging Team were able to attend the Southeastern Association of Area Agencies on Aging (SE4A) Conference in Asheville, North Carolina, earlier this month.

The SE4A was formed in 1973 by representatives from eight states in the southeastern region to face concerns and provide viable solutions for the aging population. The conference promoted skill development, professional knowledge, best practice sharing, and information exchange.

The NARCOG Director of Aging, Nutrition Coordinator, Ombudsman, and Outreach Coordinator learned about various topics, including elder rights, caregiving, long-term care, access to support and services, and wellness initia-

tives. The sessions were highly informative, and NARCOG looks forward to carrying that information with our daily practices.

This conference provided many opportunities to network with other Area Agencies on Aging (AAA), government entities, and companies that cater to older adults. Many organizations shared stories and initiatives that have worked well for them and encouraged others to follow.

Next year, the SE4A Conference will be hosted by the Alabama AAA in Gulf Shores, Alabama. NARCOG looks forward to helping plan the next conference.

In October, many NARCOG team members will attend the Annual Alabama Association of Regional Councils (AARC) Conference in Or-

ange Beach, Alabama. The AARC conference offers three major key discussion points: Aging, Planning and Development, and Organizational Effectiveness.

Senator Katie Britt has been invited to speak at the Legislative Awards Luncheon on October 10 to the AARC guests.



September Anniversaries

Brittany Yarbrough
H2H Transition Coordinator
1 year of service

Kylie Bolyard
Outreach Coordinator
1 year of service

Jana Gourley
Case Manager
3 years of service

Dana Dobson
Quality Improvement
Coordinator
17 years of service

Past and Upcoming Events

Fall is here, meaning it is a busy time for everyone. September has been chockful of events, including a senior health fair, a career fair, a wellness fair, and an outdoor festival. NARCOG appreciates any opportunity to get involved with the community.

Cullman County Commission on Aging held a health fair for the seniors of Cullman County in early September with the theme "Treasure Your Health." Seniors were able to get free flu shots, blood pressure checks, and the chance to speak with health professionals in Cullman County. Daikin also held a wellness fair for their employees

and families. NARCOG spoke with hundreds of people about the services offered to individuals and the community.

The North Alabama Trails and Recreation (NATR) Fest was held at the end of September at Point Mallard in Decatur. The NATR Fest is advertised as a "fun-filled, family-friendly event that brings outdoor recreation to play." Many exhibitors from North Alabama attended this event, from outdoor gear sellers to trail makers to critter handlers. There were opportunities to try outdoor activities like kayaking, mountain biking, rock climbing, and archery. The NAR-

COG Planning and Development Team was able to share updates on the Lawrence County Trail Plans.

To help prepare for life after graduation, Calhoun Community College held a job fair to showcase the many different career paths and internship opportunities after graduation. The public was also invited to attend, many looking for new career paths. Over 300 Calhoun students and individuals from the public attended, and several were interested in the over 30 career paths NARCOG offers.

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FROM PAGE 1: SCSEP Program Awarded \$210,317

“SCSEP helps our community’s eligible 55+ job seekers learn new skills and refresh old ones when coming back into the workforce,” said Robby Cantrell. At their training sites, SCSEP job seekers help local community, faith-based, and public agencies carry out their mission, such as the Cullman County Extension Office, Mosaic Mentoring, and The Kitchen Food Pantry., Alabama Department of Rehab Services. “By working in SCSEP positions, SCSEP provides hope and dignity to low-income, older job seekers with the toughest employment challenges. This grant from the Center is essential to delivering these vital workforce training services to our community.”

Many SCSEP participants have been offered jobs at their host agency once their term is up. Specifically in recent years, NARCOG has hired five part-time and two full-time individuals over several

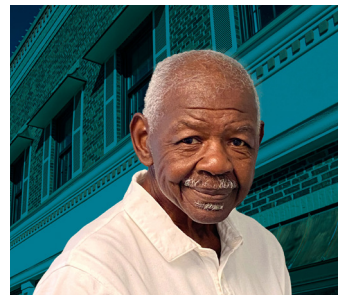
years. The two full-time individuals work in the Transit Department, helping coordinate transportation for people in the community, planning driving routes, and keeping in contact with the bus drivers. The five current part-time employees have varying roles, including custodial work, data entry, and receptionist duties. Each individual role contributes to helping NARCOG run as smoothly as possible, assisting the community with resources and connecting.

For 60 years, the Center for Workforce Inclusion has worked with older, low-income job seekers overlooked by traditional workforce programs. We trace our roots to the National Council of Senior Citizens, launched in 1962 to advocate for older Americans. We are now the only national entity dedicated exclusively to the workforce development needs of underserved workers over the age

of 50. Since our founding, we have empowered nearly 500,000 clients to attain in-demand skills, overcome barriers to employment, and secure employment with more than 5,000 employers in industries that range from financial services, hospitality, and office administration to social services, health care, transportation, and manufacturing. For more information, please visit www.centerforworkforceinclusion.org.



Dee Tucker
Transit Admin Assistant



Paul Burroughs
SCSEP Custodial Staff



Lori Garcia
Transit Admin Assistant



Sandra Coleman
Receptionist



Denise Balentine
Receptionist



Brenda Johnson
SCSEP Admin Assistant



Linda Jones
Aging Admin Assistant

Lawrence County Awarded \$1M ARC SAAW Grant

The Lawrence County Board of Education was awarded \$1,000,000 in Appalachian Regional Commission Southern Appalachian Automotive Worker (ARC SAAW) funds for the Lawrence County Career Technical Center Expansion. The expansion will increase resources and certifications for students to graduate with and enter the aviation and automotive region in the North Alabama region.

The project consists of a 20,000

square-foot expansion to the career tech center, adding four classrooms for Welding, Industrial Maintenance, and an Automotive Technology Lab to increase capacity along with a Robotics Multimedia room for career fairs, business and industry training, meetings, conferences, and other activities that benefit the students and workforce region.

ARC Goal #2: Building Appalachia’s Workforce Ecosystem Expand and strengthen community

systems.

ARC Objective 2.2: Invest in workforce development programs and strategies informed by industry talent needs and designed to allow workers to simultaneously earn, learn, and advance along a career pathway.

State Strategy 2.2.3 – Strengthen basic skills programs in public schools, including opportunities for dual enrollment and apprenticeships.



Appalachian Regional Commission

Promotions

Monica Shannon
Personal Choices Counselor II

Tammy Street
ADRC Coordinator

**Planning Department
Events and Deadlines**

October 18 - 20, 2023
Alabama and Mississippi Chapters of the America Planning Association (APA) Annual Joint Training Conference

November 7, 2023
Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Grant Deadline

November 15, 2023
Land and Water Conservation Fund (LFCW) Grant Deadline

Hartselle HS Awarded Innovator Award

Hartselle High School has been working extremely hard to prepare its students for life after high school by launching a program named Tiger Launch that equips students with essential skills and work experience while paving the way for job opportunities immediately upon graduation.

Tiger Launch was awarded the 2023 AlabamaWorks Innovator Award for North Alabama. The AlabamaWorks Innovator Award was created "to highlight people and programs across the state that take an innovative approach to solve workforce challenges and help advance Governor Ivey's Success Plus attainment goal of adding 500,000 highly skilled workers by 2025."

Hartselle High School Princi-



pal Brad Cooper comments that the program has been extremely beneficial to the students.

"By getting real-world work experience in high school, our students are ready to enter the workforce full-time after graduation or enter college with the skills needed to be successful," Cooper said.

"We feel this program is a win-win for our students and

our local workforce. We want all our students to graduate from Hartselle High School college or career ready, and this program helps us meet this important goal. I cannot say enough great things about the partnerships we have developed with our local workforce through Tiger Launch."

NARCOG applauds Hartselle High School for their hard work!

FROM PAGE 2: Past and Upcoming Events

NARCOG looks forward to even more fun and events in the upcoming months.

In October and November, NARCOG will have the opportunity to showcase the different career paths and services offered within the organization at two career fairs, the Endless Opportunities Career Fair in Decatur and the North Alabama Works Expo in Huntsville. These career fairs target eighth-grade students all around North Alabama to give them a sneak peek into their career options. Last year, both events pulled in well over 1,000 students.

In October, NARCOG will host two Halloween parties for the seniors of Cullman, Lawrence, and Morgan County, giving them a chance to dress up in their favorite costumes and enjoy some fun-themed games. Costume wearers have the opportunity to win awards and door prizes.

The Cullman County Halloween Party will be on October 19 from 9 AM-12 PM at the Active Adult

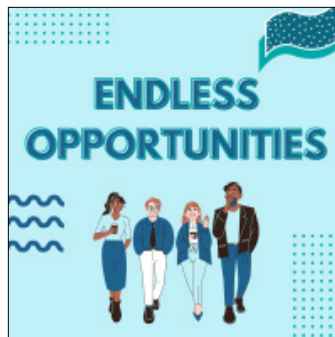
Center in Cullman. The Morgan and Lawrence County Halloween Party will be on October 25 from 9 AM-12 PM at the Sparkman Civic Center in Hartselle.

Anyone with questions or needing more information can contact the NARCOG Outreach Coordinator Kylie Bolyard at 256-606-4352.

NARCOG is also hosting a "No Tricks - Just Treats" event for grandparents, caregivers, seniors, and NARCOG clients to bring their grandchildren for fun trick or treating in the main office on October 26 from 3 PM - 5 PM (while supplies last.) The children must be 12 years old or younger to participate in this trick-or-treating event. There is no cost for this event, and the first 200 guests will receive a free hotdog, chips, and drink.

NARCOG encourages children to wear costumes and to bring their own candy bucket for all of the Halloween goodies.

Please get in touch with Jeffrey Adams at 256-355-4515, ext. 222, with any questions or concerns.



New Hire - Conley Bush
Case Manager



New Hire - Jacklyn Bing
Case Manager



New Hire - Michael Bolden
Case Manager