



# COUNTY OF ORANGE

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## **County of Orange Celebrates National Employ Older Workers Week**

**SANTA ANA, Calif.** (September 17, 2021) – The Orange County Office on Aging has partnered with the Orange County Workforce Development Board (OCWDB) to celebrate National Employ Older Workers Week (NEOWW) at senior centers across Orange County.

“National Employ Older Workers Week gives us the unique opportunity to raise awareness and recognize older workers as valuable assets to our vibrant community,” said Chairman Andrew Do, First District Supervisor. “Strong leadership skills, a solid work ethic, and a high level of knowledge are just a few benefits of hiring an older worker.”

Held annually the last full week of September, NEOWW will take place September 19 through September 25 with the theme of *The Future is NEOWW!*

“The pandemic presented challenges for everyone, especially our older adults who play a vital role in our workforce and economy,” said Vice Chairman Doug Chaffee, Fourth District Supervisor. “It is critical we provide them with the opportunities they need to gain the skills to continue to be job-ready.”

Throughout the week of September 19, the OCWDB Mobile Unit will visit various senior centers throughout Orange County to provide employment services including access to the Mobile Resource Center containing computers, fax machines, copiers, and telephones.

“Hiring mature workers brings their great experiences, insights and battle-tested know-how to your business,” said Supervisor Katrina Foley, Second District. “They tend to be loyal and dedicated contributors to our workforce.”

America’s aging workforce is working longer as life expectancies grow, retirement plans shrink, and work becomes less physically demanding. The [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) projects 32 percent of adults over age 65 in 2030 are expected to continue working compared with 19.2 percent in 2000.

“The workforce is shifting to where people are working longer and retiring later,” said Supervisor Don Wagner, Third District. “This week recognizes how we can further tap into the potential held by our seasoned professionals.”

“Older workers are excellent job candidates,” said Supervisor Lisa Bartlett, Fifth District. “Not only do they have a lot of experience, but they also play a critical role in training our next generation of workers.”



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NEOWW will also highlight the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), which provides on-the-job skills training to individuals 55 or older with limited financial resources. SCSEP prepares older workers to become job-ready and available to meet the needs of employers. Since its inception, SCSEP has helped over one million older Americans enter the workforce.

To learn more about National Employ Older Workers Week, email [info@oconestop.com](mailto:info@oconestop.com), call (714) 480-6500, or visit [www.oconestop.com/mobile-unit](http://www.oconestop.com/mobile-unit).

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Orange County's Office on Aging serves as the lead advocate for approximately 600,000 seniors 60 years and older residing in the county, with a specific focus on low-income ethnic minorities. As an advocate, the OC Office on Aging is responsible for understanding the needs of Orange County's older adults and utilizing the federal funding and programs available to meet those requirements. In addition, the OC Office on Aging is charged with directing or participating in coalitions to drive new ideas, services, and legislation in support of Older Adults. Finally, the department is to take a proactive view and help those in the senior services industry, public and private, plan for the future needs of this populace.

The Orange County Development Board, through the Orange County Business Service Center and Orange County One-Stop Center, offers comprehensive services such as hiring assistance, career transition services, and employment services to businesses and job seekers at no cost.