United Labor Agency Offers Career Exploration to Older Workers

HARTFORD – Union Retirees and other retirees in the Capitol Region who wish to return to work may benefit from an expanded career service of the John J. Driscoll United Labor Agency (ULA).

The region is seeing a growing population of people age 55 and over who want or need to return to work or who are looking for meaningful volunteer opportunities. ULA, a statewide nonprofit human service agency, has expanded its employment readiness and training program in Greater Hartford to support this age group through individualized career exploration and an extensive menu of training options, from health care and consumer information to tax assistance and legal issues. Particular emphasis is being placed on a "train the trainer" model, where individuals will learn how to become mentors, trainers or peer-to-peer counselors to other retirees in the region.

"This initiative offers retirees a wide array of opportunities to train for work or volunteer service that is personally interesting and fulfilling," said Thomas Bothur, executive director. "It also connects them with ways they can make a real difference in their communities. There is a great ripple effect to this program."

The expanded career support services of ULA are being made possible by a three-year grant from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, the community foundation for the 29-town Capitol Region. The Hartford Foundation is devoted to building successful partnerships with donors and nonprofits to enhance the quality of life for people in the community. For more information about the Foundation, visit www.hfpg.org or call 548-1888.

For more information about ULA's services for older workers, call Jackie Slamon at ULA at 612-2780.