

The Economic Impact on Employment Services at UCAP, Inc

Among the economic challenges facing the county is the growing number of unemployed and under employed. The impact that this recession has had in Prince George's County includes:

- The closing of small family owned businesses.
- Local printing companies are cutting jobs and small newspapers and restaurants have been forced to close.
- The Prince George's County EMT and Police are cutting positions
- The Maryland State Government is having all staff to take furlough days;
- Private industry is also being hit with lay offs
- The Boys and Girls Club services were scaled back; and
- Local car dealerships are loosing money in sales, which in turn decrease the pay for sales persons.

The change in the economy has affected the community-at-large; however, records show the greatest affect has been on individuals ages 23 and younger and individuals ages 55 and older.

- Service to the 18 to 23 age group has increased from 950 in FY'07 to 1,020 in FY'08 which is an increase of 7%.
- The age group 55 to 69 shows a 10% increase while the over 70 age group increased from 0 served in 2007 to 107 served last year. Ages 24 to 44 increased by 5% and ages 45 to 54 increased by 6%.

With the cost of living rising, increase in energy and gas costs. UCAP has seen a rise in the need for food, energy assistance, rent and mortgage assistance, and foreclosure prevention. The employment department expects to serve over 1,700 clients. As example of the economic crisis is found in UCAP's past two job fairs: In June of 2007, UCAP's annual job fair had 147 people to attend; this past year (June 2008) brought 320 job seekers to the annual job fair which is a 117% increase than the year before.

The statistics below indicate the types of services UCAP provides in the employment department. (See chart below)

| FY 2007 Service Program | FY 2007 Program Participants (Aged 35 & up) | FY 2008 Program Participants (Aged 35 & up) | FY 2007 Program Participants (Aged 17-34) | FY 2008 Program Participants (Aged 17-34) | FY 2007 Total (customer served*) | FY 2008 Total (customer served*) |
|-------------------------|---|---|---|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Job Placement | 41 | 66 | 58 | 83 | 99 | 149 |
| Career Counseling | 359 | 469 | 638 | 748 | 997 | 1217 |
| Job Training | 499 | 610 | 233 | 344 | 732 | 954 |
| Job Development | 466 | 577 | 674 | 785 | 1140 | 1362 |

If you have any questions concerning this information, contact Sandra Gammons or Beryl Johnson at 301-322-5700.