

A Vermont non-profit has won a \$2,865,734 U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) grant provided through the Older Americans Act's Senior Community Service Employment Program, to help train and place low-income Vermonters – aged 55 and older – in jobs around the state, Vermont's congressional delegation – Sen. Patrick Leahy, Sen. Bernie Sanders and Rep. Peter Welch – announced today.

The grant – part of \$260 million in nationwide awards – will go to Vermont Associates for Training and Development, a St. Albans-based organization that provides training and employment services to low-income Vermonters.

The Senior Community Service Employment Program is the only federal jobs program designed to assist low-income seniors. Under the grant, participants will be placed in a wide variety of community service activities at non-profit and public facilities, including day-care centers, senior centers, schools and hospitals. These assignments are intended to serve as a bridge to unsubsidized employment.

In a joint statement, Leahy, Sanders and Welch said, "With many Vermonters continuing to struggle through a tough economy, these services will help people get back on their feet. By placing Vermonters in a variety of community service jobs, this grant will not only help them find employment but it will also strengthen our communities."

Vermont Associates has locations in Bennington, Brattleboro, Burlington, Montpelier, Newport, Rutland, Springfield, St. Johnsbury and St. Albans.