

Northwest Older Workers Coalition

The NOW Coalition is made up of SCSEP grantees from Idaho, Oregon, Washington and Alaska. The coalition meets monthly via teleconference and once per year in person, usually in September. The September meeting is training based, focusing on compliance with federal regulations, best practices, and other subjects that the coalition would like to discuss.

The idea for the coalition was brought up at a meeting in Seattle, Washington in the spring of 2002. The meeting's intent was to offer best practices to SCSEP grantees in Washington as a way to boost that state's involvement in the program. Representatives from Alaska, Oregon and Idaho also attended the meeting because of the meeting's proximity. Many of the participants at this meeting were brand new to the program.

Joyce Welsh of the National Association of State Units on Aging (NASUA) presented technical information to the group which helped to clarify federal regulations and performance measures. At some point during the two day event the idea of a coalition was brought up with the intent of sharing information, to provide training, and to advocate for the SCSEP program and older workers in general. There was some skepticism of whether the coalition would hold together, but after more than three years of involvement, it appears the group is becoming stronger.

The main benefit of the coalition is that it is a way to share information. It allows clear communication, especially since the coalition's Federal Project Officer, Judith Gilbert, attends the meetings. The states which are involved in the NOW Coalition have several of the same issues in common, namely that they are rural in nature. The coalition has been most beneficial in the past year with the new federal regulations being implemented. It has allowed grantees to ask questions, discuss ideas, discuss improvements, and clear up misinterpretations of the regulations.

For more information on the coalition, please contact any of the following:

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