

HPGS/ALOH ELDERCARE WORKERS TRAINING AWARDS

With support from a generous grant from Assisted Living Options Hawaii (ALOH), HPGS is pleased to announce a new training awards program designed specifically for persons currently working with, or planning to work with, older adults. In funding this program, the ALOH President stated, "Our intent is...to support incumbent workers who need financial support for specialized short-term gerontological training resulting in certification." These awards will provide tuition assistance for workers who enroll in credit or non-credit courses and certificate programs which enhance their knowledge and skills in areas related to aging.

The Awards Program

1. HPGS will provide up to \$2,000/year, funds permitting, to cover tuition costs for one or more community workers to enroll in one or more credit or non-credit courses or certificate programs which enhance their ability to work with older people. Such courses or programs can be either in local classroom settings or online.
2. Professional or paraprofessional workers may apply. There are no specific educational or academic background requirements.
3. Workers must be currently employed, or seeking employment in, an agency or organization (public, non-profit, or for profit) which serves older adults, or engages in research or educational activities related to aging. Self-employed persons may also apply. Preference will be given to direct service workers, and those preparing for direct service occupations.

The Application Process

1. Workers should first identify a course or certificate program they wish to apply for. These can be either available locally, or elsewhere through the Internet. Locally available courses can be found through The University of Hawaii Outreach College, Kapiolani Community College, and other agencies and organizations such as the State Executive Office on Aging; the City and County of Honolulu Elder Affairs Division; the County Offices on Aging on the Neighbor Islands; AARP Hawaii, etc. Search

engines such as Google list over 29,000 entries under "Gerontology Certificate Programs Online."

2. Workers should then apply to enroll in a selected course or certificate program, and simultaneously submit their application for tuition assistance to HPGS under the Eldercare Workers Training Awards program. Such applications should be submitted to HPGS via email at least two weeks before starting the course or program. In the subject line, write, "Eldercare Worker Training Award."

3. The HPGS Scholarship Committee will review applications as they are received, at any time, throughout the year. As soon as an applicant has been accepted into a course or certificate program, he or she should immediately notify the HPGS Scholarship Committee (Tony Lenzer) via email at tlenzer@hawaii.rr.com . In the subject line, write "Immediate Attention: Scholarship Committee."

4. HPGS will endeavor to review such applications, and make funding decisions, before the start date of such courses or programs. However, submitting an application does not automatically assure funding, nor does it necessarily mean that tuition funds will be made available before such start dates. Therefore, applicants should be prepared to pay for the course or program with their own money or other resources. Also, note that this award does not cover books, other training materials, travel, etc.

Application Materials

Please submit, via email to Tony Lenzer at tlenzer@hawaii.rr.com , the following:

1. The Training Awards Application Form. Download this form, fill it out, and send it as an attachment to your email.

2. A statement, no longer than one page, double spaced, describing your current job, as it relates to older people or aging; the type of agency or organization you work for, or are applying to work for; how long you've been employed in your current position; any relevant past work or volunteer experience; the nature of the course or certificate program you

are applying for; and how it will prepare you to do a better job of working with older people or in the field of aging.

3. An online version of the course brochure or description, or reference to where the material can be found on the Web.

Awardees may be asked to submit a brief statement indicating how the course or program enhanced their ability to work in the field of aging.