



## Weekly Update

October 19, 2022

### Social Security Benefits Set to Increase in 2023

Social Security benefits and Supplemental Security Income payments are set to increase by 8.7% for approximately 70 million Americans in 2023 as a result of the annual cost-of-living adjustment. By law, federal benefits increase when the cost of living rises, as measured by the Department of Labor's Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers. The increase will begin with benefits that Social Security beneficiaries receive in January 2023. Increased SSI payments will begin on Dec. 30, 2022. The Social Security Administration will mail COLA notices throughout the month of December. The notices are also available online to most beneficiaries. [SSA has a section of their website dedicated to COLA information](#), including a [2023 Social Security Changes fact sheet](#).

### New AbilityOne Congressional Champions

SourceAmerica's NPA network has been busy during National Disability Employment Awareness Month. In the last week alone, members of Congress visited five nonprofit agencies to learn more about AbilityOne employment of people with disabilities at nonprofits.

On Oct. 12, **Challenge Unlimited** presented Congressman Mike Bost (R-Ill.) with an AbilityOne Congressional Champion Award. During the presentation, Rep. Bost highlighted CU's 50 years of providing employment opportunities for people with disabilities and committed to "continue working to ensure that individuals with disabilities can live happy, healthy, and fulfilling lives." Pictures and additional information are available on [Rep. Bost's Twitter](#) and on [Challenge Unlimited's website](#).

On Oct. 13, **TradeWinds Services, Inc.** followed suit and presented Congressman Frank Mrvan (D-Ind.) with an AbilityOne Congressional Champion Award. Rep. Mrvan thanked TradeWinds and SourceAmerica for the recognition, saying, "I look forward to continuing to partner with you to support your invaluable services to our community." Pictures and additional information are available on [TradeWinds's Facebook page](#).

Congressman Rob Wittman (R-Va.) visited two Virginia NPAs last week, meeting with **SOAR365** and **VersAbility**. Rep. Wittman, who is an AbilityOne Congressional Champion, highlighted the [meeting with SOAR365 on his Facebook](#).

Congressman Jim Clyburn (D-S.C.), also an AbilityOne Congressional Champion, attended an art gallery put on by **Palmetto Goodwill** to celebrate NDEAM on Oct. 18. The visit was highlighted by [ABC4 News](#).

### SourceAmerica Government Affairs Team Meets with Enterprise Professional Services, Inc.

On Oct. 18, SourceAmerica Government Affairs Vice President Rick Terrazas and team members sat down with Enterprise Professional Services, Inc. President and CEO Stephan Saia and Chief Growth Officer Heather Saia. EPSI is an NPA in the SourceAmerica network based just outside Austin, Texas that specializes in custodial, grounds, and hospital environmental services for state, federal, and commercial facilities. The meeting provided a chance to talk about the unique opportunities and challenges for EPSI and the ways in which they can become more connected to their members of Congress. The GA team offered suggestions and support for setting up meetings on the Hill or back in the district, inviting members to do a site visit, and developing materials to share when engaging in outreach.



Pictured (L-R): Josh Prosser, Calvin Jenkins, Vicki Middleton, Rick Terrazas, Heather Saia, Stephan Saia, and Johnathan Rose

SourceAmerica is committed to helping NPAs meet their government affairs needs. If you are interested in connecting with the GA team to talk about how you can get more involved and what we can do to support your work, please reach out to us at [Advocacy@SourceAmerica.org](mailto:Advocacy@SourceAmerica.org).

### Understanding Community Engagement: A Two-Part Employment First Webinar

The National Employment First Community of Practice Webinar Series will host the first of two webinars focused on community engagement on Oct. 26 at 3 p.m. ET. Titled “[Part One: The Role of Non-Work Activities in Developing Critical Skills for Competitive Integrated Employment](#),” the session will feature leaders, direct support professionals, and people supported to discuss the role non-work activities play in community engagement and building critical life and social skills needed to find success in employment. It will also build out the definition of community engagement and outline its importance for Employment First and competitive integrated employment.