



Trump Budget Eliminates the Only Federal Job Training Program Specifically Targeting Older Americans

Older workers are an increasing part of the labor force. In 2015, an estimated 33 million Americans over the age of 55 were employed. At the same time, more than 1.3 million Americans 55 or older were looking for work.¹ The Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) is the only federal job training program targeted specifically to older Americans, and helps about 68,000 people each year through employment and training.^{2,3} Recognizing its important role in job training and placement, Congress has provided SCSEP approximately \$434 million annually over the past few years. President Trump's proposed Fiscal Year 2018 Budget would completely eliminate the program.

❖ How the Senior Community Service Employment Program Works

SCSEP provides subsidized employment in community service positions for low-income, unemployed seniors with the goal of empowering older Americans to improve their economic well-being and employability. SCSEP works in close partnership with national organizations and 56 state and territorial governments to support local employment opportunities in organizations such as senior centers, libraries, schools, and other community-based organizations. SCSEP participants earn income while building skills valued by their communities. As required by the law, 75 percent of funding for the program is spent on paying wages and benefits to SCSEP participants. The program specifically prioritizes key populations such as older veterans and older Americans in rural areas.

❖ Benefits to Seniors and Communities

Older Americans participating in SCSEP work in community service jobs an average of 20 hours a week. The U.S. Department of Labor reports that the program provides over 40 million community service hours to public and non-profit agencies, allowing them to enhance and provide needed services.⁴ Through SCSEP, community service organizations benefit from the experience and knowledge of older Americans, while these workers receive job training, work skills, wages, and opportunities to improve their financial and emotional well-being. The ultimate goal of SCSEP is to prepare older Americans to move out of SCSEP subsidized employment into the regular workforce and almost 50% of SCSEP participants go on to find work in unsubsidized employment.⁵

Under Threat

Eliminating SCSEP will undermine the efforts of low-income older Americans trying to return to the workforce and will harm the local communities who have come to rely on the staffing provided by the program. In Pennsylvania alone, SCSEP allocated over \$22 million to fill 2,300 positions in the state in 2016. Pennsylvania estimates that this funding represents approximately 2.4 million hours of community service and over 1,000 older Americans returning to the regular workforce.

Communities across the country benefit from the work older Americans contribute through the SCSEP program and older Americans benefit from the skill development and training they gain through this employment. Eliminating this program is shortsighted. The Trump Administration's Budget ignores the reality that older Americans are a vital part of communities and have much to offer to the workforce.

¹ Mature Workers Facts. National Council on Aging. <https://www.ncoa.org/news/resources-for-reporters/get-the-facts/mature-workers-facts/>

² Evaluation of the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). Social Policy Research Associates and Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. September 24, 2012. p. ES- 1. https://wdr.doleta.gov/research/FullText_Documents/ETAOP_2013_03.pdf

³ Congressional Budget Justification, Community Service Employment for Older Americans, Fiscal Year 2018. U.S. Department of Labor. p. 10. <https://www.dol.gov/sites/default/files/CBJ-2018-V1-05.pdf>

⁴ Senior Community Service Employment Program. U.S. Department of Labor. <https://www.doleta.gov/seniors/>

⁵ Evaluation of the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). Social Policy Research Associates and Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. September 24, 2012. p. ES- 9. https://wdr.doleta.gov/research/FullText_Documents/ETAOP_2013_03.pdf

State-by-State Funding for SCSEP⁶
(Includes National and State Grants)

State/Territory	Total Positions	Total Funding
Alabama	826	\$8,009,870
Alaska	190	\$1,846,110
Arizona	602	5,842,366
Arkansas	796	7,719,839
California	3,732	36,189,241
Colorado	455	4,413,501
Connecticut	480	4,658,527
Delaware	190	1,846,110
District of Columbia	252	2,439,881
Florida	2,588	25,101,391
Georgia	970	9,403,428
Hawaii	190	1,846,110
Idaho	215	2,088,886
Illinois	1,702	16,501,837
Indiana	1,144	11,096,714
Iowa	560	5,431,565
Kansas	434	4,207,191
Kentucky	829	8,042,449
Louisiana	682	6,617,903
Maine	270	2,620,583
Maryland	602	5,836,153
Massachusetts	953	9,242,122
Michigan	1,405	13,627,287
Minnesota	1,054	10,225,864
Mississippi	539	5,231,467
Missouri	1,057	10,252,230
Montana	273	2,647,024
Nebraska	325	3,154,731
Nevada	218	2,117,980
New Hampshire	215	2,088,886
New Jersey	1,235	11,980,823
New Mexico	271	2,629,447
New York	2,889	28,012,838
North Carolina	1,166	11,310,070
North Dakota	280	2,713,168
Ohio	1,907	18,491,291
Oklahoma	699	6,780,193
Oregon	643	6,233,696
Pennsylvania	2,360	22,883,654
Rhode island	233	2,259,181
South Carolina	595	5,773,570
South Dakota	324	3,139,805
Tennessee	893	8,656,833
Texas	2,426	23,527,965
Utah	299	2,895,612
Vermont	240	2,331,460
Virginia	928	9,002,324
Washington	670	6,492,890
West Virginia	491	4,764,297
Wisconsin	1,125	10,911,619
Wyoming	215	2,088,886

⁶ What is at Risk for States if the Senior Community Service Employment Program is Eliminated? The Council of State Governments. April 4, 2017.
http://knowledgecenter.csg.org/kc/content/what-risk-states-if-senior-community-service-employment-program-eliminated?utm_source=The+Current+State+%2399&utm_campaign=The+Current+State+%2399&utm_medium=email