



Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) U.S. Department of Labor 115th Congress

The Need

Older workers, who will make up about 25 percent of the U.S. labor force by 2024, struggle to return to the workplace once they've lost a job—taking nearly twice as long as younger job seekers. A recent U.S. Senate Aging Committee report found that many older adults have not saved enough for retirement and will need to work longer out of financial necessity. However, many older adults seeking employment face prolonged periods of unemployment, often due to a lack of current job skills and other factors, such as age discrimination. Training and retraining are critical for older workers, according to a recent AARP study, particularly hands-on, work-based training. The AARP study found greater training and employment gains for older adults when performing workplace hands-on activities compared to conceptual training.

About the Senior Community Service Employment Program

The Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) is the only federally-funded employment and training program targeted at helping older adults enter and/or reenter the changing workforce. Low-income unemployed workers, age 55 and older, are connected to temporary work-based learning assignments within their communities. These paid internship-like earn-and-learn opportunities help older workers develop additional skills, boost confidence, and add new relevant work history to their resumes. The *What Works In Job Training* report found that on-the-job models, like SCSEP, promote earnings and employment outcomes for workers. A 2017 study found that the benefits of SCSEP outweighed the costs, with participants who exited for employment earning more in the first year after program exit than the average annual per-person cost of the program. SCSEP annually serves approximately 60,000 older adults representing every congressional district and nearly all 3,000 U.S. counties.



Easterseals Specializes in Helping Older Adults Find Employment

Easterseals is a leading national provider of employment services, specializing in helping job seekers with significant barriers to employment find success in the workplace. In 2003, Easterseals leveraged its expertise and experience in serving individuals with disabilities and other most-in-need job seekers to partner with the U.S. Department of Labor to serve low-income, unemployed older Americans through SCSEP. Today, Easterseals provides SCSEP on-the-job experiences and employment supports to older adults living in Alabama, Arizona, Illinois, Ohio, Oklahoma, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, and Utah. In addition, Easterseals operates a SCSEP Business Advisory Council in each state that engages local and regional employers to ensure that SCSEP training is tailored to local business needs and job openings. Easterseals has helped more than 4,500 SCSEP participants across the country find permanent employment since becoming a SCSEP grantee.

Easterseals Senior Community Service Employment Program Policy Request

Easterseals urges Congress to fully fund the Senior Community Service Employment Program, where 75 percent of the federal funds are spent on participant training wages and benefits.

- **Support no less than \$463,809,605 for SCSEP in fiscal year 2019, the same level as proposed in the bipartisan Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act (P.L. 114-144).**



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Fiscal Year 2019 Member Submission Information	
Program Name	Senior Community Service Employment Program
Subcommittee	Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Department/Agency	U.S. Department of Labor
Account	Employment and Training Services
Brief Description	The Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) is the only federally-funded employment and training program targeted at helping older adults enter and/or reenter the changing workforce. Low-income unemployed workers, age 55 and older, are connected to temporary work-based learning assignments within their communities. These paid internship-like opportunities help older workers develop additional skills, boost confidence, and add new relevant work history to their resumes.
Request Type <i>(Programmatic or Language)</i>	Programmatic Funding Request
FY 2019 Easterseals Request	\$463,809,605
FY 2019 President Request	\$0
Authorization Level in Last Year of Authorization	\$463,809,605 for FY 2019
FY 2018 Enacted	TBD
FY 2017 Enacted	\$400,000,000

Key Links:

- [About the Senior Community Service Employment Program](#)
- [Senior Community Service Employment Program Progress Report](#)
- [The Role of SCSEP in Workforce Training for Low-Income Older Workers](#)
- [U.S. Senate’s Aging Committee’s Report on America’s Aging Workforce](#)