

California Department of Aging

Title V - Senior Community Service Employment Program Narrative

Program / Element / Component -- 20

Description

The Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) is designed to foster and promote useful part time training opportunities and to help program participants to obtain unsubsidized employment. SCSEP participants receive practical hands-on experience in subsidized part time community service training positions in public or private non-profit "host agencies."

Benefits

The SCSEP fosters individual economic self sufficiency and increases the number of persons who may enjoy the benefits of unsubsidized employment in both the public and private sectors. A variety of support services are provided including annual physical exams, personal and job related counseling, transportation assistance, skills training, and job referral.

Eligibility

SCSEP participants must be residents of California, at least 55 years of age or older, have poor employment prospects, and an income that does not exceed 125 percent of the federal poverty level.

Access

Older job seekers interested in obtaining information regarding SCSEP can call the statewide toll free line at **1-800-510-2020**, or the local Area Agency on Aging (AAA) in the blue bordered pages of the Community Services section of the telephone book under Senior Information and Referral/Assistance or access the California Department of Aging website at www.aging.ca.gov.

Background

The enabling legislation for the SCSEP is Title V of the Older Americans Act (OAA) of 1965, as amended by Public Law 109 365 in 2006.

The United States Department of Labor, Employment Training Administration (DOL), is the federal organization responsible for the administration of the program. DOL allocates funds to State Units on Aging and to National Sponsor organizations. The funding supports enrollee slots administered by the California Department of Aging (CDA) and enrollee slots administered by other national contractors operating in California. CDA is responsible for the service providers of 16 AAAs and collaborates

with the national contractors for equitable distribution of the enrollee slots within the Planning and Service Areas of all 33 AAAs in California.

State General Funds were used to backfill federal reductions in enrollee slots as a result of State minimum wage increases in Fiscal Year (FY) 1988/89 and were subsequently withdrawn in FY 1989/90 with the restoration of federal minimum wage funding levels. Beginning with FY 2000/01, the State General Fund has augmented additional funds to offset the State minimum wage increase.

DOL's FY 2007 appropriation for California's Title V program was increased due to the federal minimum wage increase.

In 2002, as required by Section 503 of the reauthorized OAA, CDA submitted a Senior Employment Services Coordination Plan to the United States Secretary of Labor. The Plan outlined CDA's coordination efforts with other workforce agencies as well as public and private organizations engaged in older worker activities.

During FY 2003/04, the DOL issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the national grants portion of the Title V Program and awarded 13 grants nationwide. Ten of the 13 national grantees selected administer the SCSEP in California. As stipulated in Sections 503(a)(4)(A), 507(b), and 508 of the OAA, the State is required to administer the equitable distribution of participant training slots in California. The new RFP process coupled with the release of 2000 census figures used by this program required a redistribution of participant training slots in 19 of the 58 counties in California. Accomplishing the movement of this significant number of slots required coordination and cooperation among all State and National Contractors.