

Diverse Elders and the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)



What is the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)?

SCSEP is the only federally-funded program specifically targeting older adults seeking employment and training assistance. The goal of SCSEP is to help participants gain work experience and overcome barriers by receiving on-the-job training at not-for-profit, 501(c)3 community-based organizations or government agencies.



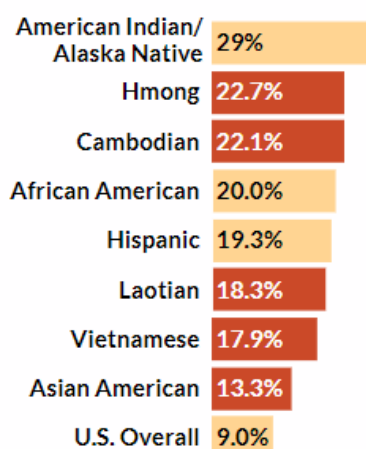
For stories from Diverse Elders Coalition SCSEP participants, visit <http://bit.ly/SCSEPStories>

What are the benefits of SCSEP?

Community partners provide SCSEP participants with basic job skills, ESL classes, and computer literacy classes. 72% of SCSEP participants reported that their outlook on life is a little more or much more positive after entering the program (US Dept. of Labor, 2015). Nationwide, the value of the community service provided by SCSEP participants in 2015 exceeded **\$830 million**, nearly twice the total PY15 appropriations of \$434.4 million.

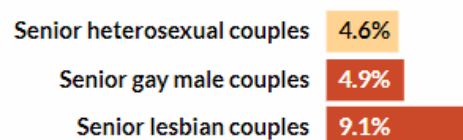
Poverty rates for diverse elders are high – and they are exacerbated by unemployment and underemployment.

Poverty Rates for Individuals 65 and Over



Sources: US Census 2010, AARP, National Research Council

Poverty in the LGBT Community



Source: Goldberg, Naomi G. "The Impact of Inequality for Same-Sex Partners in Employer-Sponsored Retirement Plans," The Williams Institute, May 2009.

What do budget cuts mean for SCSEP?

By 2019, over 40% of Americans aged 55+ will be employed, making up over 25% of the U.S. labor force. **SCSEP ensures that diverse elders are ready for the workforce.** The budget proposed by the White House **eliminates** funding for SCSEP. President Trump called the program "ineffective." This means that diverse older adults across the country will **lose access to this essential program.**