

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT NOTICE	NO. 17-12
	DATE January 3, 2013

TO: AMERICAN JOB CENTERS
WIA SECTION 166 AND 477 GRANTEES
STATE GOVERNORS
STATE WIA LIAISONS
STATE WORKFORCE ADMINISTRATORS
WIB STATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS
WIB LOCAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS
SCSEP STATE, NATIONAL AND TERRITORIAL GRANTEES

FROM: JANE OATES /s/
Assistant Secretary

SUBJECT: Release and Availability of Employment and Training Administration (ETA)
Occasional Paper: *Evaluation of the Senior Community Service Employment
Program: Process and Outcomes Study Final Report*

1. Purpose. To announce the release and availability of ETA Occasional Paper: *Evaluation of the Senior Community Service Employment Program: Process and Outcomes Study Final Report*.

2. Background. As the only Federal employment and training program targeted specifically to older Americans, the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) provides subsidized minimum-wage, part-time community service jobs to low-income persons age 55 or older who have poor employment prospects. Over its 46-year history, SCSEP has served unemployed older workers in both urban and rural areas who possess serious employment barriers. Examples of these barriers include low levels of formal education, physical and mental disabilities, limited English language and literacy skills, and obsolete skill sets. In addition, the participants also may face discrimination in the job market due to the negative stereotypes of older workers held by some employers. SCSEP aims to: (1) foster and promote part-time training opportunities in community service activities, (2) promote individual economic self-sufficiency, and (3) increase the number of older persons who enter unsubsidized employment in the public and private sectors.

In Program Year (PY) 2007, ETA contracted with Social Policy Research Associates (SPR) and its subcontractor, Mathematica Policy Research (Mathematica), to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the SCSEP. The evaluation had two parts: (1) a quantitative study that analyzed existing administrative data and customer satisfaction survey data for PY 2009 and 2010, and (2) a process study based on interviews with national SCSEP grantees and case-study site visits to 29 local projects during PY 2011.

3. Description. To learn about local project performance, program outcomes, and the views of program participants, SPR and Mathematica analyzed two sets of quantitative data: (1) individual-level data from the SCSEP Performance and Results Quarterly Progress Report system for PY 2009 and 2010, and (2) a customer-satisfaction survey administered by ETA during PY 2010 for a sample of program participants who were active in the SCSEP at some point during PY 2009. To examine program implementation, SPR conducted in-person and telephone interviews with 17 national grantees and 4 state grantees and then made case-study site visits to 29 local programs (24 sub-recipients of national grants and 5 sub-recipients of state grants). Finally, to learn more about participants' views of the program, SPR conducted informal interviews and focus-group sessions with participants at all 29 case-study sites. This final report summarizes the results from these evaluation activities. It presents findings on the organization of the program, the participants served, the outcomes achieved, and the challenges faced by local projects, as well as information about the organizational factors and service features that influence SCSEP program success, as indicated by a wide range of outcome measures.

4. Inquiries. To view an abstract of this publication, as well as to download the full report as a PDF, visit the ETA Research Publication Database Web site at:
<http://wdr.doleta.gov/research/keyword.cfm>.