

AARP Foundation Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)

Fact Sheet

As part of AARP Foundation's *WorkSearch*, the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) provides skills training and job placement assistance to mature job seekers.

Goals of SCSEP

SCSEP helps low-income job seekers age 55 and over gain the skills needed to re-enter or remain in the workforce. The program does this by:

- Providing participants with temporary training and income to prepare them for finding employment in the community;
- Helping employers address their workforce shortages by becoming a resource for trained, qualified mature workers.

SCSEP is funded by the U.S. Department of Labor under the authority of the Older Americans Act of 1965. As a national sponsor of SCSEP, AARP Foundation *WorkSearch* manages nearly 75 project sites in 22 states and Puerto Rico. Approximately 10,000 job seekers participate in the program at any one time.

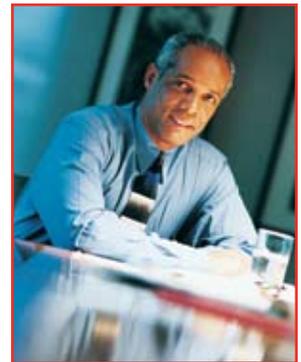
SCSEP Helps Participants and Employers

Working closely with employers to understand the job opportunities, qualifications, and work environment, SCSEP prepares its participants to become more qualified applicants. SCSEP staff thoroughly assess each participant's skills, interests, and attitudes before referring the applicant to potential employers.

Building Job Skills

SCSEP provides a range of training opportunities for its participants:

- **Community Service Assignments:**
The primary location for job training is the Host Agency—a nonprofit or public agency that serves as a work/training site.
- **Specialized Training:**
SCSEP arranges for participants to be trained in the specific skills needed to compete in the job market. Training takes place either at the project site or at other locations, such as community colleges and other training providers.



SCSEP Motto: *“Your job is to get a job, our job is to help you!”*

• On the Job Experience:

SCSEP refers selected participants for on-the-job training with private employers. Under the On the Job Experience (OJE) Program, SCSEP pays the participant at the employer's prevailing rate for a limited time, while the employer provides needed job training. The employer agrees to hire applicants who successfully complete the training period.

Job Placement Success

The AARP Foundation is the most successful national sponsor in the 40+ year history of SCSEP. In recent years, SCSEP has helped over 50 percent of participants better their lives by finding employment in their communities.

Value of Mature Workers

The AARP Foundation considers mature workers to be a valuable resource and “markets” them through community contacts and employer partnerships.

SCSEP Serves the Community

While developing their skills at Host Agencies, SCSEP participants provide 10 million hours of community service yearly. Meanwhile, community organizations get the additional help they need to expand services. Host Agencies include food banks, libraries, hospitals, day care programs, employment centers, public works agencies, and social service organizations. ■

Success Stories

Des Moines, IA: Dick Kiefer was one of the first applicants to be hired as a result of the National Hiring Partnership between The Home Depot and AARP. Referred to The Home Depot by SCSEP, he has not only surpassed his sales quotas, but his enthusiasm and warm personality have won praise from fellow associates and customers alike.

New Orleans, LA: American Nursing Services, Inc. has found that applicants they recruit and train through SCSEP are among the agency's most reliable, motivated workers. “They're always on time and they rarely cancel their shifts at the last minute. They tend to be more flexible and willing to help out in a pinch,” says a supervisor. “Also, they understand what the patients are going through.”

Phoenix, AZ: Looking to change careers, Trinnie enrolled in SCSEP and attended a Resume Writing class, where one of the guest speakers was a representative from Best Western International. Trinnie applied for a job and was hired as a reservation agent. With her bilingual skills and computer training, she was promoted within 90 days with an increase in pay. A boost from SCSEP was all she needed to find an exciting new career path. ■

To learn more about AARP Foundation *WorkSearch* or to locate an office, visit:

www.aarpworksearch.org

About the AARP Foundation

The AARP Foundation is AARP's affiliated charity. Foundation programs provide security, protection and empowerment for older persons in need. Low-income older workers receive the job training and placement they need to re-join the workforce. Free tax assistance and preparation is provided for low- and moderate-income individuals, with

special attention to those 60 and older. The Foundation's litigation staff protects the legal rights of older Americans in critical health, long-term care, consumer and employment situations. Additional programs provide information, education and services to ensure that people over 50 lead lives of independence, dignity and purpose. Foundation programs are funded by grants, tax-deductible contributions and AARP. ■

www.aarpworksearch.org