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.

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.

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.