**WorkforceGPS**

**Podcast**

**Requirements and Considerations for WIOA Unified & Combined State Plans: Modifications and Beyond**

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IRENE ADAMS JEFFERSON: Hello. Welcome to the "Requirements and Considerations for WIOA Unified and Combined State Plans: Modifications and Beyond," from the Senior Community Service Employment Program – SCSCEP.

My name is Irene Adams Jefferson. I am a workforce analyst. I represent the older worker unit who oversees the Senior Community Service Employment Program – SCSEP. SCSEP is a required partner under WIOA.

I am here to go over the WIOA strategic plan objectives for SCSEP. First I will cover the overview of the key changes made in the Older Americans Act reauthorization of 2016 and the 2017 SCSEP interim final rule. The next thing I will cover is the technical amendments to SCSEP that align required coordination of services with SCSEP and WIOA. The third thing I will cover will whether you submit a combined or standalone plan – why submit a modification.

The Older Americans Act, or OAA, Title V authorizes SCSEP. OAA was reauthorized by Congress on April 19th, 2016. OAA 2016 Title V maintains the dual purposes of SCSEP in promoting community service and work-based training activities for unemployed low-income persons ages 55 and older with poor employment prospects.

OAA 2016 also reinforces alignment and coordination with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, enacted in 2014 – WIOA – required changes to SCSEP under OAA 2016.

Terminology. Some examples of the terminology changes: the term "core intensive services" changed to "career services"; the term "core indicators" changed to "core measures"; and "local board" changed to "local development board."

These terminology changes aligned (and ?) codified with pertinent WIOA terms. Other terminology changes can be found in the preamble of the Older Americans Act as reauthorized in 2016.

The 2017 SCSEP interim final rule makes nonsubstantive technical amendments to the SCSEP program languages, including the terminology with WIOA requiring coordination of services with SCSEP and WIOA One-Stop delivery system; updating and implementing the processes by which the department and grantees will initially determine and then adjust expected levels of performance; as well as how the department will determine whether a grantee fails, meets, or exceeds the levels of performance and how the department will assist the grantees in the transition to the new core performance measures. The purpose of the IFR is to fulfill that statutory requirement.

Further, under WIOA and SCSEP, the state plan is intended to foster coordination among the various SCSEP grantee and subgrantees operating within the state and facilitate the efforts of stakeholders, including state and local boards under WIOA; and to work collaboratively through a participatory process to accomplish SCSEP's goals.

States must submit state plans every four years to the Departments of Labor, Education, and Health & Human Services. State plans must outline a four-year strategy for the statewide provisions of community service employment and other authorized activities for participants in SCSEP.

Every two years the governor is required to review the four-year plan and submit a state plan modification if any significant changes occurred within the state. All SCSEP grantees receiving nonreserve grant funds are required to participate in the state planning process. Those national grantees serving older American Indians, Pacific Islander and Asian Americans with funds reserved under OAA Section 506(a)(3) are exempted from the requirement to participate in the state planning processes under Section 503(a)(9) of the OAA.

The state plan also must include the following assurances where SCSEP is included in the combined workforce plan. The state must establish a written policy and procedure to obtain advice and recommendations on the state plan from representatives of the state and area agencies on aging; state and local boards under WIOA, public and private nonprofit agencies and organizations providing employment services, including each grantee operating a SCSEP project within the state except as provided under Section 506(a)(3) of OAA and 20 CFR 641.320(b); social service organizations providing services to older individuals; grantees under Title III of OAA, affected communities, unemployed older individuals, community-based organizations serving older individuals, business organizations, and labor organizations.

Now I will discuss why submit a modification.

SCSEP grantees were required at minimum to address the following programmatic areas whether through a standalone plan or as part of the SCSEP portion of a combined state plan.

A modification is required is any significant changes occurred in the following elements: economic projections and impacts; service delivery and coordination; location and population served, including equitable distribution; and SCSEP operations.

During the PY 2016 four-year state plan submission we had 21 states and territories submit combined plans, 23 unified plans, and 13 submitted standalone plans.

SCSEP provides important employment and training opportunities for low-income older adults 55 and older to improve their employment outcomes and contribute to the overall enrichment of communities across the nation. Over the years SCSEP has enhanced services to program participants by providing occupational, work skills, and aptitude assessments; skills training and other training opportunities; and employment assistance through the American Job Center.

SCSEP serves those who are most in need – those with limited English proficiency, low literacy, individuals with disabilities, and those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. SCSEP contributes to the increase of older jobseekers finding and retaining good jobs.

As a required partner, SCSEP contributes and supports WIOA seamless customer-focused service delivery model.

Here are some relevant resources that will be beneficial to you.

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