

Federal ACTION ALERT

SCSEP Funding

☎ (608) 228-7253
🌐 www.gwaar.org/waan

✉ janet.zander@gwaar.org
📱 @WAAN.ACTION

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Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) funding 2025 & 2026

SCSEP is a federal initiative designed to help low-income older adults find employment and community service opportunities. Funding for SCSEP comes from the Older Americans Act Title V program and is administered by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). Though funding for SCSEP was approved and signed into law for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2025, in July, the U.S. DOL paused the release of over \$300 million in funds for national SCSEP grantees, impacting thousands of older persons across the country (and approximately 700 in Wisconsin).

Take Action –

Congress has the power to fix this problem!

Contact U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson and your U.S. Representative and ask them to protect the people who depend on training and jobs provided by the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). Ask them to direct the U.S. Department of Labor to release the previously approved SCSEP funding and to support the continuation of funding in FY 2026. Use the National Council on Aging (NCOA) campaign - <https://act.ncoa.org/a/scsep/> to contact your federal elected officials today!

Funding delays caused national grantees to furlough current program participants, leaving thousands of low-income participants without the additional income needed to cover housing, food, and medication expenses and host agencies without needed workers. There is growing concern that as funding delays drag on some older persons may face eviction and become unhoused.

Late last month, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved its FY 2026 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor/HHS) spending bill, which included \$395 million for SCSEP. Though the funding approved is a decrease of \$10 million from the approved FY 2025 amount, it is seen as a positive step, as the administration had proposed eliminating the program entirely in its FY 2026 budget request.

Your advocacy is needed to address the SCSEP funding delays and advocate for continued support for the program. NCOA is hosting a campaign to help you educate your Senators and Representative about the importance of SCSEP and to help participants share their stories about their need to work and the impact the funding delay is having on their lives - <https://act.ncoa.org/a/scsep/>.

Core member organizations

Aging and Disability Professionals Association of Wisconsin (ADPAW) • Alzheimer's Association Wisconsin Chapter
Board on Aging and Long Term Care (BOALTC) • Wisconsin Adult Day Services Association (WADSA)
Wisconsin Association of Area Agencies on Aging (W4A) • Wisconsin Association of Benefit Specialists (WABS)
Wisconsin Association of Nutrition Directors (WAND) • Wisconsin Association of Senior Centers (WASC)
Wisconsin Family and Caregiver Support Alliance (WFACSA) • Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (WIHA)
Wisconsin Senior Advocates • Wisconsin Senior Corps Association (WISCA) • Wisconsin Tribal Aging Unit Association

Mission

The Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) works with and for all older adults by educating community members and policy makers on priority issues while advocating for meaningful change. Learn more at <https://gwaar.org/waan>.