

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

July 17, 2025

The Honorable Lori Chavez-DeRemer  
Secretary  
United States Department of Labor  
200 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20210

The Honorable Russell Vought  
Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
725 17<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Secretary Chavez-DeRemer and Director Vought:

We write to express concern about the delay in Program Year (PY) 2025 funding allocations for Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) national grantees and to underscore the harmful impact of this delay on vulnerable seniors and the communities they serve. Further, we urge that you allocate and expend Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 funds for SCSEP national grantees as soon as possible.

SCSEP is the only federal community service and jobs training program targeted to low-income, unemployed seniors. With strict income, age, and employment requirements, the program targets our nation's most vulnerable older Americans. Through SCSEP, low-income seniors are able to earn a paycheck—often, their only source of income—and in return provide vital services to their communities. For example, in Program Year (PY) 2022, over 42,000 seniors provided over 20.4 million hours of service to their local communities.<sup>1</sup>

To fulfill their important work, SCSEP grantees rely on the Department of Labor's (DOL) timely release of the Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) which provides planning instructions and allotments for SCSEP state, territorial, and national grantees. SCSEP funds are typically obligated for expenditure by the start of each Program Year, July 1<sup>st</sup>, as intended by the Older Americans Act (OAA). Although the PY25 TEGL for state and territorial grantees was published on July 1, 2025, DOL has still not published a TEGL for national grantees and has not provided a timeline for its publication despite repeated requests.<sup>2</sup>

We have already begun to see the devastating impacts of this delay. For example, the National Asian Pacific Center on Aging (NAPCA), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and SCSEP national grantee, based in Washington, which serves limited-English proficient older adults from various ethnic groups, has already furloughed 800 low-income seniors due to this funding uncertainty.<sup>3</sup> Another national grantee, SER-Jobs for Progress Inc., which serves over 1,500 seniors across California, sent out letters notifying its SCSEP program participants that they would be placed in a non-pay

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<sup>1</sup> [Nationwide Quarterly Progress Report: PY 2022 Performance Report for SCSEP](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Program Year \(PY\) 2024 Planning Instructions and Allotments for Senior Community Service Employment Program \(SCSEP\) State, Territorial, and National Grantees- U.S. Department of Labor](#)

<sup>3</sup> [More than 20,000 Low-Income Seniors Are Furloughed Due to SCSEP Funding Pause- NAPCA](#)

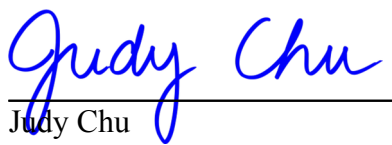
status until the TEGL for national grantees is published.<sup>4</sup> These delays have also impacted grantees operating in Indiana<sup>5</sup>, North Carolina<sup>6</sup>, and Oklahoma<sup>7</sup>, among others.

Because there is no clear timeline for when furloughs will end, this uncertainty is causing deep distress among program participants, many of whom live paycheck to paycheck and rely on the income they earn through SCSEP to make ends meet. The funding delay is also harming entire communities, as nonprofits and other local businesses are losing the critical support of SCSEP-supported trainees and volunteers due to furloughs. For example, Illinois resident Curtis Archie was training through NAPCA's SCSEP program as a Maintenance Technician at YouthHope, a nonprofit serving at-risk youth. With Mr. Archie's recent furlough, not only does he lose his \$1,300 monthly paycheck—which he had been using to provide for his family and finalize the adoption of his grandson—but YouthHope loses a dedicated senior who had been providing vital services to the community.<sup>8</sup>

Given these concerns, we urge you to publish the TEGL for PY 2025 Planning Instructions and Allotments for SCSEP National Grantees and to allocate and expend these funds immediately. Should grant funds be obligated and expended in the near term, we also urge that they be retroactive to July 1, 2025. If you are unable to do so immediately, we request that you provide the reason for the delay, a date by which the TEGL will be published and funds will be obligated, and how you plan to support SCSEP grantees in the interim to mitigate the harmful disruption in services and furloughs already taking place by July 28, 2025.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress

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<sup>4</sup> [SCSEP Participant Letter- SER-Jobs for Progress, Inc](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Delaware County Senior Citizens Center's federal funding delayed indefinitely- Ball State Daily](#)

<sup>6</sup> ['The ones suffering.' Federal cuts hit NC program that helps seniors get jobs- Charlotte Observer](#)

<sup>7</sup> [Homeless Alliance loses 8 senior employees due to federal cuts- KOCO News 5 ABC](#)

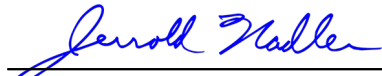
<sup>8</sup> [More than 20,000 Low-Income Seniors Are Furloughed Due to SCSEP Funding Pause- NAPCA](#)



Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress



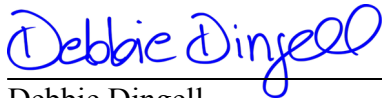
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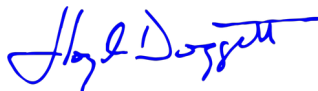
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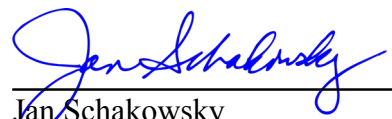
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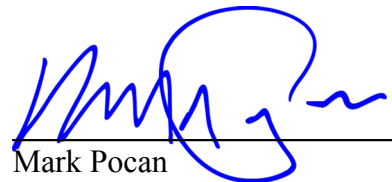
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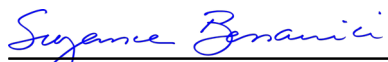
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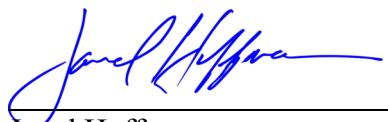
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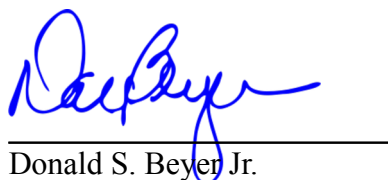
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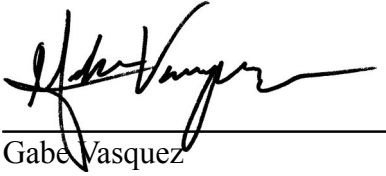
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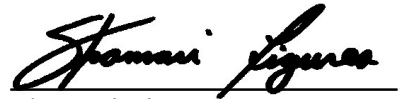


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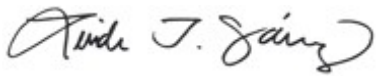
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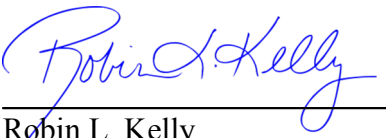
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