

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT NOTICE	NO. 12-06
	DATE September 14, 2006

TO: ALL NATIONAL AND STATE SCSEP GRANTEES

FROM: GAY M. GILBERT /s/
Administrator, Office of Workforce Investment

SUBJECT: Service to Minority Populations by National and State Senior
Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) Grantees

1. **Purpose.** To assure that all SCSEP national and state grantees focus efforts on helping minorities gain and continue access to the program, especially through the transition period ending October 1, 2006.
2. **Reference.** All SCSEP grantees are required to serve the eligible minority populations that live within their service areas. The Department of Labor sought to ensure that minority participants are served by SCSEP when promulgating the SCSEP Final Rule in 2004. 20 CFR 641.515(a) states that grantees should, to the extent feasible, seek to enroll individuals who are eligible minorities. In addition, 20 CFR 641.525 states that "in selecting participants from among those individuals who are eligible, special consideration must be given, to the extent feasible, to individuals...who are eligible minorities...or limited English speakers."
3. **Background.** Now that the competition for the national SCSEP grants has been successfully completed, the Department wants to ensure, to the maximum extent possible, that eligible minorities can access the program. In particular, although there are set-asides for Asian and Pacific Islanders and Indian and Native Americans, these set-aside programs are not operating in every state due to economies of scale. In addition, we know the Hispanic population is growing rapidly in many geographic areas. Therefore, all state and national grantees should assure that eligible Asian and Pacific Islander and Indian and Native American individuals, as well as other minority populations, have an opportunity to participate in the program.
4. **Information.** Over the course of Program Year 2006, the Department is committed to providing additional technical assistance to all SCSEP grantees, both national and state, to enhance service delivery to minority populations. We will make a concerted effort to ensure that eligible elderly minorities are served by SCSEP grantees proportionate to their incidence in the population nationally, at the state level, and at the grantee service delivery area level.

The Department believes that all national and state SCSEP grantees share this commitment, and we will work collaboratively to ensure equal access to services for these populations. The Department will consult with grantees on the types of technical assistance that would be valuable and will develop an action plan for providing that technical assistance soon thereafter.

5. **Inquiries.** Questions should be directed to your ETA Regional Office or Gale B. Gibson, Office of Workforce Investment, Division of Adult Services, (202) 693-3758.