



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Human Services

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April 30, 2009

The Honorable Margaret Carter, Co-Chair
The Honorable Peter Buckley, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301-4048



Re: ARRA Grants for the Senior Community Service Employment Program

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

The US Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration (DOL) received ARRA grant funds for the Title V/SCSEP (Senior Community Service Employment Program). The SCSEP's ARRA supplement is making available additional grant funds for employment and training opportunities for older persons wishing to return to the workforce. Specifically, this program serves persons with low incomes who are 55 years old or older and have poor employment prospects by providing job skills training and paying them minimum wage while working at a community service agency to gain on-the-job experience. The March 2009 rates of unemployment were 5.8% for women 55 and older and 6.3% for men. In February 2009 the unemployment rate for adults age 65 and older reached 6.8%, the highest level recorded since the federal government began computing reliable unemployment rates in 1948.

This program is funded under Title V of the Older Americans Act. Annual Title V/SCSEP grants are issued to states by formula. National grantees are selected competitively every 4 years and receive their funding directly from DOL. Oregon's national grantees are Easter Seals and Experience Works. DOL awarded 847 slots (participant positions) to Oregon last year, of which the State of Oregon received 172, Experience Works 447, and Easter Seals 228.

Oregon's SCSEP funding was \$1,409,583 in 2007-08 and \$1,515,688 in 2008-09. Award amounts for next year are still to be determined but are anticipated to be consistent with this year's amount.



Oregon grantees have been allocated \$1,713,000 in ARRA funds for the Title V program in addition to the annual awards. The breakout among grantees is as follows:

- \$348,538 (State of Oregon)
- \$903,696 (Experience Works)
- \$460,945 (Easter Seals)

The State of Oregon's allocation (\$346,538) is passed through to the 5 sub-grantees already contracted to provide this service. Although the State is entitled to a percentage of this grant for administrative expenses, the program has opted not to take this percentage as the ARRA increase is an extension of a current program.

While most Title V ARRA requirements are the same as the regular program, ARRA funds will be subject to separate accounting, increased transparency, and quarterly reporting to DOL. Participants will be subject to shorter duration of program participation and placements at host agency sites that comply with the over arching goals of the Recovery Act program.

A 10% match is required for both regular grant and for the ARRA grant; no state match is required. Federal match source is primarily from in-kind contributions, specifically, host agency site supervision.

Oregon's preliminary grant documents for ARRA funds were submitted on March 10, 2009, the funds have been awarded, and the department anticipates having all contract amendments in place and effective as of July 1, 2009.

Sincerely,



Jim Scherzinger
Deputy Director of Finance

CC: John Britton, Legislative Fiscal Office
Sheila Baker, Legislative Fiscal Office
Blake Johnson, Department of Administrative Services