

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 25, 2025

The Honorable Lori Chavez-DeRemer
Secretary
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Chavez-DeRemer:

We write to express our deep concern regarding the Department of Labor's delay in the timely release of the Senior Community Service Employment Program's (SCSEP) Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) which provides planning instructions and allotments for state, territorial, and national grantees. While the states have received a separate TEGL, the national grantees have not to date.

For nearly six decades, SCSEP has been a lifeline for low-income older adults by providing them with meaningful employment training and opportunities to remain active in their communities. In Maryland, this program plays a vital role in supporting hundreds of older residents who depend on SCSEP not just for skills development, but also for their financial survival. These individuals rely on their SCSEP earnings to afford food, maintain their homes, and manage essential health expenses.

Currently, we are seeing bipartisan, Congressionally appropriated SCSEP funds go undistributed to grantees including in Maryland, where participants have already been furloughed due to this funding delay. The consequences are significant: not only have these older adults lost their source of income, but they are also being deprived of critical training time necessary for their reentry into the workforce.

Withholding funding already appropriated by Congress is not only illegal but also compromises the Department's responsibility to serve those most in need, particularly older Americans striving for stability and purpose through employment.

We urge the Department to release the SCSEP funds without further delay. Prompt action is essential to prevent additional harm to participants, grantees, and the communities they serve.

We welcome the opportunity to speak with you soon about how to resolve this issue and ensure continued support for Maryland's older workers.

Sincerely,



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Angela Alsobrooks
United States Senator