

State of Alaska	
Department of Labor and Workforce Development	
Division: Vocational Rehabilitation	Policy: 07-S01
Subject: SCSEP Eligibility	Pages: 1
Reference: Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended, including Supporting Older Americans Act of 2020 , Public Law No: 116-131 (03/25/2020)	Effective: 2/6/2024
Approved:  Duane Mayes, Director	2/6/2024 Date

1. Parties Affected:

This policy applies to the Division of Vocation Rehabilitation (DVR) staff and subrecipients of Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), Older Americans Act (OAA) Title V public funds administered through DVR.

2. Background:

Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) known in Alaska as Mature Alaskans Seeking Skills Training or MASST. SCSEP is authorized by title V of the OAA, is a federally sponsored employment and training program targeted specifically to low-income, older individuals who want to enter or re-enter the workforce. The dual goals of the program are to promote useful opportunities in community service activities and to move SCSEP participants into unsubsidized employment, where appropriate, so that they can achieve economic self-sufficiency.

3. Policy:

Individuals administering SCSEP services shall determine program eligibility for older workers based on the following eligibly criteria: Participants must be at least 55; unemployed, not work ready, and have a family income of no more than 125 percent of the federal poverty level.

Enrollment priority is given to veterans and qualified spouses, then to individuals who are over 65, have a disability, have low literacy skills or limited English proficiency, reside in a rural area, are homeless or at risk of homelessness, have low employment prospects, formerly incarcerated within the last five years prior to enrollment, or have failed to find employment after using services through the American Job Center Network.

4. Definitions

- a. **Federal poverty level** - the poverty thresholds are updated each year by the Census Bureau and used to determine eligibility for certain federal programs.

- b. **Homeless** - (1). An individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and (2) An individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is:
 - i. A supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally); or
 - ii. An institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or
 - iii. A public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, regular sleeping accommodation for human beings. {42 U.S.C. 11302(a)}
- c. **At risk for homelessness** - an individual is likely to become homeless and the individual lacks the resources and support networks needed to obtain housing.
- d. **Limited English proficiency** - is a person who has limited ability in reading, writing, speaking, or comprehending the English language, and whose native language is a language other than English; or who lives in a family or community environment where a language other than English is the dominant language.
- e. **Not work ready** - refers to individuals who require further education or training to perform work that is available in their labor market.
- f. **Poor employment prospects** - means the significant likelihood that an individual will not obtain employment without the assistance of the SCSEP or another workforce development program. Persons with poor employment prospects have a significant barrier to employment.
- g. **Reside in a rural area** - an area not designated as a metropolitan statistical area by the Census Bureau; segments within metropolitan counties identified by codes 4 through 10 in the Rural Urban Commuting Area (RUCA) system; and RUCA codes 2 and 3 for census tracts that are larger than 400 square miles and have population density of less than 30 people per square mile.
- h. **Significant barriers to employment** - include but are not limited to lacking a substantial employment history, basic skills, and/ or English-language proficiency; lacking a high school diploma or the equivalent; having a disability; being homeless; or residing in socially and economically isolated rural or urban areas where employment opportunities are limited.
- i. **Veterans, qualified, spouse** - means an individual who is a "covered person" for purposes of the Jobs for Veterans Act, 38 U.S.C 4215(a){1}.
- j. **Formerly incarcerated** - incarcerated within the last 5 years or are under supervision following release from prison or jail within the last 5 years.