

Boston Seniority

Age Strong Commission City of Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh

Comeback Career: Rejoining the Workforce after Unemployment

By Steve Currier, Job Development at Operation ABLE. Posted in the February 2020 edition of Boston Seniority.

Losing a job can be one of life's most stressful experiences. It can be even more difficult if you are an older adult and that job loss turns to long-term unemployment. Long-term unemployment is when someone is out of work for six or more months. This time can cause a lot of pressure in your life and can affect your self-esteem. It's normal to feel stressed and anxious for what the future holds. Fortunately, there is help in Boston for those committed to get back into the workforce.

One program that can assist unemployed older adults is the [Senior Community Service Employment Program \(SCSEP\)](#). SCSEP is the United States' oldest program to assist low-income, unemployed individuals, aged 55 and older to find work.

SCSEP matches eligible older adults with part-time training assignments in non-profit organizations. Participants work on average 20 hours a week. This work helps build skills and self-confidence while earning a stipend. For many participants, their SCSEP experience leads to permanent employment!

Interested in becoming an SCSEP participant? Here are some rules and guidelines to be eligible:

- The participant must be age 55 or older and unemployed
- The participant must be a resident of Suffolk, Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk or Worcester county
- The participant must meet federal low income guidelines

How to enroll in a SCSEP program:

You can enroll at the Operation ABLE office located at 174 Portland St. in Boston.

Operation ABLE is an authorized SCSEP agency that provides job seekers with training programs and employment services. They hold free information sessions on the SCSEP program each Friday at 10:00 am in their offices.

Operation ABLE:
Programs, Resources and Solutions.

Serving Job Seekers, the Under-employed,
those in career transition
and Military Veteran's.

If an applicant meets all the required qualifications, they will then meet with a SCSEP representative who will explain the role of the host agencies and the type of work that the employer has. If there is no waiting list, then they will be enrolled at a non-profit in their community to begin their work!

What is a host agency and how does a host agency benefit from training a SCSEP participant?

A host agency is an organization that offers on the job training to SCSEP participants. Average assignments given to participants last up to 18 months. The host agency must be able to offer appropriate diverse and quality training opportunities for older workers to be qualified as a host agency. SCSEP job seekers normally perform a variety of tasks that may not be accomplished because of a gap in funding SCSEP can assist the host agency in finding trained and qualified mature workers to fill important jobs in their organization.

Interested in learning more about the SCSEP Program?

Attend a SCSEP Information Session: Fridays at 10:00am at 174 Portland Street, 5th Floor, Boston. You can also contact **Tarnya Jones-Jenkins** 617.542.4180 x123 tjones-jenkins@operationable.net.

The mission of Operation ABLE is to provide employment and training opportunities to job seekers from economically, racially and occupationally diverse backgrounds.