

SCSEP All Grantee Call

January 7, 2015

Introduction

Jennifer Pirtle: Okay. Hi SCSEP grantees. Welcome to 2015, Happy New Year. We hope that you had a nice break and we're glad that most of you can join us today. I first want to introduce the staff that we have here. We have Irene Jefferson, Simi Atolagbe, we have Terry Cram and Shelly Craig on the line.

SCSEP 50th Anniversary

Jennifer Pirtle: We're really excited about 2015 because this marks the 50th anniversary of SCSEP. We want to remind you that we have a 50th anniversary logo on our community of practice that you can download. So feel free to use this in any of the SCSEP materials that you develop this year or any communications that you want to use it for. You can go to our older worker community of practice at OlderWorkers/Workforce3one.org.

Equitable Distribution Reports

Irene Jefferson: Good afternoon and Happy New Year everyone. I'm going to start with equitable distribution reports. I'm getting many questions asking well what's next. Why do we do we do all this? Well we're still in the process of reviewing the ED reports. Once we're done, our plan is to set up two meetings; one with the state grantees and one with the nationals, to discuss trends and promising practices. We will offer TA to grantees with any alarming trends. Anyone who has some specific issues please bring them up during the Q&A. We're also planning to use the data for upcoming call topics and discussions. Jennifer will tell you a little bit about that later.

State Plan Modifications

Irene Jefferson: As for the state plan modification reviews, we are currently and concurrently reviewing your state plan modifications. We have a couple of missing modifications. And so if you have not sent yours in you will be receiving a call from me before the end of the week. So you might as well just go ahead and send it. We plan to have them all reviewed by the end of this month. So you can receive your approval letters by the end of February. So, please get your modifications in as soon as possible.

Indirect Cost Agreements

Irene Jefferson: I am beginning my indirect cost agreement reminder a little early this year. I'm starting to tell you now. If your indirect cost agreement expires June 30 or has expired, you need to start the process of getting a renewal as soon as possible. Many of you are getting to closeout

without an indirect agreement in place. And Ed Ducut is going to have an issue with that in closeouts. So please, please, please, get your indirect cost agreements in place as soon as possible. I appreciate that.

2015 Poverty Guidelines

Irene Jefferson: The poverty guidelines are expected to come out in late January as usual. I will get that guidance out as soon as we get it from HHS. If you have any questions regarding the dates or anything, please see your FPO. *Update: The 2015 Poverty Guidelines and the FRN have been published on [HHS](#) and [FRN](#) sites. The guidance will be coming out shortly.*

SPARQ Update

Simi Atolagbe: The PY '14 quarter three enrollment data has been added to the SPARQ ED Web site. Please let us know if you encounter any issues. As always, we would like to remind you to check your users' accounts page for locked and expired accounts. As a reminder, locked means there were three consecutive login attempts with an invalid password. And expired means the password has not yet been changed for more than 90 days. Please check the accounts on a routine basis and address any accounts that are locked or expired. If you have not already done so, please let the subgrantee and local project know that users can now reset their own password when their accounts are locked. If you would like another copy of the email in which that new feature was announced, you should contact Terry Cram. As announced on the December all grantee call, please copy the national office on all correspondence. That address is SCSEP.National@DOL.gov.

Terry Cram: The first thing is non-news. DOL's IT department has not yet provided a schedule for maintenance in 2015. So as soon as we receive it we'll post it to the SPARQ homepage and the SCSEP Web site. As we announced on last month's all grantee call, the PY '14 quarter two close is scheduled for the end of this month. That's going to be Wednesday, January 28th. The exact schedule was sent in an email this Monday, January 5th. And if you would like another copy of that email just let us know. And the next SPARQ release is currently scheduled for the end of February. In that release, QPR item E4 - Common Measures Average Earning, will be revised to bring the QPR in sync with the common measures (TGL), including how the UI wage matching record will work for SCSEP when access for all grantees is obtained. This is the change that was made last July but then it was removed so it wouldn't impact the PY '13 QPRs. Also we'll be making changes to help manage the employer survey process. There'll be a new management report regarding pending employer surveys, and several new edits to insure that data are entered correctly. The exact date and details about the changes will be sent as soon as possible.

WIOA Update

Jennifer Pirtle: I want to go ahead and give you a WIOA update. There is a publication update regarding the notice of proposed rulemaking. You can see the entire update on www.DOLETA.gov/WIOA. You should know that the publication date has been moved back to spring 2015. We will let you know when the notice of public rulemaking has been published. I have a couple of other updates for you.

Uniform Guidance Regulations

Jennifer Pirtle: We also want to remind you that the implementation of the new uniform guidance regulations became effective on December 26, 2014. We encourage you to read the Training and Employment Guidance Letter number 15-14, which provides the details. Just so that you know, for all existing SCSEP grants, the old rules still apply. However, if you would like to implement the new rules, contact your FPO to request a modification to replace the existing regulations with the new uniform guidance. This may be the case if your - if your agency is going to be using - is going to get money soon and use the new rules and you want your agency to be all uniform in the financial rules that it follows. That is when you'll want to probably use - do a modification for SCSEP. The new guidance will affect all of the PY '15 grants that will be awarded this year. We will be providing updated information to you as we move closer to the PY '15 deadline. The TEGL has links to a number of frequently asked questions on the uniform guidance. And ETA is developing some online and in person training on the new uniform guidance that should be available in the first half of 2015. We've posted a link to the TEGL on our community of practice. And if you have any questions about the new uniform guidance, please contact your FPO. *Update:* [Link to TEGL 15-14](#)

Technical Assistance/Training

Jennifer Pirtle: I'm going to switch gears a little bit. Last month we had a kind of a ten to 15 minute presentation of some technical assistance with some data information that you wanted to know about. Each month we want to do a little bit of technical assistance for you. Next month we're going to decide on a number of topics that you want to know more about so that we can provide this information during the call. We will have about ten to 15 minutes' worth of information at the end of every meeting. We will have the option of doing things verbally or doing things virtually through WebEx, because sometimes it's a lot easier to see things while you're hearing them at the same time, and we can make that option available to you, either through WebEx or some other type of platform. In the next few weeks, we'll send out a poll to you with a list of topics for you to vote on. During the next all grantee call in February, we'll discuss the results and prioritize the list. Most likely, we'll just prioritize the list upfront and tell you how the votes came in, so that you know what that looks like. If something is missing from the list that we give you for the polling, there will be an option for you to add it and you can always send us questions in the meantime or send us notes about information that you want to hear about on the next call. We hope that having this little opportunity for us to provide a little bit of technical assistance to everyone at the same time will be very useful. In that same note, we want you to be sure to contact your FPO if you have any type of technical assistance needs. We do have resources in the national office that can work with your FPO to get you the technical assistance and training that you need. So please let us know if you have any issues or if you have any needs that you need some technical assistance on, because we are here to help you. *Update:* *If you have any suggestions for training or topics that you would like to learn more about, please send an email to SCSEP.National@dol.gov.*

Q&A

Tony Morales: **Good afternoon everybody. My question today is this. In a region where the participants are being classified as employees versus trainee. This has caused us several issues, most notably, with the classification and workers' comp codes. When we go out to**

bid for workers' comp, the carriers - the various carriers that we go out to have seen us as high risk, temporary agencies. And that thereby limits our options for worker comp policies. Is there something that the DOL can suggest that we as a grantee, can do to help control these issues? Are there other grantees that have similar experiences with this issue and what can they suggest as a possible solution?

Jennifer Pirtle: Thank you for your question. We're going to have to look into that and we will definitely get back to you. But if any other grantees have had similar issues, then if you want to chime in right now about how you've addressed it, we'd like to hear it.

Audrey Krebs: **Thank you. Okay. I'm - Irene, this is for you. I'm curious about how do we know if our indirect cost agreement has expired? I mean I don't believe ours has but how would we know?**

Irene Jefferson: Okay. So on the front - see who - it depends on what agency you - you have. On the top sheet which is the sheet that I look for, and some people send me IDCAs without this top sheet. It has a list of the different programs and the dates that it covers. And it will tell you what it is, but Audrey, I will look at yours and let you know.

Audrey Krebs: **Oh, thanks. I appreciate that. Okay. And then our minimum wage went up. I don't know who this is for actually. But our minimum wage went up to \$8.23 so it's a lot higher than the national average. And that's going to change the number of people that we're able to serve.**

Irene Jefferson: Well they've been a bit - they did a big modified slot in December. and at the end of November and December and they sent it out. Did you not receive that?

Jennifer Pirtle: We - can look at that list to see if yours was affected in January if we knew about it. And if not, we'll add it to the next round.

Audrey Krebs: **All right. Thank you. I appreciate that. And then I don't know if any other grantees have trouble, but I can't seem to ever get in on Workforce 3. You know, so that I can look at community of practice. And so who do I talk to about that please?**

Jennifer Pirtle: So it is a public site so you really don't have to log in to get to it.

Audrey Krebs: **Oh, okay. But there are some things - I do need to log in because I wanted to get to a webinar, I wanted to sign up for a webinar and I couldn't yesterday.**

Simi Atolagbe: I can work with Audrey as far as accessing the site. There are some webinars that need people to sign in so I can work with them on and get that.

Audrey Krebs: **I was supposed to mention to all of you, and I'm sure that there are other grantees too that have the same issue, we have a two month clearance process for things. And I know this year the grant is going to be an issue, because last year - last year I was**

told this may be the last time we apply if we don't have enough time to apply. So I was supposed to pass that onto you and I thought okay, I don't know what you may do with that information, because I know that you get the instructions out to us as soon as you are able. But again, it really creates havoc within our agency. And I don't know how to deal with it in the future. And I'm afraid it may affect our future, you know, ability to even apply. So just - that's just an FYI and I don't know if anyone wants to chime in on that one.

Jennifer Pirtle: Okay. Thanks for that Audrey. We're going to make a note of that and we'll see what we can - we can do to get this out earlier and give you some more time.

Monica Snittler: **Audrey had mentioned about changes, you know, in their review process in their State of Colorado. That is happening here too. So I kind of wanted to just give you the heads up. That's going on here. And it never has happened before. But there are these processes that are being put in place that are just unreal.**

Irene Jefferson: I think we're getting that from quite a few places, Monica. And we'll look into it.

Jennifer Pirtle: I think it's part oversight and part transparency so that everybody knows what's going on. That's happening at the federal level as well. So we understand that and we'll see what we can do to help minimize that for you.

Deb Wilburn: **I just was curious to know, are we excited about the 50th anniversary of SCSEP and I know that there was some discussion about a conference that was going to take place in DC. We'd like to know if there is any more details about that. And how many people could actually attend?**

Jennifer Pirtle: I don't know the exact details on the conference. So if someone who sits on the planning committee can chime in to answer the questions. I do know that there is a conference being planned by a number of grantees and it's going to be held the end of April, early May. And we'll see if we can get any more details out to you.

Paul Magnus: **Yes. Hi everybody. I'm on the committee. And there will be an invitation going out with a save the date card. And then an invitation where there's also going to be a Web site where people are able to register. There's going to be both fiscal and program tracks. So it's something that you could bring practitioners to as well as individuals. It's the last week of April. And I think it will be a Wednesday through Friday. And so information will be forthcoming. Some of you that are on Google Group will have probably seen an invitation. But we are sending it out to the email list as well.**

Monica Snittler: **Hi again. I thought I would put my two cents worth in too, about the conference. Yeah. Just as Paul said, we're having a 50th anniversary conference and it will be held April 29th through May 1st in Washington, DC at the Grand Hyatt Washington. If you know of the hotel, I don't have a phone number here, but you are planning on going,**

you can always call and get your reservation in for that part of it. We're just finalizing some last minute details - adding workshops, plenary sessions and whatnot, in. Like Paul said, there's going to be a lot of workshops that are provided, a lot of good speakers including the folks that do well. I'm going to participate so they're going to do their thing too. There is going to be a financial and grants management workshop. So there's going to be a lot covered in this. So, you know, mark your calendars and look at your budgets.

Jennifer Pirtle: I'll remind you that this conference is a networking plus a training opportunity. And as a part of your admin funds and training opportunities we do welcome these opportunities. So those are an allowable expense for you if you want to attend the conference.

Pat Wilkins: **Hi everybody. Happy New Year. I want to just throw my three cents in about the conference. As Paul and Monica mentioned, the conference does start April 28th and it is in Washington, DC. We sent out a save the date about two months ago, to everyone who is on the Friends of SCSEP Google Group. If you have not received any information, if you would drop me an email at PWilkins, W-I-L-K-I-N-S at National Able dot org, I can add you to the distribution list and make sure you get additional information about the conference, the workshops, how to register for the hotel, because there is a link that you need to go through to make sure you are booked under the rooms that we have reserved and to get the correct rates for the conference. So again, it's PWilkins@NationalAble.org. I'll add you to the distribution list and make sure you're up to date with all of the information for the 50th anniversary conference.**

Jennifer Pirtle: But - this is Jen. And I'm sure that if you wait for the information - the invitation with the save the date, it will have all of that information on it as well. And that should be going out next week.

Pat Wilkins: **Yep. Well the save the date is out. It's that registration process information that will go out next week.**

Marta Ames: **Hi, this is Marta. I only have a half a cent left to offer. The celebration, the reception plan to celebrate the 50th anniversary is Thursday evening and it will be at the hotel. And we look forward to lots of people coming from the SCSEP community and supporters of the SCSEP community, to celebrate this important date. That's it.**

Sally Boofer: **I got in late. We're hoping that as soon as we - Monica's working on finalizing the workshops and the times. And so you'll when you register for the conference, you'll have the ability to register for the various workshops that you have an interest in. And there is going to be an early bird fee which will end I think February the 15th. And then from February 15 to March 15 there'll be a fee that's a little bit higher than that. And the room cutoff date is March the 15th as well. So you'll need to get registered and - register for the hotel through the link on the registration site.**

Conclusion

Jennifer Pirtle: Thank you everybody for all of the information on the 50th anniversary conference. We're going to go back and take a look at Arturo and Tony's question about workers' comp and see if we can come up with an answer for you soon. We're also going to take a look at the minimum wage information that we sent out in December, as well as the long clearance process, and see what we can do to minimize that for you.

Thank you everybody for joining us on the call. Our next call is going to be Wednesday, February 4 at 3:00 pm. So we'll see you in a month. And if you have questions in the meantime please feel free to send them to us or contact your FPO. Thank you everybody.