

SCSEP All Grantee Call

May 6, 2015

Introduction

Jennifer Pirtle: This is a May SCSEP All Grantee call. We're glad you could join us today. I do have staff here in the room and subject matter experts, so Jennifer Pirtle, Irene Jefferson, Simi Atolagbe, and Michi McNeace are with me in the room. And then I believe on the line, other contractors that we have that are listening in today are Terry Cram, Bennett Pudlin, probably Shelly Rose, and I think maybe some others.

I just wanted to start by saying we were very excited to meet some of you who had the opportunity to come to the SCSEP 50th Anniversary Celebration last week in DC. It was clear that you really wanted to hear from your peers about the great things that you're doing as well as get some technical training on a variety of topics. We completely hear you, and later we'll be telling you about some ideas that we have about making this happen.

Late Breaking News

Jennifer Pirtle: We'll start with some late-breaking news. Earlier this week, we sent out the modified slot information by state. The modified slots are based on minimum wage updates for your state. At this time, we don't have a way to calculate official modified positions for sub-state areas, but we're looking for ways to do this in the future. I know a lot of you sent me an email about some cities that had raised the minimum wage, and we really can't make adjustments based on city information -- just so that you know that.

The PY15 authorized slot count by county are available now and shown in Q1 PY15 on the Web site SCSEPED.org. If any grantee wants to compute the modified slots by county, you can apply the modification factor from the spreadsheet that we sent you for your state to that number and it will give you the modified slots per county.

Last month, we talked about the Affordable Care Act and the questions that have come up regarding it. We, being DOL, are working to answer this question. I know a number of you are very concerned about it. We are working on multiple fronts, including our Solicitor's Office, trying to get better answers. So we don't have anything yet. We've posted the approved Q&A for this topic on the Community of Practice, so you can find it there. I know this doesn't answer your questions, but I just wanted to let you know that we are working on it at multiple levels and I'll keep you informed as we move forward.

Data Validation

Jennifer Pirtle: We just want to remind you that the deadline for data validation is rapidly approaching on June 1. So far, 70% of you have started the process and we wanted to thank you for that and also just remind you of the deadline. We know you have a lot of things going on right now, and we don't want you to miss it. We'll be sending out reminders over the next couple of weeks regarding the data validation, so you'll get other reminders as we go along.

PY 2015 Grant Applications

Irene Jefferson: Good afternoon all. It was so good to see many of you at the conference last week and put the smiles to the voices that I hear on a regular basis. So thank you all for the cheers and the fun, and the learning experiences as well.

I'm going to discuss first the document submission for the PY2015 grant year. Please be reminded that they are due on May 15, 2015. Some of you have already submitted early, and I appreciate that. Upon receipt of your documents, the FPO and National Office will begin a simultaneous review. If there are any problems with your document submission, your FPO will contact you for corrections and further clarifications. Our plan is to finalize the grant packages and get them in the Grants Office by June 5. You will receive separate approval letters for your optional special request and IDL policy changes if you have them.

Please have your indirect cost rate or your intentions about your indirect cost rate attached to your grant document submission. And remember that you must have your approved rate or intentions statement in place no later than 90 days after your award.

Some of you may be experiencing new processes and we're not giving too many extensions, but we know that there are some pressing - there are some different processes that many of you have to go through because of the changes in your hierarchy. So if you just let us know, we'll discuss it on a case-by-case basis.

The documents should be sent to grants.scsepdocs@dol.gov. Any documents should be sent there instead to the National. That's more for technical assistance. So send your document submissions to grants.scsepdocs@dol.gov.

Performance Goals Negotiations

Irene Jefferson: The proposed goals and methodology documents were sent out yesterday. Please take time to review them. We will hold two calls that will discuss the methodology for how the PY15 proposed goals were calculated. The calls will be the same, so if you are interested in learning more, you only need to attend one of the sessions. The calls will be held May 11 at 4 PM Eastern and May 12 at 11 AM Eastern. Yesterday, we sent out links to the WebEx meetings. If you click on the link, you can save the meeting to your calendar.

For the negotiation process, after reviewing the goals, if you are interested in negotiating one or more of your proposed goals, we will send you a calendar this week to choose a time for the discussion. We anticipate the timeline for goal negotiations to take place between May 18 and May 29. We ask that you propose three times from the list, ranked in order of preference. Then we will choose a time and send you a calendar appointment for the discussion. We ask that you provide any data supporting your case, no later than 48 hours or two days before your scheduled call—this will allow us time to evaluate the data and be prepared for the discussion. We will publish the final goals by June 30 and the final goals will become a part of your grant agreement for PY15.

Training and Technical Assistance

Michi McNeace: I too would like to echo Irene's sentiments. The conference was wonderful. I mean, it was a great opportunity to see a lot of you all that I haven't seen in so many years. And I just thought the opportunity just was great. It was fun times, and I just want to say thank you Grantees for putting together such a wonderful conference.

On that note, I'm going to talk about training and technical assistance. As you guys know, Jennifer has on several occasions talked about what we need to do to help improve training and technical assistance for you all. Jennifer talked with the FPOs about what we will do going forward. The National Office and the FPOs are going to be working to develop and deliver a variety of training. And a lot of this training, we hope, will include the workshop topics that were presented at the conference, because there was a lot of positive feedback. We're going to try to take that information and repackage it and give it out to you guys soon.

We're looking at doing a whole lot more comprehensive training that will include topics like program management, performance, the wonderful topic of finance, (fiscal), and of course other topic areas. We would like to get this out to you very quickly, but we also want this training to be something that's relevant, engaging and something that you guys will find very useful. But we want to be awesome. So with that being said, we're going to ask again, and I'm going to ask very nicely, if there's something that you all want us to really focus on that you really find that there's a need for -- maybe with something you all talked about last week -- please let us know, because we would like to make sure that we capture that. We want to deliver something that's going to be useful and necessary for you guys. We'll share it with the FPOs and we will promise to deliver something that you guys will be very proud of and it'll be very useful. So starting next month, the plan is that these calls will either be delivered via WebEx or webinar, so stay tuned.

We're also going to be looking at new ways to set up some peer-to-peer interactions, such as online chats, discussion threads, or facilitate calls on specific topics where grantees, you might be leading those calls. So we welcome your feedback again and whatever you feel will be useful for you as we move forward. And if you have any suggestions, comments, anything at all, just please make sure to just send it to the National Office and/or your FPO and we'll work together to make it happen. And if you have any questions later, please feel free to jump in during the Q&A portion of this call.

SPARQ Update

Simi Atolagbe: Thank you Michi, and just echoing what was just mentioned about it was really good to meet some of you guys and I too enjoyed the conference and thank you to for putting it all together.

SPARQ will be shut down for about a day during the last week of May for a software upgrade. Users will not notice any changes as a result of this upgrade. The new Table for Persistent Unemployment will be entered into SPARQ at that time.

As a reminder please check your user accounts page for locked and expired accounts on routine basis. Hopefully by now, all users now know that they can reset their own password when their

accounts are locked. When password expires, they can ask their grantee administrator, sub-grantee administrator, or SCSEP help for a reset.

Please make sure you copy the National Office in all correspondence. That address is SCSEP.national@dol.gov. Again, SCSEP.national@dol.gov.

InfoSPACE

Jennifer Pirtle: I know that in the past we've mentioned InfoSPACE as being this tool that you can use to analyze some of the numbers. We want to let you know that SCSEP 2.0, that information for InfoSPACE, has been released. Any grantee administrator who had permission for the old version -- which is titled SCSEP PY07 through PY12 -- has access to the new and improved SCSEP 2.0. We will be sending a link to everyone who is currently registered. And we will describe some of the changes in version 2.0. Each grantee is entitled access to InfoSPACE for one grantee administrator. If you don't have one of those for your grant, please let us know. Anyone who wants to gain access should contact SCSEP Help. Once we figure out how the system can handle the traffic for the one administrator per grantee, then we'll open up access to more people, including more per grantee as well as subs. So if you want to go and play around with the data and you have a password, just go to InfoSPACE and click on the SCSEP 2.0 link. But we will be sending out information about that so you have it available.

WIOA Update

Jennifer Pirtle: I want to give you a quick WIOA update. Over the past month there have been a couple of updates for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. The notice of public rulemaking -- or the NPRM -- has been published to the public register. There is information of the Web site www.doleta.gov/wioa which includes a link to www.Regulations.gov. So you can share your comments on the specific proposed rules in accordance with the process outlined in the NPRM. There is a press release, a Frequently Asked Questions section, fact sheets on WIOA joint NPRM and the WIA DOL only NPRM, as well a recorded webinar on how to provide comments in case you're not familiar with regulations.gov. Just a reminder, if you do have comments on the proposed rule, you do need to send them to Regulations.gov. Then they'll be taken seriously by everyone -- the Department of Labor Education and HHS.

There is also information on the Practitioner's page located at <http://WIOA.workforce3one.org>. This includes WIOA 101 resources, promising practices covering a variety of topics, and as I mentioned last month, there were a couple of quick start action planners. Now there are all of the quick start action planners are up there and ready to be used. The topics cover partnership, state leadership and governments, one stop center service design, use service strategies, and local leadership and governance. Mostly SCSEP partnerships and MOUs will fall under one stop center service design, so you may want to look at that one.

Q&A

David Collins: **Hello everyone. Dave Collins in Maine. I just had a - well first, my thoughts on the conference. I thought it was excellent. It was great to meet other states as well as the national leaders. The hotel remodel was kind of a bear, but overall I think it went well. It was great.**

And now onto my question. I just wanted to confirm that as far as the goals, specifically service hours -- and I'm not sure if any of the others are affected by this as well -- but can you confirm that those goals are based on the full number of slots and not the modified, or is it on the modified?

Jennifer Pirtle: I believe service hours are based on modified, but don't quote me on that. And I'm sorry we weren't able to get our contractors on the line who will know the answer. So after this call I will get the answer and email it out to everyone.

David Collins: **Ok yes, and if you could just break it down if they are - if like service hours are modified and others aren't and how it breaks down.**

Jennifer Pirtle: Ok. There was a modification, you know, there was a document that was sent out on the methodology that was attached with the goals, so it might be in there and I don't have it in front of me. But we will look into it and get you an answer.

Olga Yulikova: **I have a question about no-cost extensions. Is it time to apply or too early, too late? Where are we at with that?**

Irene Jefferson: Send your FPO an email with a copy to me and tell me what you need. We're going to take care of it on a case-by-case basis.

Olga Yulikova: **One other question, Massachusetts with a sick leave accumulation for employees. And I know that we usually go back and forth defining SCSEP participants as there's no employee/employer relationship, but I just wanted to make sure because people are asking about it. If you think this is to Massachusetts-y, I can ask it offline.**

Woman: Olga, we never pay SCSEP participants for days that they do not work. That's in the regulations.

Olga Yulikova: **So the sick leave accumulation that we have now as a new law in Massachusetts does not apply to any of our folks.**

Jennifer Pirtle: Olga, it may. We need to take this offline because it's only specific to you. Yes we'll take it offline because it depends on how your state defines, you know, employer/employee and also how your grant does. So we can talk about it offline.

Marta Ames: **Hi this is actually Marta. I'm posing as Chris Garland. I don't have a question. I just wanted to echo what Jen - we haven't done all of our debriefing here but some of the high points I wanted to say from our perspective of the 50th Anniversary Conference -- both being able to see other grantees, see our state colleagues that we value so much, and actually getting to interact face to face with new Department of Labor folks, wonderful meeting Jen.**

One of the things that stood out I think were as a result of both Assistant Secretaries talking about the program, I think it really posed kind of long range thinking about how we work with both departments. That seemed like a really wonderful opportunity that we don't always get. And clearly there was a lot of different discussion about how we collaborate more and work together more and we really appreciated that because it's easy to get sunk in the day-to-day. So you know, all of us here thank everybody who made it and put the energy into it. And you know, Irene is a lot of fun, I just have to add. So thank you.

Peggy Saddler: **Hello. This is (Peggy Saddler) with California. And I just wanted you to know that California also has a family leave or a sick leave bill that has been passed and will go into effect on July 1. So please, I would love to hear the information that you're going to provide to Olga because we're trying to determine what to do, actually.**

Jennifer Pirtle: Ok we'll just take this on and send out the information to everybody in case.

Pamela Grant: **I want to ditto everybody's comments about the conference. It kind of reaffirms what you're doing right -- it did for me -- what you could improve with in terms of even your thinking. But I thought it was well worth the energy and the time given our other responsibilities. I enjoyed it. Thank you for the opportunity.**

I have one question and I don't know who the presenter was, but I think they said something about an email had been sent on the fifth with some information and I didn't receive it. So could I get that again?

Jennifer Pirtle: Ok. We'll make sure that you are on the list.

Irene Jefferson: It was the proposed goal methodology document. I will resend it out to you.

Olga Yulikova: **Ok so guys, I actually felt very bad because I was a rude person. I did not say how great the conference was. Anyway, now that everybody's had a laugh, my real question. No, sorry I just wanted to double check, the last week of May is when SPARQ is not going to be available. Is that right?**

Jennifer Pirtle: It's only one day during that week and we're going to minimize the downtime for you as much as possible.

Conclusion

Jennifer Pirtle: We know that not all grantees were able to attend the conference, and we hope that you're all on the call today. I know that AARP is planning on putting all of the conference PowerPoint slides on the Web site. And so those will be available for anyone to download.

As Michi mentioned -- we are going to be putting together some additional trainings that you can attend, that you can have for your own and attend so that you won't miss out on some of the great information that was presented there. So it just is a matter of time when we'll get it. So we

just wanted to let you know that you're not going to be left out. We are going to try to get everybody some additional training and technical assistance.

Well then we will be talking to you very soon, sending out the calendar for the goal negotiations. So if you're interested in that, we'll be sending out a calendar soon. And then we'll be sending out information on the questions that we got today about the sick leave accumulation per state as well as the service hours for the goal based on full time and modified spots. So we'll be sure to send all that out.

Our next call is scheduled for **Wednesday, June 3rd at 3pm**. Thank you everybody!