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**COLUMBUS OHIO SCSEP Site
Wins Award
For Job Placement Efforts**

Columbus OH, December 20, 2011-- At AARP Foundation's SCSEP annual meeting in Orlando, Florida the Foundation's Columbus Ohio SCSEP office was honored for placing more than 50 SCSEP trainees – all low-income people age 55+ –in permanent jobs over the June 2010 – July 2011 program year Columbus Ohio SCSEP project director Robert Cole accepted the award on behalf of the staff.

SCSEP (Senior Community Service Employment Program) is the only program in the U.S. that provides community services and work-based training to unemployed older Americans (55+) whose incomes are at or below 125% (\$13,613) of the federal poverty line. With 73 sites, AARP Foundation is SCSEP's second-largest national sponsor; over the past 40 years, AARP Foundation SCSEP has helped more than 500,000 low-income, jobless seniors find work .

AARP Foundation SCSEP places its trainees in a community service nonprofit organizations and agencies, including local day-care centers, VA hospitals, museums, Meals on Wheels and schools. In return for their help, the agencies provide SCSEP trainees with training and skill-building opportunities. SCSEP trainees, who are paid minimum wage by the U.S. Department of Labor and work 18 hours a week on average, earn about \$130 per week.

“At a time when it takes unemployed people 55 and older more than a year on average to find new jobs and community agencies and nonprofits are facing unprecedented budget cuts, SCSEP works wonders for everyone involved in it,” said Jo Ann Jenkins, the president of AARP Foundation. “Low-income older people who have lost their jobs learn new, transferable skills. The nonprofits and government agencies who help train them benefit from their free, reliable services. And the employers who eventually put our SCSEP trainees on their payrolls know they are hiring mature, responsible people who are willing, eager and able to work hard for them,” she said.

In 2010, AARP Foundation's SCSEP saved trainee host agencies and taxpayers \$200 million with its social return on benefits (SROI), including \$192 million host agencies save in wages by using volunteer SCSEP trainees. “This is a time of record unemployment and hardship among the elderly poor in the U.S.,” Deb Briceland-Betts, AARP Foundation SCSEP's national

director, said. “The services we provide are crucial not only to our SCSEP trainees and host agencies, but to the communities they serve.”

AARP Foundation is AARP’s affiliated charity. The Foundation is dedicated to serving vulnerable people 50+ by creating solutions that help them secure the everyday essentials – food, housing, income and personal connection -- and achieve their best life. AARP Foundation programs are funded by grants, tax-deductible contributions and AARP. For more information about the Foundation, please go to www.aarpfoundation.org.

SCSEP SCSEP (Senior Community Service Employment Program)



Why SCSEP Matters

1. **AARP's SCSEP saves host agencies and taxpayers \$200 million each year – this is the program's social return on investment (SROI).** Host agencies save \$192 million in wages by using SCSEP trainees, based on Independent Sector volunteer wage valuation of \$20.25 per hour x 9 million hours. By turning federal funds users into taxpayers, SCSEP saves \$7.5 million a year, based on 5,000 SCSEP trainees finding unsubsidized jobs and paying \$1,500 each in taxes.
2. **There will be a large ripple effect on local economies if SCSEP is cut.** Host agencies provide almost every community service imaginable, from childcare, food kitchens, VA centers and hospitals and senior daycare centers. With fewer SCSEP trainees, compounded by state and local budget cuts, agencies will have to reduce their services to the vulnerable poor who need them most.
3. **No other programs, public or private, exist to pick up the slack when SCSEP cuts begin.** At a time of record unemployment and hardship among the elderly poor, SCSEP cuts will deal a devastating blow to SCSEP trainees, who must earn less than \$13,619 to be eligible for the program. Among current SCSEP trainees, all are at least 55 years old, and
 - 60% are women
 - 51% are minority group members, and
 - Half did not finish high school.

AARP Foundation
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AARP Foundation is a leading charity dedicated to helping low-income, vulnerable older people meet their everyday needs – food, housing, income and personal connection.

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SCSEP & AARP FOUNDATION

THE NATION'S ONLY COMMUNITY WORK-BASED TRAINING PROGRAM FOR LOW-INCOME OLDER AMERICANS

Started in 1968, SCSEP (Senior Community Service Employment Program) is the only program in the U.S. that provides community services and work-based training to unemployed older Americans (55+) who are at or below 125% (\$13,613) of the federal poverty line.

AARP Foundation SCSEP places its trainees in a variety of community service nonprofit organizations and agencies, including day-care centers, schools and hospitals. In return, the agencies provide SCSEP trainees with a safe training environment and skill-building opportunities. SCSEP trainees receive the minimum wage and work 20 hours a week on average, earning \$145 per week.

AARP Foundation, SCSEP's second-largest national sponsor, has been involved with SCSEP for more than 40 years. Of all 18 national sponsors, the Foundation has been the most successful in moving participants to jobs.

- AARP Foundation SCSEP has helped more than 500,000 older people find jobs.
- It takes an average of 9 months for AARP Foundation to place SCSEP trainees, compared to 27 months for SCSEP sponsors overall.
- AARP Foundation stewards the funds entrusted to it. DOL requires national sponsors to spend at least 75% of funds on participant payroll, worker compensation and FICA, or 65% if waived. In 2010, the Foundation spent 96% of its stimulus funds and 81% of its regular grant funds for payroll, workers comp and FICA. DOL limits sponsor spending on administration to 13.5% of funds (15% with DOL waiver). AARP Foundation spent less than 10%.

AARP Foundation SCSEP funding since FY 2009:

- FY2009: \$600 million
- FY2010: \$825 million (includes one-time stimulus funding)
- FY 2011: \$450 million
 - SCSEP is funded by program year, July 1 to June 30, and is under its FY2010 grant until the end of June 2011.
 - FY2011 funding goes into effect for AARP Foundation SCSEP on July 1 and continues to June 30, 2012.
 - The Foundation will continue to deliver outstanding training and placement services with less funding, with as minimal impact as possible on SCSEP staff and participants.

