



Adopted April 29, 2014

Resolution Support for Preserving the Senior Community Service Employment Program

Whereas our jobless economic recovery continues to leave too many workers behind; and

Whereas low-income older workers—most of whom are long-term unemployed—continue to suffer joblessness three times higher than the overall unemployment rate; and

Whereas the Senior Community Service Employment Program, also known as SCSEP and the Senior AIDES Program, has provided jobs and training to thousands of low-income older Americans throughout the nation each year for almost five decades; and

Whereas the National Senior Council of Senior Citizens was one of the four original national sponsors of SCSEP in 1968 and Senior Service America is currently a national sponsor; and

Whereas to be eligible for SCSEP a person must be at least 55 years old, unemployed, and have a total income as a family of one of less than \$15,000; and

Whereas almost ninety percent of SCSEP participants are at or below the poverty level, sixty percent were at least 60 years old, nearly two-thirds are women; and over half of the participants are from a racial/ethnic minority; and

Whereas SCSEP participants each year provide about 40 million staff hours while working and being trained in over 30,000 local community, public, and faith-based programs such as Meals on Wheels, libraries, and day care centers; and

Whereas SCSEP is a unique Federal program authorized by the Older Americans Act and administered by the U.S. Department of Labor that achieves its Congressional intent: reduce unemployment, provide needed community services, and promote the health and independence of older adults.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Alliance for Retired Americans calls on the Administration and Congress to reaffirm their commitment to help low-income older Americans who are seeking paid employment; and

Be it further resolved that the Alliance urges the Administration and Congress to preserve and maintain the Senior Community Service Employment Program in its current form by reauthorizing the Older Americans Act and restoring its funding to levels prior to the Great Recession.