

SCSEP Stand-Alone State Plan PY 2020-2023

II. Service Delivery and Coordination

The PRDOLHR SCSEP Program has taken and continues to take the necessary steps to coordinate with other programs that serve the needs of older adults. The main purpose of the SCSEP Program is to provide participants the opportunity to engage in occupations considered to be of service to their community, and to upgrade their skills, as necessary. They must actively pursue unsubsidized employment during their enrollment and participation in the PRDOLHR SCSEP Program. Therefore, any Program or Agency that can assist in supporting each participant's goals, as outlined in their respective Individualized Employment Programs (IEP's) or permits them to enhance or learn new skills is actively sought and contacted by PRDOLH SCSEP Program staff. Undoubtedly, when The PRDOLHR SCSEP Program establishes collaborative agreements with public and private entities providing services to older adults it allows for the pooling of resources and, more importantly, to avoid duplication of efforts. Hence, the opportunities and alternatives that can be offered to this population are maximized allowing wider choice of services they can benefit from in their homes, the community or an institutional setting.

The PRDOLHR SCSEP Program has the advantage of having seamless cooperation from the WIOA one-stop delivery system. Employment Specialists who are under UI at PRDOLHR are trained to assist and refer individuals aged 55 and older. That is essential since participants are required to conduct ongoing searches for unsubsidized employment and at the American Job Centers they are registered and assisted, along with the guidance and assistance provided by SCSEP Program staff. They also are key when offering and enrolling participants in job search training, job clubs and other job search activities. The PRDOLHR SCSEP Program Director and staff are familiar with the local job market and job skills that are in high demand within the community and develops relationships with potential employers to understand the qualifications required as well as the work environments and job opportunities available for older adults. In addition, the National grantees in Puerto Rico, which are the AARP Foundation and Path Stone, as a sub-grantee of NCOA meet regularly and engage in the joint project known as

VIDA part of the public policy efforts for this population in the current Administration (to be expanded upon later). Please refer to the organizational chart for the breakdown of the LIB's wherein the PRDOLHR SCEP Program has participants.

The primary Agency that carries out activities under Title III of the OAA is known as "Oficina de la Procuradora de Personas de la Tercera Edad" (OPPEA), or the Office of the Ombudsman for the Elderly. The PRDOLHR SCSEP Program Director meets regularly with their Deputy Director. In the past OPPEA educators have provided trainings for the State run Program's participants.

THE USDA Rural Development Area Offices, which are under the United States Department of Agriculture, have their main office in San Juan but their Caguas Sub-Area office serves our SCSEP participants from Aguas Buenas, Bayamón, Canóvanas, Cayey and Vieques; the Juana Díaz Sub-Area office serves Aibonito, Arroyo, Coamo, Ponce, Santa Isabel and Villalba; the participants from Utuado and Florida are served by the Utuado Area office; Toa Alta and Dorado are served by their Morovis Sub-Area office and the Camuy Sub-Area office serves Aguadilla, Quebradillas and San Sebastián.

In an effort to coordinate activities with other public entities and programs that provide services to older American we have already established in the aforementioned our relationship with the Office of the Ombudsman for the Elderly given its responsibility to carry out and administer other activities and mandates under the other titles of the Older American Act (OAA). As the state grantee, the PRDOLHR has collaborative agreements with all other Central government agencies which in turn coordinate with PRDOLHR's SCSEP Program. The Department of Family Affairs (Departamento de la Familia in Spanish) has multiple activity centers, formerly known as senior centers, some of which are in turn Host Agencies for the PRDOLHR SCSEP Program like the one in Ponce on Avenida Hostos. In addition, under their Services for the Elderly Program they offer social services in the areas of: social protection, housing, counseling and others and may be reached on line at www.adfan.pr.gov, since these Programs are under the Auxiliary Administration Office for Services for the Elderly and Adults with Disabilities (ADFAN by its Spanish acronym). They also have under their Agency's umbrella the Socioeconomic Development Administration (ADSEF

by its acronym in Spanish) administers the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (PAN in Spanish) and not only provides them with evidence of enrollment or non-enrollment at the time when the eligibility of an applicant to the SCSEP Program is done but informs them regarding other services they provide. Mostly they assist them in making better food choices in order to complement their food needs with assistance, again, on how to purchase eligible nutritious foods. Last, but not least the Child Support Administration (ASUME in Spanish) has a sub-program for older adults known as PROSPERA in Spanish, which is an Elderly Support Program that promotes the dignified treatment for older adults (which they define as 60 years or older). The main thrust of this Program is establishing mediation services for the older adult family members who are the caregivers and to coordinate a food pension plan either between the parties or, if need be, through the court to ensure any needy older adult has a food pension plan.

The Department of Health has a series of discounts and expedited services for older adults. but they are the Agency that can execute constitutional or executive orders and deal with any laws related to mental and physical health although the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP in Spanish) is one of the main Programs administered by OPPEA.

In the private sector there are what are known as 330 Centers (“Centros 330”) which are community based nonprofit corporations that offer primary and preventive healthcare to vulnerable communities defined as those without health insurance or those with limited health insurance. Right now there are 20 corporations operating 46 centers in 44 municipalities (out of 78) in Puerto Rico. To establish periodically whether the centers are still open and operating (for example: after the January 7, 2020 earthquake) the PRDOLHR SCSEP Program staff consults through their website www.saludprimaria.org.

There are several multiple activity centers, some are for profit establishments and most are nonprofit that provide social and recreational services to help people maintain and maximize their independence for a portion of the day. The PRDOLHR SCSEP Program has some of the nonprofit multiple activity centers as Host Agencies, like the CASMPEA Center in the municipality of Ponce and in Utuado the Senior Center used to be run by HOPE but they turned private and the

municipality has been running it since 2016. The transportation services for the elderly is mostly the one provided by services paid through Medicare although some small companies are currently under development and some are already providing transportation for errands that are not health related. Only some municipalities offer transportation regardless of whether it is to be used for health related issues or to run errands through a transportation program called SENDA in some municipalities while in the San Juan Metropolitan Area there is a transportation service known as the “Llame y Viaje” Program available for people with physical or mental disabilities offered by the Metropolitan Bus Authority

Coordination with other public entities includes linkages to the Office for the Protection and Defense of the Rights of the Elderly (“Defensoría de las Personas con Impedimentos”) which is an office dedicated to serving those with special needs or disabilities. The University of Puerto Rico has an office that offers technical assistance as needed to older adults with computer systems including programs for the blind and the deaf communities. It is located in the “Jardín Botánico” or Botanical Gardens in Río Piedras. The Puerto Rico Alzheimer’s and Related Disorders offers counseling and support for people with Alzheimer’s. They educate others and have provided SCSEP participants with orientations on therapeutic alternatives for the patient and his or her family and caregivers (the last one was in December Of 2018). Since some of our participants are home health care aides whose patients have Alzheimer’s and others have relatives or neighbors with the condition the trainings they provide our participants will be offered, on average every 18 months or every other Program Year between PY 2020 and PY 2023.

The LGBTT community in Puerto Rico was able to establish a local chapter of national recognized SAFE through Waves Ahead Corporation. They have been integrated since August 29th 2018 to the efforts being undertaken by the National grantees and the PRDOLHR SCSEP Program as well as OPPEA (Title III under OAA) and the current Administration in the efforts to develop a website summarizing and directing all Programs and Services that target the needs of older adults and their caregiver on the island. They have been keeping updated data of the primary needs for older adults, regardless of their sexual orientation, in the areas that were affected the most by the Hurricanes Irma in María in September of 2017 and had continued their efforts assisting, most recently with the earthquake

that affectedly mostly the South Western part of the island. They have also brought in donations that allow our participants to have basic survival items while they offer them trainings on how to utilize these survival items (such as desalination tablets or tablets to purify rainwater, etc.).

The strategies for engaging employers include interacting with the Employer Committees (“Comités de Patronos”) when they meet monthly by geographical region either, at the respective American Job Centers or the UI regional offices, and meeting with the associations and organizations such as the Lions Club, Rotary Club and the Chamber of Commerce, etc. at least once yearly, alongside with the National Grantees locally (AARP Foundation and the NCOA sub-grantee Path Stone) so that all 78 municipalities on the island may benefit from our efforts to educate and promote how they may benefit from placements of SCSEP participants.

There is no need for a long-term strategy for serving minorities per se since 99% of our current participants are of Hispanic, Latino or Spanish Origin and there is less than 1% of the population in Puerto Rico who are Asian and absolutely none of American Indian or Alaskan Native descent.

There will be a change from SPAQ to the new data collection Program which was scheduled to start in January 2020 after several fundamental changes had to be done. We anticipate requiring technical assistance, as needed, should the PRDOLHR SCSEP Program fail to meet programmatic nationwide goals.

Specific training on the handling of chemicals and toxic substances will be provided to those being trained as custodians or working in recycling plants and will be provided and coordinated through the PRDOLHR OSHA Program which will also offer their Health and Safety in the workplace presentation to all of the PRDOLHR SCSEP active participants annually to ensure they are aware of whether the environment in the Host Agency they are assigned to or the facilities they need to work at are per code and not pose risks to their health and safety.