SCSEP Monthly All Grantee Call, July 17th Transcript

Barcley, Joyce M - ETA CTR 0:08
Okay, everybody should be coming back.
Just a reminder to mute yourself if you've unmuted yourself until the question-and-answer period.
Back to you, Ali.

Slaughter, Alison S - ETA 0:18
Thanks so much, Joyce and Bradley.
Good afternoon, everyone.
Welcome to our July All Grantee Call.
Happy PY 24.
Hope everyone is staying cool out there.
We're sitting in the high 90s and 100 here in DC, so quite toasty.
My name is Ali Slaughter and I am the SCSEP Performance and Reporting Lead.
We're going to start off with some introductions, so I will pass it to Toni Wilson.

Wilson, Toni K - SCSEP 0:46
Good afternoon.
Everyone, as Ali said, I'm Toni Wilson and I am the SCSEP Older Workers Unit Chief, and I will now pass it over to Irene.

Adams, Anita (Irene) - ETA 1:00
Hi, good afternoon, everyone.
Trying to stay cool.
My name is Irene Adams, and I am the NOL for regions, National Office Liaison, for regions, one and five, and this week I'm standing in for Sondra in regions two and four.

Slaughter, Alison S - ETA 1:19
Thanks, Irene.
Over to TwoTech please, for introductions.

Barcley, Joyce M - ETA CTR 1:25
Hi, this is Joyce Barcley with TwoTech.

Bronson, Bradley K - ETA CTR 1:28
Hello, this is Bradley Bronson with TwoTech.

Jada Byrd 1:33
Hello everyone, this is Jada Byrd with TwoTech.

Burnett, Lauren S - ETA CTR 1:40
Hi, this is Lauren Burnett with TwoTech.

Mauro, Kevin M - ETA CTR 1:44
And hello everyone.
This is Kevin Mauro with TwoTech.

McNeace, Meche - ETA CTR 1:50
Hi everybody, this is Michi McNeace with TwoTech.

Wilkins, Patricia A - ETA CTR 1:54
And good afternoon, everybody.
This is Pat Wilkins with TwoTech.

Slaughter, Alison S - ETA 1:59
Thanks.

Wilkins, Patricia A - ETA CTR 1:59
That's it for our team.

Slaughter, Alison S - ETA 2:01
Thanks TwoTech and over to BCT.

Lynch, Leila I - ETA CTR 2:05
Hello everyone.
This is Leila Lynch.
I'm part of the BCT Team.

Denise Thompson 2:11
Hi everyone.
This is Denise Thompson, Project Lead at BCT, over to Ron.

Ron Schack 2:17

Hi everyone.
I'm Ron Schack from the Charter Oak group.

Slaughter, Alison S - ETA 2:22
Thank you.
Alright, we will move on to our program announcements, Toni.

Wilson, Toni K - SCSEP 2:27
Thank you so much, Ali.
Alright, so welcome to program year 2024 and we made it.
And so just want to thank everyone for their quick response and getting their information in, so we can get money out the door for everyone for June 30th.
Just as a reminder, the grant funds have gone out the door.
Reason that we were really pressing that June 30th as we had mentioned is that it was a combination of recapture funds that were in there that would have expired, so we wanted to make sure we get those out. When you see your funds, you should have two accounting lines.
Please use that first one just to help you know, it helps you with your transition and that way you don't have to carry the 29130, you'll just have one after those funds are done.
So just wanted to flag that and then through the month of July, we are getting the grant packages out the door.
Irene will talk into some details in a moment, but just wanted to let you know those will be rolling out as we speak.
Hopefully they're all out the door by the end of this month.
So thanks everyone again for their patience on that.
The SCSEP funding opportunity announcement as you know has been closed and we hope that we will be able to announce early next month.
So everyone will get that information and same with the demo grants. That FOA has been closed and we hope that those will be announced more towards the end of August.
So just wanted to give you, it's still an open competition, can't give much more information there, but just wanted to kind of give you heads up in reference to some of our timelines.
So with that said, let us get into the details and pass this back over to Ali.

Slaughter, Alison S - ETA 4:35
Thanks, Toni.
We're gonna start with goal negotiations today.
You should have just gotten an updated calendar invite.
We pushed the goal negotiations webinar, which will be an informational session to next

Thursday, July 25th, from 2:00 to 3:30 PM Eastern Time.
That update just came out.
We will be providing more information in the webinar.
We will also be providing a 1 pager, but I just wanted to briefly walk through the negotiation process so we can all be ready to engage in that process in the next few weeks.
So we hope to, we will be giving you your proposed goals prior to the webinar on Thursday, so you'll have a chance to review them beforehand and then during the webinar as well.
Every grantee has the option to negotiate the proposed goals that are set by a whole methodology that Ron Schack will be providing more information on during the webinar and we're looking to do those negotiations towards the end of the first week of August and again all that scheduled information will be sent out so you can sign up.
I did wanna highlight one part of the negotiation process.
If you do wish to negotiate, is that you have to include data in your negotiation request.
So I'm gonna put Ron on the spot for a second.
Do you mind giving a quick blurb on what that looks like?

Ron Schack 6:10
Sure.
So the process for negotiating changes to the proposed goals is really the same we've used for many years, as we will go over in the methodology webcast. The goals have already been adjusted using weighted 2023 annual unemployment rates, 2022 annual poverty rates and 2023 annual average weekly wage rates for the counties in which you operate.
As this is the case, you'll have to provide additional data, including data sources, that support any additional adjustment.
This could include information regarding things like recent natural disasters or mass layoffs, or more recent county level unemployment rate or poverty rate data, or other county level data that you feel are relevant.

Ron Schack 7:06
If that relevance can be adequately demonstrated, right?
So we don't know what that might be, but you know, you might find something that you think is compelling and if you can make a case and you have the county, recent county level data for it, that's the kind of thing we need to see.
But we need to see the data source for it and we actually have a template that for these data that we will distribute as well, so that you can put those data right into the template and that should help guide your presentation of these data.

Slaughter, Alison S - ETA 7:48
Thanks Ron.

Ron Schack 7:49
That's all I have.

Slaughter, Alison S - ETA 7:50
Thank you.
And we'll be repeating that next Thursday as well.
We just wanted to give a little preview as we're looking to engage in this process rather quickly in the next few weeks.

Slaughter, Alison S - ETA 8:00
So again, you'll be receiving more information on that.
It will be recorded and we will send out the materials to all grantees.
So you'll have the information if you're able to attend or not.
So that's upcoming on the 25th and now I will turn it over to Irene to talk about the grant review process.

Adams, Anita (Irene) - ETA 8:20
Thank you, Ali, this is again, this is Irene, National Office Liaison, and I wanted to give you a little brief rundown of what our next steps are with the grant awards.
So at the present your FPO and NOL should be reviewing your grant packages.

Adams, Anita (Irene) - ETA 8:40
We wanna get those OSR's, Optional Special Requests out as soon as possible, so it would be appreciated if you respond to your National Office Liaison or FPO's request to correct any documents as soon as possible.
As Toni said, the notice of awards went out on June 30th and if you have not received it yet, please contact your authorized signatory first to see if they have received it or if it's in their spam box, and then contact your FPO.
What's included in amendment one?
What will be included in amendment one would be any corrected documents that you have negotiated with your FPO and NOL, your state plan, if you submitted a standalone state plan. As many times as I said that I get it wrong.
You will receive your amendment one, your state plan approval letter will be in there as well.

Any OSR approval will be there and possibly your goal sheet, if you're renegotiating your goal well, whether or not, it's possible that they will make it into amendment one. And I wanted to give a heads up too. I know we haven't announced the national awards yet, but I just wanted to give a heads up to any incumbent and new grantees that will receive awards, you will be required to submit a new ATSS submission for the remaining months of the year. You will also need to take a look at your termination grievance and IDL policies and make sure that's what you want to have in place for the next four years and submit those as well and I think that's it for me.
I just wanted to remind you that you look at your termination grievance and IDL policies, update those as necessary, making sure that they are aligned with whatever changes you have had in your grievance process and your titles and things like that.
So we'll be looking at those as well.
So have a good afternoon and stay cool.
Try to stay cool.

Slaughter, Alison S - ETA 11:01
Thanks, Irene.
Our next topic is on swaps and transfers, and there's quite a bit of terminology in this one, so I'm gonna start with some definitions and then we'll talk about the current status of swaps and transfers and then how that changes after the transition grant period.
So we are likely all familiar with the concept of authorized positions, right?
That is, the number of positions in each county based on census data, population data, and then grantees are assigned positions and based on the amount of their grant, that's how many positions they have.
Modified positions adjust for any differences in local or state wage differences.
So if you have a higher minimum wage, you would receive a modified position number.
Again, how many positions your grant can support.
We call them, they're listed here as Swap, but the full name would be a movement of an authorized position, and that's the reassignment of an authorized position from one grantee to another.
And to be clear, you're not moving the position out of a county, you're moving it from one grantee to the other, and they often include a swap of positions.
So you'd be giving and receiving a position, so that's why we call them often swaps.
This requires a grant modification and so this requires authorization by the two parties involved in the swap, so the donor and the recipient, if the state that the swap is occurring in is not one of the donor recipients, and they also have to be in on the conversations and then approval by the National Office as well as the FPO, who will assist with the grant modification.

So that's the movement of an authorized position, often called a swap.
A transfer is referring to the movement of a participant, and that can either be involved in the movement of an authorized position if a participant is in one of those slots that is being moved, or it can be done outside of the movement of an authorized position.
Let's say a participant moves from Ohio to Florida.
A transfer can be initiated if the Florida grantee has an authorized position that they can fill with that participant.
So that's a transfer.
There's one more term involved that GPMS uses and I'm going to pop the GPMS data collection appendix in the chat as it goes through in more depth, the definitions of transfer.
And then a move is the movement of a participant from one sub grantee to another and so the grantee is staying the same, it's just the movement of a subgrantee.
A transfer is from one grantee to another grantee.
Both a transfer and a move only require a request made through Zendesk and please always indicate the reason that, that transfer is being requested.
In our current period, there was language published in the FOA that indicated a freeze on the movement of any authorized positions or transfers during the grant competition, and that extends all the way through our transition grants, which is ending hopefully around August, sorry, October 31st or November 1st.
The exception is made for transfer participants.
The transfer participants, when it is done to limit the disruption of service for participants.
So again, in that if the participant moves we wanna make sure we can still be providing them services.
So that would be an allowable reason that we would let a transfer go through.
Otherwise, during this time period of the competition, there is a freeze on the movement of authorized positions. Transfers you can make a request through Zendesk and that has to go through the approval process.
Now once the awards are announced and you receive your new authorized positions and slots, states already have them, National Grantees will be receiving them soon.
We encourage you to look at the distribution of your authorized positions and see if there are any positions that you would like to swap or trade, and you can engage in those conversations with either the State Grantee in your area or another National Grantee that would be authorized to serve in that area.
That can't be done until November 1st, after the freeze of the movement, but we encourage you to start thinking about that and having those conversations.
Again, that will require a lot of parties to be involved, as well as approval, so we want you to get a head start on thinking about that, we'll give some more guidance at a later call or in an email on the exact process for all of that.

But we just wanted to clarify the current status of that and encourage you to think about your service area and the distribution of your positions.
I see a hand raise before I get to that Toni or Irene.
Anything else to add on that?

Adams, Anita (Irene) - ETA 16:42
No, Ali, you did a great job.

Wilson, Toni K - SCSEP 16:43
Yeah, you captured it.
That's a lot of information.

Slaughter, Alison S - ETA 16:46
Thank you.
All right.
I see Lisa's hand raised.
Lisa, do you want to unmute yourself?

McNeace, Meche - ETA CTR 17:06
If she didn't accept the recording?
She may not be able to unmute herself.

Gerrard, Lisa 17:10
Nope, I did.

Gerrard, Lisa 17:11
Sorry, just took me a minute.

McNeace, Meche - ETA CTR 17:12
OK, alright.

Gerrard, Lisa 17:13
I had to figure out what was going on.

Slaughter, Alison S - ETA 17:13
We can hear you.

Gerrard, Lisa 17:16

So I'm from the state of New Hampshire.
I'm the State Grantee Administrator and in our combined state plan, we submitted our allocation of slots that we wanted to have based on both the state and the National Grantee at the time.

Gerrard, Lisa 17:36
And that was different than the distribution that it currently is.
So are you saying that.
And so our plan was approved.
So it was our assumption that our distribution of slots was approved as well.
And if so, do we have to wait till November because of the National Grantee is in combination with that to actually go forward on how we requested our slots to be distributed.

Adams, Anita (Irene) - ETA 18:11
Hi, Lisa.
Yes, that is correct.
You can't assume that within the state plan because the state plan is what you were planning to do and assuming that type of thing is approved when we haven't had a chance to look at it and see if it makes sense too and is legal.
So and with the competition, we have always said, we stated it on each All Grantee Call that the transfers and swaps would stop at that point.
So we just wanna be able to look at the big picture and be able to see if it makes sense to both be made possible new National Grantee that's coming into your area as well as yourself.

Gerrard, Lisa 19:00
Got it.
So after November, when it kind of opens back up, we'll be able to have like a discussion or some kind of communication with National Office about our slot distribution.

Adams, Anita (Irene) - ETA 19:14
Yes.

Slaughter, Alison S - ETA 19:16
And we would encourage as soon as the National Grantees are announced.

Gerrard, Lisa 19:16
Perfect.

Slaughter, Alison S - ETA 19:22
See who has New Hampshire and you can start engaging in conversations right away.
The approval won't come until November 1st, but you can at least start engaging with your national partners to figure out what makes sense.

Gerrard, Lisa 19:34
Perfect.
And if the National Grantee is the same one that we currently have, then obviously that communication is gonna be easier because we've already had this discussion.

Adams, Anita (Irene) - ETA 19:44
Yep.
Piece of cake.

Gerrard, Lisa 19:46
Perfect.
Ok, so basically holding that in until after November and then we kind of revisit it.

Adams, Anita (Irene) - ETA 19:54
Yes.

Slaughter, Alison S - ETA 19:55
Exactly.

Gerrard, Lisa 19:55
Ok, perfect.
Thanks.
I just wanted to make sure I understood everything.

Slaughter, Alison S - ETA 19:58
Great question.
Thanks Lisa.
If there are any other questions on that, please pop them in the chat and we will address them at the end of the call.

We're gonna save grantee spotlights until the end, during our grantee highlights.
We'd love to hear.
I know everyone's busy with closing out PY 23 starting PY 24, but we love to hear success stories.
So if you have anything you want to share we'll have space for that at the end.
For now, I will turn things over to TwoTech to talk about communications and outreach.

Mauro, Kevin M - ETA CTR 20:35
Thanks Ali.
I know that we have a full schedule today, so I will once again keep it as short as I can.
I just want to encourage all of you to make sure you're stopping regularly by our community of practice.
The Older Workers Community of Practice, we're keeping it fresh and updated and dynamic just for you and we're putting up even some general information, some stuff about how demographics of the workforce are changing and how older workers are more valuable than ever in the workforce; how the American workforce is getting more diverse.
We have a new piece up about National Hire a Veteran Day which is going to be on July 25th.
So if you haven't seen any of those items, please come by and check them out.
And if you have check them out again and bring a friend.
I will also do my periodic plug to say if you or your subgrantees or any of your staff have not yet subscribed to the Older Workers Community of Practice on Workforce GPS, please subscribe you will get all of our updates.
We only set them out once a week, but you'll at least have something to remind you of all the new, fresh things we're putting on the community of practice for you.
But that's all that I have this month.
I believe I'm going to turn it over to Joyce to talk about GPMS and the vLive updates.

Barcley, Joyce M - ETA CTR 22:03
Great.
Thanks, Kevin.
Good afternoon, everyone.
Thank you.
A reminder that the GPMS Virtual Live Office Hours are on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month from 2:00 to 3:30 Eastern Time, making the next office hours next Wednesday the 24th.
It's great to see so many regular attendees, along with many new folks who are new to SCSEP and or data entry, and during the office hours, grantees are assisted with their GPMS

data challenges, most often by guiding the grantee through the process as they share their screen.
So they're actually doing their own solution as we talk through it. Everyone brings interesting questions and sometimes grantees share solutions they've discovered until the Zendesk tickets are addressed. Whatever the discussion, office hours are always interactive and engaging, and we encourage grantees to forward the invitations to their subgrantees so they can participate as well.
And with that, we hope to see everybody during the next GPMS office hours, next Wednesday, the 24th at 2:00 PM Eastern and back to you, Ali.

Slaughter, Alison S - ETA 23:12
Thanks, Joyce.
Alright, moving right along to our GPMS updates. Before we get into the details, I just wanted to provide sort of a calendar update like in the previous system.
We hope to get back to our regular schedule of freezing or finalizing data, both at the end of each quarter and at the end of the program year.
There are a few known issues on the QPR that are being adjusted, but we hope to be able to close out the program year 2023 so end of year QPR at the end of September.
So that follows our regular schedule.
We have what we call the fifth quarter, which is from July until September for grantees to finalize data.
So we're encouraging you right now to be in the system running reports, make sure you have no undone follow-ups, make sure you've entered all your paid hours.
Make sure all your cases are in there for PY 23, we will be sending out more information on the exact date of the freezing and keep you updated with that process.
But wanted to give that preview and encourage you to start today and not wait until the end of September to do that clean up in the system.
So again, that would be the end of September for closing out and finalizing PY 23 data.
When we get back to our regular schedule quarterly data is usually frozen six weeks after the end of a quarter. The end of a whole program year is always three months after.
Yeah.
So that will be hopefully upcoming in this program here.
Also just a quick reminder.
We have our GPMS newsletter.
The July newsletter is now available on the COP.
It has more information on the movement of authorized positions, and it also has a reminder about allocating your authorized positions to your subgrantees in this system.
I see a few questions in here.

Josh, thanks for your question.
Yes, we will have an exact date.
It'll be based on the end of the week and when we plan to run it. We're still finalizing that schedule, but we will definitely send out an email with the exact date and time that will be closing the quarter.
So that will be sent in an email.
And then with modified positions.
I believe as soon as you have allocated your authorized positions, which I know Leila, I'm stealing your thunder, but as soon as you've allocated your positions in GPMS, the minimum wages by county will be used to generate custom modified positions for all grantees and subgrantees in the system, and Leila will give us some more details on the due date of all that.
So with that, I will turn it over to BCT.

Lynch, Leila I - ETA CTR 26:21
Thanks, Ali.
Good afternoon everyone.
Release 2.7 was deployed to production on Friday, June 21st and the notes for the release were distributed to the user community and a copy is on the SCSEP help website.
The number of locked records and GPMS increased by approximately 15%, from last month, remember that the WDL report is available to view participants who are approaching their durational limit.
Please send in a Zendesk ticket to unlock these records so that you may enter the exit date.
Some users may have received notifications to update the waver factor for participants who exited the program prior to program year 2023.
Please delete these notifications by selecting the delete icon which is an X next to the notification. Steps on deleting notifications are in section two of the user guide titled Notifications.
There is a bug in the system which caused the generation of these notifications and the bug is being addressed.
We are, however, reminding users to update the waver of factors for program year 2023 for active participants.
As Ali mentioned, please allocate your authorized position and the deadline for completing the allocations is this Friday, July 19.
I would like to say thank you to all the grantees who have already completed their allocations.
Some grantees are making are in the process of making their allocations, and some have not yet begun their allocations.

Remember the due date for completing the allocations is this Friday.
If you have questions regarding this or any other topic, you may contact the SCSEP help team.

Lynch, Leila I - ETA CTR 29:04
Users should also be aware that there is a glitch in the transfer process.
The system is modifying the donors record assignments so that the dates fall after the exit date.
The development team is working to resolve the issue and we're recommending that users pause transfers until further notice.
The tip of the month is regarding the submission of new users request to access GPMS. Grantee administrators must submit a Zendesk ticket for all new users to be added to GPMS.
Remember that once the user submit new users request form in GPMS, the request expires seven days after the submission, if not approved. In order to approve the users request, there must be a Zendesk ticket from the grantee administrator informing us that it is okay to add the user to the system.
Thanks for listening.
I now turn the session over to Ron.

Slaughter, Alison S - ETA 30:45
Did we lose Ron off the call?

Ron Schack 30:46
Hi everybody.
You didn't lose me.

Slaughter, Alison S - ETA 30:47
But there he is.

Ron Schack 30:47
I'm here.
I couldn't find my mute button.
Hi everybody.
So as you can imagine, we are deep into finalizing the proposed goals and that's where, after going through the national competition stuff, that's where the focus of our attention has been.
So get ready for all kinds of performance fun on the webinar next Thursday.

That's all I have to say.
Thanks everybody.

Slaughter, Alison S - ETA 31:30
Thanks Ron.
Before we jump into.
Highlights and Q&A, anything else from the SCSEP team to add?

Wilson, Toni K - SCSEP 31:45
I did see the question.
Josh, you were just asking about the date. We are still going with the September 27th date.
The reason for that is that we would need the weekend to shut and freeze the system down, so we don't want to do that to GPMS during a weekday.
So that's the reason why that date is the date.
So sorry if there was any confusion on that.

Slaughter, Alison S - ETA 32:15
Thanks Toni.

Wilson, Toni K - SCSEP 32:16
No problem, good question.

Slaughter, Alison S - ETA 32:18
Great question.
Looks like we have a success story from Deb in the comments, she says.
We had a great success with our Boston SSA partners in support of returning citizens formerly incarcerated community members who receive SSI.
They accepted our description of SCSEP using US District Court findings.
They retracted a bill they gave a participant based on the finding that SCSEP is not employment but instead is training and supportive services.
That's so great to hear working with your community partners and helping a SCSEP participant.

Wilson, Toni K - SCSEP 32:51
Wow.

Slaughter, Alison S - ETA 32:53
Thanks so much for sharing that.

Wilson, Toni K - SCSEP 32:56
That is great.
Thank you for sharing that.

Slaughter, Alison S - ETA 33:01
Any other?

Slaughter, Alison S - ETA 33:10
Any other success stories or any questions from any grantees?
All right.
Well, our next call is on Wednesday, August 21st.

Slaughter, Alison S - ETA 33:37
We know that this is a big transition time for everyone.
There's a lot of new information coming out, so please don't hesitate to reach out to your FPO and your NOL's were here to support you and answer any questions and we are looking forward to having you all on our goal negotiations webinar next Thursday.
So if there's nothing else.
Ohh, NEOWW.
Yes, great question Crystal. TwoTech or Toni, do we have any updates on the upcoming NEOWW?

Wilson, Toni K - SCSEP 34:12
I will let TwoTech give a quick commercial about it, but yes, we are working behind the scenes to get ready.
TwoTech that is September.
What's the date?
Is Michi on the line or there's you? Sorry.

McNeace, Meche - ETA CTR 34:31
The week.
Yep, I'm here.
It is the last full week in September which will start on Saturday September 21st or Sunday, September 22nd and take us through Saturday, September 28th.

Wilson, Toni K - SCSEP 34:37
Last.

McNeace, Meche - ETA CTR 34:46
And Toni is correct, we are actually working on the theme and the poster concept, and our goal is to have that ready to send out by the 1st of September.

Wilson, Toni K - SCSEP 35:03
And I would also, yes and or earlier.

McNeace, Meche - ETA CTR 35:04
Or earlier.

Wilson, Toni K - SCSEP 35:06
Yes, I would also point out that a DOL leadership is always very interested in this week. Love to hear what people are doing in the field.

Wilson, Toni K - SCSEP 35:17
Any kind of success stories or things on social media to share, so just giving you guys a heads up on anything that you may be planning, you can let your FPO or NOLs know, and we can make sure that you know that gets incorporated with any highlights leadership will be doing here, so just wanted to flag that.

Slaughter, Alison S - ETA 35:40
Thank you and great question Crystal.
Looks like we have some collaboration in the chat, which is wonderful.
I am not seeing any other questions, so with that, thank you all for your time and we will see you next Thursday and then Wednesday, August 21st for our next All Grantee Call.
Have a great afternoon everyone.

Wilson, Toni K - SCSEP 36:07
Thank you so much, Ali.

Lynch, Leila I - ETA CTR 36:10
Yeah.

Bronson, Bradley K - ETA CTR stopped transcription.