

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**Employment and Training Administration**

[TA-W-54,901]

Springfield Plastics, Inc., East Springfield, PA; Notice of Termination of Investigation

Pursuant to Section 221 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended, an investigation was initiated on May 12, 2004 in response to a petition filed by a company official on behalf of workers at Springfield Plastics, Inc., East Springfield, Pennsylvania.

The petitioner has requested that the petition be withdrawn. Consequently, the investigation has been terminated.

Signed at Washington, DC this 20th day of May 2004.

Linda G. Poole,

Certifying Officer, Division of Trade Adjustment Assistance.

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**Employment and Training Administration****Senior Community Service Employment Program—Division of Older Worker Programs; Solicitation for Grant Applications, Section 502(e)—Procedures for Program Year PY 2004**

Announcement Type: New. Notice of Solicitation for Grant Applications.

Funding Opportunity Number: SGA/DFA-04-102.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 17.235.

Key Dates: Deadline for submission of proposals, July 21, 2004.

Executive Summary

The Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), authorized under title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (OAA), as amended by the Older Americans Act Amendments of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-501), provides subsidized, part-time, community service employment for low-income persons age 55 and older who have poor employment prospects, 42 U.S.C. 3056 *et seq.* Through this program, older workers have access to a wide range of SCSEP services as well as other employment assistance services available through the One-Stop Centers of the workforce investment system. Seniors enrolled in SCSEP can work up to 20 hours per week, and are employed

in a wide variety of community service positions at non-profit and public facilities, including day-care centers, senior centers, schools, hospitals, faith-based and community organizations. These community service experiences are intended to lead to other employment positions within the private sector.

This solicitation announces the availability of approximately \$2 million in PY2004 funds for the Section 502(e) program. The Department plans to award 4 to 10 grants with a minimum amount of \$25,000 for current SCSEP grantees and a minimum amount of \$150,000 for non-current SCSEP grantees.

The purpose of Section 502(e) of the OAA is to provide eligible older workers with second career training and placement opportunities with private business concerns, thus demonstrating their capabilities and new skills. Section 502(e) provides opportunities to initiate or enhance seniors' relationships with the private sector, promotes collaboration with the One-Stop Delivery System, and encourages the use of innovative strategies, including new work modes such as flex-time, flex-place, job sharing, and other arrangements relating to reduced physical exertion (OAA § 502(e)(2)). In addition, the Section 502(e) program is one of the best vehicles for obtaining job placements in the private for-profit sector, where wages and fringe benefits often exceed those in the public or non-profit sector.

I. Funding Opportunity Description

This SGA seeks to fund projects that will provide eligible older workers with second career training and placement opportunities with private business concerns. Proposed projects must be for specific geographic areas and must identify employers that will participate in the project, or methods that will be used to attract employer involvement. Proposed projects must also include innovative strategies, including new work modes such as flex-time, flex-place, job sharing, and other arrangements relating to reduced physical exertion.

The purpose of this section is to provide potential applicants with the information needed to make an informed decision about whether to apply for funds and to give a better sense of how the Section 502(e) program operates, and what functions and responsibilities are important to the program. It is not intended to be an all-inclusive description and does not reflect all the requirements of the program. Applicants who wish to learn

more about the SCSEP are encouraged to review the law at 42 U.S.C. 3056 *et seq.* An applicant's failure to demonstrate that its proposed program meets the criteria in this section will make the application non-responsive. Applicants should also review the current regulations at 20 CFR Part 641, which were published on April 9, 2004 (69 FR 19014) and are effective on May 9, 2004, and the Older Worker (OW) Bulletins, which may be found on ETA's Division of Older Worker Program's homepage at <http://www.doleta.gov/seniors>. This additional information will serve as background on the SCSEP program. Applicants may use this information when drafting their responses to the Rating Criteria in Section V of this SGA. Applicants may review ETA's homepage at <http://www.doleta.gov/sga/pdf/ApplyingGrants.pdf> for information on applying for ETA grants and <http://www.doleta.gov/sga/> for forms and information relating to competition for ETA grants. Program requirements include the following:

Seniors Served. Grantees must make sure that this project will promote useful part-time or full-time employment opportunities for unemployed low-income persons who are 55 years or older, and whose incomes are no higher than 125 percent of poverty level (OAA § 516(2)).

Priorities. There is a priority for service in all Department of Labor (DOL or Department) funded workforce development programs for veterans and certain eligible spouses under the Jobs for Veterans Act, Pub. L. 107-288 (2002). Section 516(2) of the OAA also sets a priority for workers over 60. The Department interprets the Jobs for Veterans Act to harmonize the two priority provisions. Under this interpretation, both priorities apply. That is, within the group of eligible individuals age 60 and over, who receive a priority over eligible individuals aged 55-59, the veteran or qualified spouse would receive SCSEP services before non-veterans. Within the group of individuals who are 55 to 59, veterans and qualified spouses would again receive a priority over other eligible individuals.

Recruiting. All grantees must recruit participants from the local SCSEP program. In doing so, Section 502(e) grantees that are not current SCSEP grantees may be exempt from conducting some of the program requirements, such as income certifications, assessments and IEPs and providing worker's compensation.

Individual Employment Plans (IEP). Each SCSEP Section 502(e) participant must have been assessed by the original