

## Workforce Development Research Project - Quarterly Update

April 2024

Learning Community

- The Grantee Learning Community (LC) has held two monthly meetings thus far and will continue to meet on the last Monday of each month at 12:00 pm ET. The LC includes representatives from all seven grantees and is facilitated by Dr. Len Kaye Gray Jones from the research team.
- LC participants have discussed the challenges of establishing new program infrastructure, hiring staff, accessing meeting spaces and technology, building community connections/ partnerships, procedures for issuing stipends and conducting background checks, and ageism in the workplace.
- In March, LC participants walked through the online learning community and posted introductions. A discussion post contest resulted in two sets of winners with a prize choice of one of two books: *Overtime*, by Lisa Berkman and Beth Truesdale or *Friendship Point*, by Alice Elliott Dark, featuring older women protagonists.
- The April 29<sup>th</sup> LC meeting will focus on recruitment successes and challenges.



Advisory Committee

- The project Advisory Committee convened for the first time at the end of February and will meet quarterly in May, September, December, and February.
- The Committee includes experts from various sectors and disciplines including retirement, aging, workforce volunteerism, and age-related research.
- The Committee's next assignment will be to review and provide feedback on the program participant survey.

Survey Development

- A draft participant survey is nearly complete and ready for review by AmeriCorps leadership and by the research project Advisory Committee.
- The survey covers: participant demographics, participant experiences, program site policies and practices, training and volunteer site policies and practices.
- We hope to have all feedback received and incorporated by early May so that we can start the process for Institutional Review Board approval, required for research activities.
- The project team is currently discussing the timing and logistics of survey distribution so there is as little burden on grantees and participants as possible. The team will seek input from grantees as well.

Site Visits

- The research team will conduct 2-3 site visits each year, starting early this fall. We are still discussing which grantees would be best suited for the first visits based on site progress to-date.
- Be assured that we will do as much as possible to keep the burden on grantee program staff to a minimum because we know how busy you are. We can discuss further with grantees at upcoming learning community meetings as well.

Other

- **Thank you, Grantee program leads!** We are wrapping up our 1:1 meetings with grantee sites. It has been a pleasure to learn about your program early experiences. We appreciate how busy you all are and the time you set aside for us! If we have not yet connected with you, we will be in touch soon!

**Please reach out if you have questions, comments, or if you need resources!**