

Workforce Development Research Project - Quarterly Update

January 2026

Learning Community

- The Learning Community (LC) held its quarterly meeting on December 29, 2025, and featured presentations by Christine Mulvin, Program Officer for AmeriCorps and Dr. Phyllis Cummins (ret.) of Scripps Gerontology Center at Miami University. Christine shared AmeriCorps technical assistance updates and will attend upcoming LC meetings to share AmeriCorps updates with the group. Dr. Cummins reviewed her research on older adult participation in community colleges programs and offered suggestions on conferences for presenting workforce development topics.
- The workforce development programs shared updates and recent successes and challenges, including federal funding uncertainties and staffing turnover. Two programs offered that they were adapting in response to renewed participant interest and the challenge of addressing preferences for volunteer opportunities versus paid work.
- The next LC meeting will be held on Monday, March 30, 2026, at noon ET.

Advisory Committee

- The project's Advisory Committee (AC) met on December 16, 2025, for member and project updates and to discuss the topic of program sustainability.
- AC discussion focused on lessons learned from the programs to-date including the challenge of matching program participants with program focus areas and desired volunteer and employment opportunities in the community.
- Sustainability remains a challenge with funding uncertainty and no anticipated AmeriCorps Seniors workforce development funding stream to continue to sustain programming. The next AC meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at 1:00 PM ET

Research Activities

- The research team continues to compile and analyze 2025 participant and partner survey responses. The participant survey closed on November 16, 2025, with 203 responses (up from 156 in 2024) from across the seven programs. The partner survey closed on December 31, 2025, with 32 responses and all programs represented. Analysis will continue into the spring with interim findings shared with AC and LC members.
- The team is actively coding the voluminous qualitative data from focus groups and key informant interviews conducted during 2025 site visits. 2026 project activities will include distribution of a third and final round of the participant survey in early summer.
- Dissemination of early findings continued this quarter. In November the research team gave two presentations at the Gerontological Society of America Conference in Boston on early findings. A manuscript is being prepared for submission in late spring.

Site Visits

- The research team visited NYC's SilverCorps program in November 2025 meeting with program staff and community partners and held three well-attended and engaging focus groups. Given the size of SilverCorps, the team held subsequent virtual focus groups and key informant interviews. Thus far the team has met with 55 SilverCorps stakeholders with additional interviews scheduled this month.
- The team is actively planning for the final site visits to Lifespan in upstate New York and the University of Chicago's C4P program this spring. Planning meetings are scheduled for the upcoming two months and focus group recruitment will begin in early spring.

Contact Project Director, Mary Lou Ciolfi, with any questions, comments, or requests

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