



Workforce Development Research Project - Quarterly Update

July 2026

Learning Community

- › The Learning Community held its quarterly meeting on June 29, 2026, with updates from AmeriCorps Program Officer, John Levenson, who reviewed program closeout and final reporting steps. He reminded programs to reach out for close-out guidance and highlighted the [AmeriCorps Seniors Training Hub](#).
- › Bob Harootyan, Co-Principal at Harootyan², LLC, shared insights on older adults remaining in the workforce due to longer lifespans and financial need but facing age discrimination and digital literacy challenges. He proposed a collaborative model that connects senior-focused organizations with high-growth employers through specialized training intermediaries and emphasized the need for older adult workforce development programs such as those funded by AmeriCorps.
- › Project Manager, Rachel Coleman, shared a photo collage of the focus groups and reminded program staff of the upcoming Year 3 survey distribution process.

Advisory Committee

- › The project's Advisory Committee (AC) met on June 16, 2026, and reviewed project updates, including a comparative analysis of 2024–2025 survey data and insights from the Lifespan and UChicago site visits.
- › The AC and project team discussed program recruitment challenges, noting that participants sometimes lacked awareness of the workforce development focus, possibly due to AmeriCorps history as a volunteer organization. The group also discussed how new Department of Labor wage guidance for SCSEP and higher-paying jobs might interfere with eligibility for need-based programs like

Research Activities

- › The research team is currently analyzing 2025 survey data and will be comparing results with the 2024 survey findings. The team has also completed coding of a large body of qualitative data and is developing summaries of key themes and subthemes in preparation for our final report.
- › Three new tip sheets are under development on the following topics: technology in WFD, older adult learners, and WFD partner attributes. We welcome any content 492suggestions for these resources!
- › The research team will present at the Gerontological Society of America conference this fall.

Survey Responses Across Years

Participant Survey		Partner Survey	
2024	156	2024	25
2025	202	2025	30
	358*		55

*Of the 358 participant surveys, 296 were unique. 62 participants completed the survey in both 2024 and 2025.

Total 413

- › The team is preparing the Year 3 participant survey deployment in August and will send survey links directly to program participants. Over 60 participants participated in both the Year 1 and Year 2 surveys, allowing for longitudinal analysis. We expect a similar number of participants to respond to the survey across all three years.

Site Visits

- › Project Director, Mary Lou Ciolfi, and graduate research assistant, Cynthia Cushing, conducted the final two program site visits with a visit to Lifespan, in upstate New York, and University of Chicago's C4P program, during first week in May. These site visits provided provide valuable perspective on each program's strengths and challenges as they entered their final grant year.