

Changes in SPARQ Release 8.0

SPARQ Release 8.0 includes changes implemented as a result of the CARES Act for participants enrolled in SCSEP (both current and exited participants) any time between March 1, 2020 and August 31, 2020. This extension gives participants an additional three hundred and sixty-five (365) days in the program, effectively allowing affected participants to remain in the program for a maximum of sixty months. The COVID extension is in addition to any traditional IDL extension a participant may qualify for under a grantee's approved IDL policy.

This extension impacts:

- New participants with an initial assignment date between March 1, 2020 and August 31, 2020;
- Existing participants who were or are active between March 1, 2020 and August 31, 2020, including participants on an approved break and exited participants; and
- All grantees, whether or not their individual durational limit policy allows for an extension.

In addition to the durational limit date extension, SPARQ allows grantees to record paid sick leave hours and provides a management report titled "Participants with Community Service, Paid Training and Paid Sick Leave Hours" in the PARTICIPANTS Section.

Here is how the COVID extension is being applied to the affected groups of participants:

New Participants Entered in SPARQ during the COVID-19 Extension Period

When a new participant is added during the COVID-19 extension period, the "Current Durational Limit Date" field will initially reflect the 48 months. A nightly process will be executed which will add the COVID-19 extension of three hundred and sixty-five (365) days to each participant's durational limit.

Grantees will be able to see the COVID-19 days in the WDSC and the Participant Search pages the day after the enrollment is entered. The "Days Left" and the "Current Durational Limit Date" fields will also be updated to reflect the additional three hundred and sixty-five (365) days added by the extension.

Existing Participants

Participants who were active during the COVID-19 extension period will automatically have three hundred and sixty-five (365) days added to their durational limit date. This will be reflected in the WDSC and Participant Search pages immediately after the release is deployed. The "Days Left" and "Current Durational Limit Date" fields will also be updated immediately after the release is deployed.

Participants Who Exited During the COVID-19 Extension Period for Durational Limit

Participants who exited for durational limit between March 1, 2020 and the implementation of Release 8.0 should have had their exit date and exit reason removed, and they should have been put on an approved break. These participants were entitled to return to the program for an additional three hundred and sixty-five (365) days. With the implementation of Release 8.0, the COVID-19 extension of three hundred and sixty-five (365) days will be reflected on the participants' records. If the participants are able to resume their assignments, the approved break should be ended.

Grantees will see the COVID-19 extension days in the WDSC and the Participant Search pages. The "Days Left" and "Current Durational Limit Date" fields will also be updated to reflect the additional three hundred and sixty-five (365) days added by the extension.

Participants on Break During the COVID-19 Extension Period

All participants active between March 1 and August 31, 2020 have automatically received the 365-day COVID extension in SPARQ regardless of whether they are or were on break during that period for any reason. The COVID extension is reflected in the Days Left field. As has always been the case, participants who are on break do not have their durational limit date (DLD) calculated or displayed. When the break is ended, the new DLD with the 365-day COVID extension accounted for will be displayed in both the WDCS and the relevant management reports.

Grantees Whose IDL Policy Allows for Extensions

Participants who are currently eligible for an extension based on their grantee's IDL Policy are also entitled to the COVID-19 extension of three hundred and sixty-five (365) days. These participants will receive the extension offered by the grantee, *plus* the COVID-19 extension of three hundred and sixty-five (365) days.

Both extensions, when effected, will be reflected in the WDCS and the Participant Search pages. The "Days Left" and the "Current Durational Limit Date" fields will also be updated to reflect the additional three hundred and sixty-five (365) days added by the extension.

New Management Report – Participants with Community Service, Paid Training and Paid Sick Leave Hours

The report displays the community service hours, paid training hours and paid sick leave hours for all active and exited participants. The report can be filtered by grantee, sub-grantee, active enrollments only, closed enrollments only, all enrollments, and program year.

The user has the option to generate a summary of the report, a detail of the report, or both. The report can also be exported to a .csv file.