



SNAP E&T REVIEW



May 2016

New to the SNAP to Skills Project?

Launched in October of 2015, *SNAP to Skills* (S2S) is a project of USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), operated in partnership with Seattle Jobs Initiative (SJI), to provide States the tools and resources they need to develop job-driven SNAP E&T programs that help SNAP participants find jobs and work toward self-sufficiency. The project seeks to help advance SNAP E&T programs in all States through these tools and resources, while 10 States have been selected to receive enhanced technical assistance. These States are: Arizona, Arkansas, California, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina and Tennessee.

The first (April, 2016) *SNAP E&T Review* (accessible [HERE](#)) provides more background information on the *SNAP to Skills* Project.

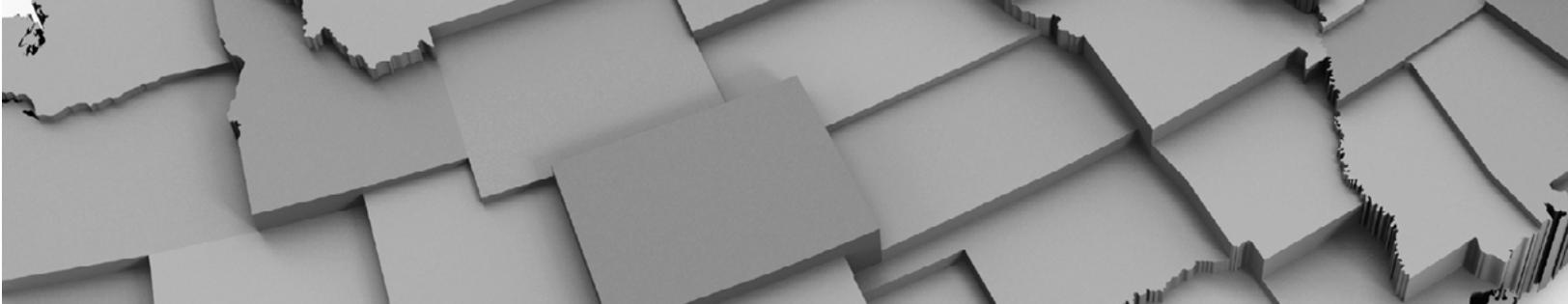
Latest SNAP to Skills Policy Brief: *Using SNAP E&T to Offer Job-Driven Training for Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWDs)*

The *SNAP to Skills* project is producing a regular series of policy briefs covering both policy and technical issues related to building successful SNAP E&T programs.

Our second brief is titled *Using SNAP E&T to Offer Job-Driven Training for Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWDs)*. With the clock now ticking on a renewed SNAP time limit for hundreds of thousands of people, policymakers, program administrators, and advocates are looking to the SNAP E&T program as a solution for these participants to meet work requirements and maintain eligibility. This brief highlights the potential - and limits - of SNAP E&T for responding to the needs of ABAWDs, clarifying that States with ABAWDs facing the time limit are not required to run mandatory SNAP E&T programs and that the most promising role for SNAP E&T given limited funds may be to offer voluntary, job-driven education and training services to help ABAWDs qualify for stable employment and better jobs that can lead to self-sufficiency.

READ FULL BRIEF [HERE](#)

SNAP to Skills' first policy brief, *Why Now is the Time for States to Build Their SNAP E&T Programs*, can be accessed [HERE](#).



E&T in Action: Highlights from Our States

Maryland: Matching Up-Skilled Workers to Living-Wage Jobs

The Maryland Department of Human Resources (DHR) envisions a future where Food Supplement Program (SNAP at the Federal level) participants have access to job-driven training and career pathways that enable them to successfully compete for sustainable living-wage jobs. Despite major overhauls in the State's Food Supplement Employment and Training (FSET, Maryland's SNAP E&T) Program this year - including transitioning to a voluntary program and implementing ABAWD time limits – DHR is working to create a solid foundation on which to start building its program.

DHR worked with SJI to build the infrastructure needed to expand its FSET 50-50 reimbursement program. In this model, training services are provided by colleges, community-based organizations, and other organizations and their investment of non-federal funds in these services may be reimbursed by USDA using 50-50 funds. Using this model, DHR can increase its capacity to provide education and skills training so FSET participants can get living-wage jobs.

Recently, DHR changed its service delivery model from a job search only program to one that provides more intensive services directed at ABAWDs in areas that have lost their waivers of the time limit. In addition, it will soon launch a 50-50 reimbursement pilot project in Baltimore City that includes five community-based organizations and one community college. The pilot, which focuses on highly barriered populations, will provide wrap-around and supportive services, as well as vocational education in manufacturing, construction, and green jobs. DHR is hiring additional staff and plans to implement a centralized model for FSET staffing. Plans are underway to modify its TANF MIS to accommodate FSET participants, and improve the collection of outcome data. DHR is moving closer to making its vision a reality.

Upcoming Events, Important Dates & Resource Links

- **New Results-Focused Reporting Rule for Job-Driven SNAP E&T Programs:** The interim final rule, SNAP E&T Program Monitoring, Oversight and Reporting Measures, was published in the Federal Register on March 24, 2016. States are required to include reporting measures in their E&T State Plans for FY 2017. Find out more **HERE**.
- **New SNAP E&T Plan Handbook:** FNS recently released the new SNAP E&T Plan Handbook. The guidance highlights E&T State Plan requirements and supersedes all prior SNAP E&T Plan Handbooks and guidance. Access the handbook **HERE**.
- **FNS and DOL Partner to Help Connect ABAWDs to WIOA Services:** FNS and DOL recently released a joint letter urging State SNAP agencies and workforce development systems to work together to ensure ABAWDs have access to qualifying activities, including under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). The letter notes the role that both SNAP E&T and WIOA, especially through the American Job Centers, can play in connecting ABAWDs to skills training and employment. Read the letter **HERE**.
- **12 Federal Agencies Support Career Pathways:** FNS joined 11 other Federal agencies to issue a joint letter to strengthen a shared commitment to promote career pathways and provide information and resources to help States, regions, local entities and tribal communities integrate service delivery across Federal and State funding streams. The use of career pathways to prepare low-income, low-skilled workers for in high-demand fields is growing and SNAP E&T can play a large role in these efforts. Read the joint letter and access resources **HERE**.
- **Planned for Summer 2016:** FNS will launch a **new website** as part of the *SNAP to Skills* project. States will be able to access information about the project, SNAP E&T tools and resources, policy briefs, and stories from successful SNAP E&T programs. Experience learning opportunities with your colleagues on SNAP E&T topics and more!



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