



SNAP E&T REVIEW



November 2016

SNAP to Skills Releases New Policy Brief on Building State Capacity to Support Expanded SNAP E&T Programs

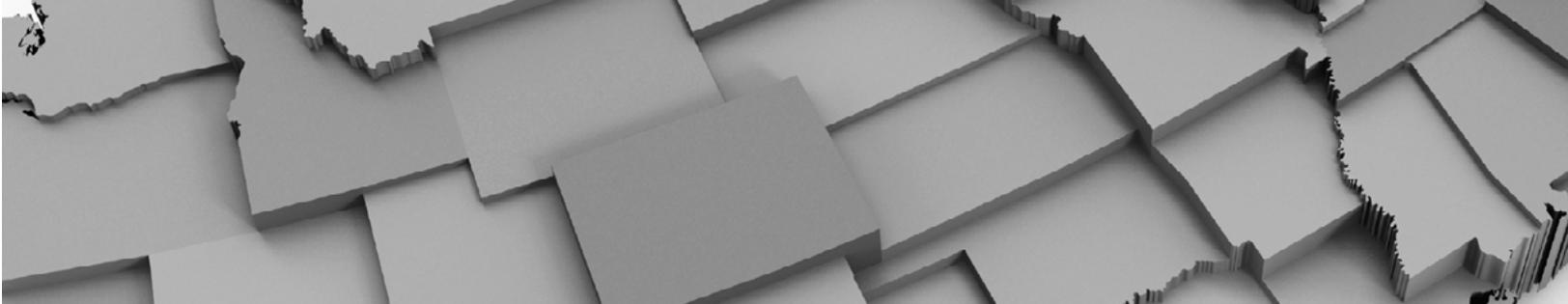
One important hurdle for many States as they consider expanding job-driven SNAP E&T programs is their uncertainty or apprehension about the staffing and infrastructure they may need to support this growth, particularly as they begin to expand the use of 50 percent reimbursement (50-50) funds through third-party partnerships.

In this brief, *SNAP to Skills* seeks to reduce this uncertainty for States. First, it offers a picture of the staffing functions and infrastructure that may be required both to plan for and administer an expanded SNAP E&T program utilizing primarily 50-50 funds. What are the key tasks and roles and who will perform these? What systems need to be in place? Second, the brief offers States some recommendations for identifying and accessing the resources they may need to support this added capacity. The brief highlights as a case study the State of Maryland, which was able to quickly add needed capacity to expand its SNAP E&T program by strategically shifting the use of its 100 percent SNAP E&T grant funds.

READ THE FULL BRIEF [HERE](#)

Applications Under Review for the SNAP E&T Academy

FNS is committed through *SNAP to Skills* to creating new leadership capacity to build the next generation of SNAP E&T programs. As announced in early October, an integral part of this effort is the **SNAP E&T Academy**, which will provide an opportunity for a select number of individuals to gain technical expertise on SNAP E&T that prepares them to work within their State or across multiple States building job-driven SNAP E&T programs. FNS is selecting a limited number of participants for the eight-month engagement from organizations providing technical assistance to States, research organizations, States, counties, and others that have a significant stake in issues related to education and training strategies for SNAP participants. The application period for the Academy is now closed. FNS is currently reviewing applications and will notify applicants of their status soon.



New Face of *SNAP to Skills*

In case you missed the announcement in early October: the *SNAP to Skills* Website is here! FNS officially launched a **new digital platform for the *SNAP to Skills* Project**. This new resource will serve as a “one-stop-shop” for information and news about SNAP E&T. States and their partners are 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. **Be sure to visit the website often as we are always adding new content!**

ACCESS THE WEBSITE **HERE**

FNS Releases Policy Memo that Clarifies the Role of WIOA Participation for ABAWD Work Requirements

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) can play an important role in serving Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWDs). FNS recently released the *Clarifying Obsolete Regulatory References to Employment, Training, and Service Programs* policy memo. This memo clarifies how States must treat WIOA for the purposes of ABAWD work requirements and identifies obsolete statutory references to programs under WIOA.

ACCESS THE MEMO **HERE**

Upcoming Events, Important Dates & Resource Links

- **Watch the Recorded *SNAP to Skills* Webinar on *Securing Third-Party Partners for SNAP E&T Programs*** (July 2016). Now posted to the *SNAP to Skills* website, this webinar walked participants through the steps to use when identifying, assessing, educating, contracting with, and onboarding new partners. Representatives from FNS, SJI, Arkansas, and Minnesota shared their experience and expertise. Access the webinar **HERE**.

- **Watch the Recorded Webinar by National Skills Coalition and SJI: *Developments in Skills-Based SNAP E&T*** (September 2016). This webinar discussed the emergence of SNAP E&T as a skill-building program, informing participants of how some States are working to align SNAP E&T with key State workforce development initiatives and with WIOA to create pathways to credentials and careers. Speakers included Brooke DeRenzis (NSC), Louisa Erickson (Washington State Dept. of Social and Health Services), David Kaz (SJI), Sara Muempfer (Maryland Department of Human Resources) and Deniece Thomas (Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development). Access the webinar **HERE**.
- **Check out the NEW Publication from the Workforce Data Quality Campaign: *Data Policy Toolkit: Implementing the State Blueprint***. The new Data Policy Toolkit is a useful tool for States and their partners to better understand State data policies, the steps needed to improve data infrastructure, and how to promote data use to align education with labor market demand and ensure that students have opportunities to gain job-driven skills and credentials. Access the toolkit **HERE**.
- **Learn how the Career Pathway Program in Arkansas Results in Higher Earnings, More Credentials**. Findings from a rigorous evaluation of the Arkansas Career Pathway Program—an initiative designed to target education and training to low-income individuals—demonstrate that participants in the initiative are more likely to gain valuable credentials and earn more money after the program ends than their non-participating peers. These findings provide evidence that education matched with occupationally-focused programs can be an effective means for low-income adults to work toward economic self-sufficiency. Learn more about the study **HERE**.
- **Check out the Recently Released Issue Brief from the National Governors Association: *State Strategies to Scale Quality Work-Based Learning***. The brief highlights strategies that support high-quality, demand driven work-based learning programs and how Governors can use these strategies to support State industries and build a more economically competitive economy. The information gathered in the brief comes from best practices gleaned from a series of convenings and technical assistance initiatives supported through the National Governors Association. Go **HERE** to read more.



About 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.

Previous editions of the SNAP E&T Review are accessible here:

- April 2016 SNAP E&T Review**
- May 2016 SNAP E&T Review**
- June 2016 SNAP E&T Review**
- July 2016 SNAP E&T Review**
- October 2016 SNAP E&T Review**



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