



FNS Releases Request for Applications (RFA) for SNAP E&T Data and Technical Assistance (DATA) Grants

On June 27, FNS posted a Request for Applications (RFA) for the *SNAP E&T Data and Technical Assistance (DATA) Grants*. The purpose of these grants is to support the development of State agencies' SNAP E&T data collection and reporting systems that are necessary to meet the reporting requirements set forth in the *SNAP Employment and Training Program Monitoring, Oversight & Reporting Measures* interim final rule, published on March 24, 2016. The SNAP E&T DATA grants are intended to support the full range of needs States may have related to the development, collection, reporting, analysis and use of SNAP E&T participant outcome data. Any of the 53 State agencies that administer SNAP may apply for a grant. The RFA and other required supporting documents can be found at www.grants.gov or on the FNS website.

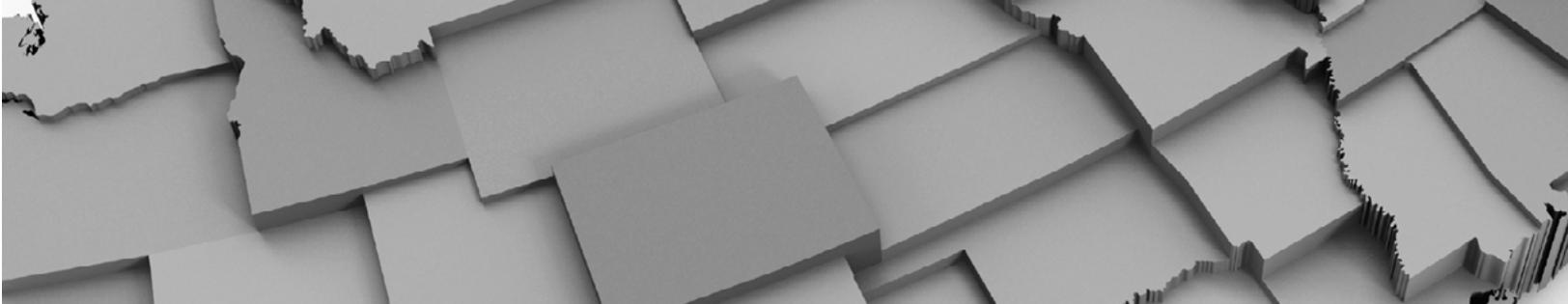
E&T in Action: Highlights from Our States

MASSACHUSETTS: SNAP E&T Then...And Now

Massachusetts's Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) recently presented at a meeting of several U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service (USDA-FNS) regional offices on the development of the State's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Employment and Training (E&T) program called *SNAP Path to Work*. Their presentation was titled "That was Then, This is Now" to highlight its remarkable progress. The State's vision for its voluntary SNAP E&T program is to "mak[e] work the better option for clients by creating incentives and supports that move individuals and families to meaningful employment which leads to career pathways and long-term economic self-sufficiency."

Between 2011 and 2015, Massachusetts's SNAP E&T 50/50 reimbursements to providers had dramatically decreased to one-third of its peak level in 2011. This was the result of two key factors, a cumbersome manual participant intake/enrollment process, and a monthly per participant cap on participant reimbursements. Now, as part of its work with *SNAP to Skills*, Massachusetts has streamlined its intake/enrollment process for providers and eliminated the cap on reimbursements. As a result of these key changes, the State's SNAP E&T program budget has trended up during 2016 and 2017 and the number of third-party partners providing SNAP E&T services (44 current partners) continues to rise.

Read the full story [HERE](#)



SNAP E&T Learning Academy Participants Making Solid Progress at the Halfway Point

The SNAP E&T Learning Academy, which kicked off in February and culminates at the end of September, has reached its halfway point. The 34 participants attended an intensive two-day learning session in Alexandria, Virginia in late March and have completed four of seven virtual learning sessions. Participants have refined and are making progress on their individualized projects, which are designed to advance quality SNAP E&T programs in their States or more broadly. By the end of the Academy, participants not only will have advanced their own SNAP E&T projects but will have also deepened and broadened SNAP E&T expertise across the country.

Upcoming Events, Important Dates & Resource Links

- **FNS Provides New Guidance on State SNAP E&T Plans:** The State plan handbook provides guidance to State Agencies administering and operating the SNAP E&T program on how to prepare and submit their annual plan to FNS for approval. This month, FNS released a new version for FY18 that includes updates from the prior year. Notable updates included a request for descriptions of tribal consultations, consolidated budget information, and an update of components names and descriptions.

Read the Updated State Plan Handbook [HERE](#).

- **FNS Released the FY2018 SNAP E&T Allocations:** FNS has distributed FY2018 allocations for 100 percent funding and 50/50 funding targets to State agencies. The final grant amounts represent each State agency's share of the \$90 million authorized under section 16(h)(1)(A) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (Act), as amended, to carry out E&T Program operations in FY 2018. These grant allocations *do not include* the additional \$20 million grant allocated to State agencies that pledge to serve all at-risk able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs).
- **U.S. Department of Labor Conducted a Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Webina, Improving Statewide Data Integration, Sharing, and Use:** The presentation highlighted the diverse approaches that three States—Massachusetts, Missouri, and Kansas—are undertaking to create integrated data systems through partnerships between community colleges and the workforce system.

Access the Webinar Recording [HERE](#).

- **APHSA Announces Webinar Series from the Center for Employment and Economic Well-Being (CEEWB):** APHSA's Center for Employment & Economic Well-Being (CEEWB) has announced a five-part series designed to facilitate collaboration among State and local health and human service agencies to identify and promote practice models, funding structures, and policies that can best support and enable gainful employment and self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

Access the Webinar Recordings and Sign-up for Future Webinars **HERE**.

- **NAS Report: U.S. Skilled Workforce is Inadequate to Compete in the Coming Decades:** The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine released a report in May 2017 examining the supply of and demand for workers for skilled technical occupations (jobs that require a high level of knowledge in a technical field for entry, but not a bachelor's degree). The report finds that the current supply of the skilled technical workforce is inadequate to meet the demand of the changing U.S. economy. To address this challenge, the report recommends strengthening career guidance and information on the returns to investing in technical skills; and providing support services to address challenges faced by many students who juggle work, family, and school obligations.

Read the Report **HERE**.

- **Registration is open for the National Council for Workforce Education (NCWE) Conference:** Taking place on October 25-26 in Salt Lake City, the conference offers the following strands this year: Impact of Federal Grants on Community Colleges; Strategic Workforce Stakeholders and Partnerships; The Shifting Landscape of Workforce Education; Connecting Policy and Practice for Program Design; and Equity and Diversity in Workforce Development.

Access the Conference Website **HERE**.



Access the *SNAP to Skills* Website

In October 2016, 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

Access the Website **HERE**.

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
November 2016 SNAP E&T Review
December 2016 SNAP E&T Review
February 2017 SNAP E&T Review
March 2017 SNAP E&T Review
April 2017 SNAP E&T Review
May 2017 SNAP E&T Review



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