



United States Department of Agriculture

## SNAP E&T REVIEW



December 2019

### The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Encourages States to Expand and Improve SNAP E&T Programs

In a November 2019 letter to State Directors of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Associate Administrator Jessica Shahin encouraged States to offer SNAP Employment and Training (SNAP E&T) programs that help a wide range of SNAP participants work toward self-sufficiency. The letter underscores FNS' commitment to helping States build job-driven SNAP E&T programs and highlights available technical assistance, including resources through the SNAP to Skills Project (S2S) and enhanced support through FNS Regional offices.

Read the letter [HERE](#).

### Tips and Strategies for Improving Participant Engagement through Behavioral Science

S2S is pleased to offer a new resource for SNAP E&T practitioners to learn how behavioral science can offer insights into how to improve SNAP E&T programs. Starting soon, S2S will provide regular tips and strategies that E&T programs can use to address common challenges in recruiting and engaging SNAP E&T participants. These tips and strategies will draw from behavioral science, which looks at how and why people make choices and examines programs and services from the participant perspective.

Behavioral science can help program operators understand the choices people make at various steps in program engagement from initially learning and choosing to participate in SNAP E&T all the way to program completion. Applying behaviorally-informed strategies, such as changing the timing or content of communications with participants, can increase interest and participation in SNAP E&T.

Stay tuned for specific behavioral insights over the coming months! In the meantime, you can read more about this new feature on the S2S website [HERE](#).

## Connect to More Best Practices through New S2S Features (Coming Soon!)

As we embark on the newest phase of S2S, we are pleased to offer even more tools, resources and information to help strengthen SNAP E&T programs. Starting next year, we will give particular attention to providing resources that States and their partners can use to increase SNAP E&T participation and engagement among eligible SNAP participants. Stay tuned to the SNAP E&T Review for the latest updates on these new resources.

The following new features will be available:

- **Promising Practices in the States** – FNS will share more about the challenges being worked on by States receiving S2S technical assistance and the solutions they plan to implement.
- **Practitioner Spotlights** – Readers will hear directly from individuals working to improve SNAP E&T programs across the country.
- **Question-of-the-Month** – We will post regularly-updated FAQs on the S2S website about how to improve SNAP E&T engagement. SNAP E&T Review readers will help build the FAQs by sending in their SNAP E&T questions in the Question-of-the-Month section.

## Submit your SNAP E&T Question-of-the-Month

We're kicking off our Question-of-the-Month feature! Starting next month, the SNAP to Skills team will answer a frequently asked question from subscribers about how to improve SNAP E&T engagement using behavioral insights. Please help get things started by submitting your SNAP E&T question to: [SNAPtoSkillsProject@seattlejobsinit.com](mailto:SNAPtoSkillsProject@seattlejobsinit.com).

Please note that responses to your questions are for technical assistance purposes only and do not constitute official policy guidance from FNS.

## Upcoming Events, Important Dates & Resource Links

- **FNS Releases the 2018 SNAP Characteristics Report.** This annual report provides information about the demographic and economic circumstances of SNAP households who participated in SNAP in fiscal year (FY) 2018. The report includes information on earnings and work participation among SNAP households. Read the full report [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) 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, with specific States selected to receive enhanced technical assistance. FNS will soon be selecting these States for FY 20-21.

Previous editions of the *SNAP E&T Review* are accessible [HERE](#).

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