



United States Department of Agriculture

SNAP E&T REVIEW

SNAP

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Practitioner Spotlight: Jerry Rubin, Jewish Vocational Services of Boston



What Does Jewish Vocational Services (JVS) of Boston Do?

JVS provides adults with education, skills training, and job opportunities to help them advance to economic self-sufficiency. While we work with all adults looking to learn more and earn more, we particularly focus on the immigrant community. This is in the DNA of our organization and about one-third of Boston's workforce is non-native born. There are two things we're most proud of about our services. The first is that we offer a continuum of education and employment options: whether you are a low-skilled new immigrant needing contextualized English for your first job, or whether you want a short-term certification up to an AA degree at a community college, JVS has programming to support you. The second is JVS' strong relationship with local employers. We support them with incumbent worker training and provide them with new workers from our other programs. Employers compensate JVS for these services, supporting our model. JVS operates most of our own training with nearly 200 staff, most of whom are instructors or career navigators.

What is So Valuable About SNAP E&T to Your Mission and Work?

SNAP E&T has allowed JVS to expand our services, but we also have a public policy and systems change agenda and supporting SNAP E&T is integral to that work. A big reason for this is that SNAP E&T as a

program can really emphasize skills training. I believe it is the largest source of federal support for workforce training in the Boston area and training is critical for disadvantaged individuals and populations if they are to access good jobs. SNAP E&T also has broad eligibility; it can, for example, serve low-wage workers, not just the unemployed. And the 50 percent reimbursement that SNAP E&T can provide is a huge incentive for States, philanthropy, and private industry to invest more in employment and training services. I can't think of any other program that has this feature.

Want to read the rest of the interview? Access the full Spotlight [HERE](#).

Note: S2S interviewed Jerry Rubin for this Spotlight just prior to the COVID-19 shutdown. To hear more from Mr. Rubin about how JVS Boston has adapted its services to the pandemic, please listen to the June 2020 SNAP to Skills webinar, *Adapting SNAP E&T Services For the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond*.

Access the webinar [HERE](#).

Participant Engagement Tip: Review the Communications You Send From the Participant Perspective

These Behavioral Science Tips are provided to give SNAP E&T Review readers ideas to improve participation and engagement in the SNAP E&T program.

It's a good idea to periodically review the communications you send to E&T participants. To start, print the first letter a prospective SNAP E&T participant receives from your agency. Does the letter clearly and simply explain the next step the individual should or might take? Is it clear why, how, and when the individual could take an action, like enrolling in SNAP E&T? Is the font big enough? Is important information bolded or underlined?

Now imagine that your prospective participant might be busy or tired, as all of us are sometimes. Would he or she be compelled to even open the envelope, let alone read the entire letter? Are you conveying the right tone? Is it clear what SNAP E&T could offer?

Use this [Effective Communications Checklist](#), created through decades of research, to communicate more effectively with current and potential SNAP E&T clients. Think beyond your written communications to oral ones – for example, telephone or in-person interactions. Create scripts to guide all staff to consistently use best practices. Score your communications across three essential categories: information, motivation, and action.

To learn more about behavioral science and how it can be used to address common challenges in engaging participants in SNAP E&T, please visit the S2S website.

Access the website [HERE](#).

Upcoming Events, Important Dates & Resource Links

Register before September 30 for the Virtual SNAP E&T National Forum!

After careful consideration of the public health situation, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has made the decision to shift the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Employment and Training (E&T) National Forum to an all-virtual experience. The Forum will bring together SNAP E&T stakeholders from across the country to share and learn best practices for increasing employment among SNAP households through State SNAP E&T programs. Registration will close on September 30.

Register for the SNAP E&T National Forum [HERE](#).

Subsidized Employment Programs Help Disadvantaged Job Seekers? A Synthesis of Findings from Evaluations of 13 Programs

The Agriculture Act of 2018 added subsidized employment as an allowable SNAP E&T component. While FNS is prepared to provide technical assistance to States interested in this new allowable component, this August 2020 report may be helpful in providing information regarding how subsidized employment programs can improve employment earnings and other outcomes under some circumstances as well as offer observations about the difficulties the researchers found in drawing conclusions about which type of program works best and for whom. The report summarizes findings from random assignment evaluations of 13 subsidized employment programs supported by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Subsidized and Transitional Employment Demonstration (STED) and the U.S. Department of Labor's Enhanced Transitional Jobs Demonstration.

Read the report [HERE](#).

The Interagency Council for Economic Mobility Wants to Hear from You

A new interagency Council (Departments of Agriculture, Education, Labor, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, and Treasury; the Social Security Administration; and the Council of Economic Advisors) seeks to create an effective structure for interagency collaboration and to use federal authorities to promote family-sustaining careers and economic mobility for low-income Americans. The Council has published a Request for Information (RFI) to get feedback on its priorities, working group activities, stakeholder engagement, and federal programs. The Council is seeking stakeholder input by October 2, 2020.

Access the RFI [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, while 7 States have been selected to receive enhanced technical assistance. In Federal Fiscal Years 20 – 21, these are: Colorado, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island.

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



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