



United States Department of Agriculture

SNAP E&T REVIEW

SNAP



February 2021

Register for the Upcoming SNAP to Skills Webinar: Finding Solutions to Get E&T Participants to the Next Step

How can SNAP E&T programs continually look for opportunities to develop and test small-scale solutions to participant engagement challenges? On this upcoming SNAP to Skills webinar, you'll hear from MDRC's Clint Key and Rebecca Schwartz about ways that States and their provider partners can identify opportunities for innovation and share easy to apply tools to reduce "drop off" of participants. The webinar will also discuss the role of getting feedback in identifying engagement challenges and devising solutions, as well as how to test whether your interventions are working.

The webinar will take place on April 15, 2021, at 1:00PM-2:30 ET/10:00AM-11:30AM PT.

Register [HERE](#).

Participant Engagement Tip: Taking the Next Step

Throughout a person's participation in SNAP E&T, there will be times when she or he engages with a staff person, then needs to take the next step. For instance, a person may need to provide a document or contact a service provider. Unfortunately, we often see participants drop off at those transition points. Here are some ideas, informed by behavioral science, for getting participants to the next step:

- **Give a "token":** A physical reminder of an obligation, like a simple token or a card for a wallet, may jog a person's memory and remind them to take the next step. A token can also let the participant show others that they are making progress toward completing employment and training services.
- **Send a reminder:** As the due date for the next step is approaching, a quick reminder by text, phone, or email can help a person stay on track. It is even better if the reminder is paired with a way to take the needed action. For instance, a clickable link to call a provider!

- **Automate it:** Why have a next step if we could do it now? If the next step could be integrated with the point where you already have engagement, the person will not need to remember and will be less likely to drop off.

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

Read more about this topic on the website [HERE](#).

FNS Requesting Applications for FY21 SNAP E&T DATA Grants to Improve State SNAP E&T Data Systems

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is now accepting applications for its SNAP E&T Data and Technical Assistance (DATA) Grants. Grants will support the development of State SNAP E&T data collection and reporting systems. FNS is interested in funding projects that improve States' ability to use administrative data, such as Quarterly Wage Record (QWR) information, as the source for employment and earnings of E&T participants and former participants, because it is the preferred and most reliable and efficient method to meet reporting requirements.

View the Request for Applications [HERE](#).

Department of Labor: A More Inclusive Economy Is Key to Recovery

A recent Department of Labor (DOL) [blog](#) by DOL's chief economist shed light on the disproportionate impacts faced by Black workers—particularly Black women—during the latest pandemic-induced recession. Major job losses in state and local government and leisure and hospitality have heavily impacted their employment; nearly 10% fewer Black women are employed now than in February 2020, compared to just over 5% for white women. DOL's chief economist notes that focusing relief and recovery policies around the needs of marginalized groups will be central to turning around the economic downturn and making sure that everyone benefits from future economic growth.

Read the blog [HERE](#).

Upcoming Events, Important Dates & Resource Links

- **New Training and Technical Assistance Opportunity to Better Serve Your Older Workers Through SNAP E&T**—The AARP Foundation, in collaboration with Seattle Jobs Initiative, is launching an initiative to help States to improve employment outcomes for low-income individuals aged 50+ by connecting them to SNAP E&T. The SNAP E&T Training and Technical Assistance Project, will allow States and their SNAP E&T provider partners to receive:
 - Training and technical assistance to gain a better understanding of characteristics of older SNAP participants
 - Program design ideas for workforce programs and supports to meet the employment and training needs of low-income older adults
 - Strategies to eliminate skill gaps and barriers to employment
 - Employer engagement strategies.

State teams will receive support through a small grant to develop and implement strategies learned during participation in the project. AARP Foundation and Seattle Jobs Initiative will send a **Request for Proposals** to all States in early March followed by a Q&A session where you can learn more.

- **NGA Releases State Roadmap for Workforce Recovery** –The National Governors Association (NGA) recently released its [State Roadmap for Workforce Recovery](#), designed to help Governors and other State leaders respond holistically to the unemployment crisis, move toward recovery and build resilience in the post-pandemic economy. Policy strategies to expand access to SNAP and employment and training programs such as SNAP E&T are among those cited by NGA.

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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