

#### **United States Department of Agriculture**

### **SNAP E&T REVIEW**



July 2022

## Meet FY23 SNAP E&T Program Goals with SNAP to Skills Technical Assistance!

As State SNAP agencies prepare to submit their FY23 State SNAP E&T Plans, several program development and implementation needs may emerge that stretch the Agency's available time and capacity. Here are possible challenges and program improvement opportunities that SNAP to Skills (S2S) technical assistance (TA) can support:

- Getting customers interested in E&T
- Connecting with local Workforce Development Boards and American Job Centers
- Integrating an equity perspective
- Connecting with E&T training providers
- Updating State E&T handbooks or communications
- Improving the quality of case management
- Exploring SNAP E&T intermediary models
- Developing E&T trainings for staff

If this is the case for your State, please consider S2S Rapid Response Technical Assistance, which provides States the opportunity to access the experience, expertise, and added capacity offered by Seattle Jobs Initiative (SJI) and MDRC.

FNS is accepting requests for S2S TA from **all State SNAP agencies** interested in growing and improving their SNAP E&T programs. You can request S2S Rapid Response TA by completing and submitting a short **TA Request Form**.

FNS will review all submissions and may request more information before moving forward. While there are no deadlines to apply, FNS can only support up to 30 State requests, so we encourage you to think about potential projects and apply early! Interested States are encouraged to submit questions via email **HERE** or reach out directly to their FNS Regional Office.

#### Save the Date: SNAP E&T National Forum on December 13 – 14, 2022

The USDA SNAP Office of Employment and Training (OET) is pleased to host the 2nd SNAP E&T National Forum on December 13-14, 2022. Join fellow State agencies and SNAP E&T stakeholders in Alexandria, VA as we gather together to build bigger, better SNAP E&T programs that lead with equity, create economic opportunity, and meet local workforce needs. More information, registration, and a forum website are coming soon.

# FNS Requesting Applications for FY22 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. This year's RFA specifically seeks proposals that advance State use of data to improve equitable outcomes for SNAP E&T participants. The RFA was released on June 24, 2022. Applications are due to FNS by August 24, 2022.

- Priority areas for FY2022 funding include proposals that:
- Strengthen States' use of data to assess State policy and operational decisions pertaining to SNAP E&T that have an impact on equitable program participation.
- Support the development of State data systems and processes that advance State use of data to look outwardly to build an understanding of the environment in which SNAP E&T participants live and SNAP E&T programs operate that may lead to inequitable outcomes for participants of various identities, backgrounds, and geographic locations.
- Assist States in identifying meaningful actions and measuring progress toward more equitable SNAP E&T engagement, participation, and outcomes.
- Support the development of processes, tools, reports, or other instruments that will improve validity and reliability in the collection, cleaning, and analysis of State E&T data.

Assist State and local SNAP agencies in developing frameworks, processes, organizational agreements, and/or trainings to improve the reliability and validity of State E&T data.

View the Request for Applications **HERE**.

#### Upcoming Events, Important Dates & Resource Links

**Upcoming Event: Economic and Mobility Well-Being Conference (EMWB)**: Join the FNS SNAP Office of Employment and Training for a presentation on "Aligning Workforce Systems to Create Cohesive Career Pathways" at the American Public Human Services Association (APHSA)'s EMWB conference. The conference will be held August 14-17, 2022, at the Marriott Savannah Riverfront in Savannah, GA. The EMWB conference brings together members from the American Association of SNAP Directors (AASD), the National Association for Program Information and Performance Measurement (NAPIPM), and the National Association of State TANF Administrators (NASTA).

Register for APHSA's Economic and Mobility Well-Being Conference HERE.

Resource: Career Pathways: A Strategy to Boost College Completion and Economic Mobility This MDRC report by Julie Strawn highlights strategies States can target to improve outcomes and earnings for participants using Career Pathway approaches. Career pathway programs are very often allowable E&T activities because they are directly connected to employment and offer essential basic and job skills. The report shares how workforce training best practices can pair with Career Pathway models to increase college completion rates and assist in reversing the job losses brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Read the full publication **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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