



Regulatory Reform at a Glance

USDA Improving Services to Provide More Participants the Dignity of Work

Proposed Rule: Employment and Training Opportunities in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

The Issue

In March, USDA/FNS will publish in the Federal Register the Proposed Rule entitled “Employment and Training Opportunities in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).” The rule makes a wide range of enhancements to the SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) program, which helps participants gain the skills and work experience necessary to move towards—and into—employment.

The Background

Congress established the SNAP E&T program in 1985, reflecting the recognition that long-term reliance on government benefits has never been the American Dream and every individual deserves the opportunity to experience the life-transforming dignity of work.

Administered by the States and territories through local providers, SNAP E&T transforms lives by helping participants gain the skills, training, or work experience they need to enter, reenter, or remain in the workforce. Program funding is flexible, allowing providers to tailor services and supports to the needs of participants and employers in the communities in which they live, and encouraging partnership with other workforce programs.

USDA provides over \$100 million each year for States to operate their E&T programs. If a State invests their own money—or includes outside funding from any non-federal source—to expand and enhance their E&T programs, the Federal Government will match those funds, dollar for dollar, without limit.

In the 2018 Farm Bill, Congress tasked USDA with bolstering the quality and accountability of SNAP E&T programs. Today’s proposed changes promote evidence-based practices and enhance accountability for both State agencies and E&T participants.



Daniel, a machinist, on the job after completing SNAP E&T training through GMT Corporation in Waverly, IA.

Summary of Changes

This rule proposes to better assist SNAP participants move toward and into work by ensuring States use evidence-based strategies to help participants get the skills local employers need most. At the same time, it empowers States to innovate, while holding them accountable for participant increases in work and earnings. Highlights include:



Strengthening participant support by ensuring each participant is assessed for abilities and challenges and ensuring participants are well-matched with their E&T activity.



Increasing the likelihood of participant success by allowing E&T funds to be used for subsidized employment, shifting efforts to proven strategies like apprenticeships, and requiring States that offer job retention services to provide them for at least 30 days.



Increasing coordination with the private sector through “workforce partnerships” by offering a streamlined means for businesses, not-for-profit, and other employers to provide employment and training opportunities to SNAP participants at no Federal cost.



Promoting better alignment with the needs of the labor market by requiring States to consult with local workforce development boards to ensure E&T services fit into the larger community strategy of helping people move toward work.



Providing additional opportunities by connecting participants with employment and training programs administered by the Departments of Labor and Veterans Affairs.

More Information

This rule will publish in the Federal Register and will be open for public comment for 60 days through www.Regulations.gov. USDA is committed to listening to and collaborating with customers, partners, and stakeholders to make these reforms as effective as possible, and encourages all those with an interest in SNAP, employment, and workforce development to comment on the proposal.