



Moving Forward to Improve SNAP E&T Data

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Agenda and Goals for Session

Goal

Participants will learn steps that FNS is taking to improve collection and provide transparency of E&T data

Agenda

- Assessment of SNAP E&T Data Reporting Project Background
- Project Recommendations
- FNS Action on Recommendations
- DATASET

Assessment of SNAP E&T Data Reporting Project

- Problem Statement: E&T Data is siloed, often incomplete and difficult to analyze to fully understand all inputs and outputs of SNAP E&T programs.



Summer of 2019 FNS contracted with Mathematica Policy Research to conduct a comprehensive assessment at the Federal and State levels to better understand SNAP E&T data systems and identify gaps.

Assessment project objectives

1. Identify and describe the current State and Federal systems that collect, validate, and analyze E&T data
2. Assess the current and future E&T data needs of National, Regional, and State staff
3. Recommend a plan to improve how National, Regional, and State staff collect and use data for E&T program improvement and reporting

Assessment project approach

Federal Assessment

- Establish understanding of current processes/systems for SNAP E&T and other Federal programs
- Needs and goals for additional data collection

State Assessment

- Assess State systems and processes for data collection, validation, and analysis processes;
- Identify States' current and future data needs

Additional Activities

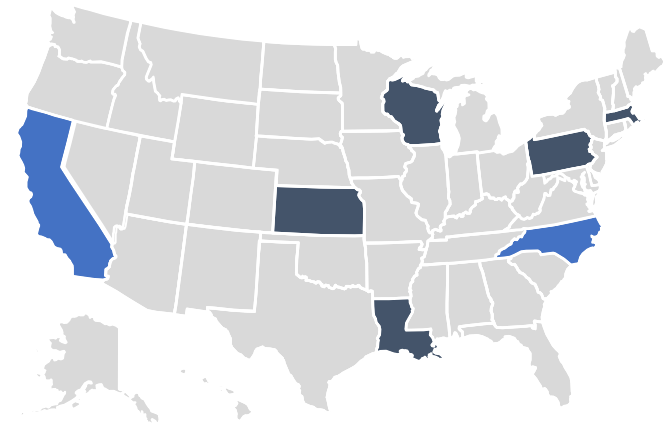
- Document review: provide context for data collection
- Process mapping: visual display each step in the E&T data process at all levels

Federal Assessment

- Conducted 10 meetings with FNS and other Federal agency staff
 - Included meetings with staff from Departments of Labor; Health & Human Services/Admin for Children and Families; Education and Housing and Urban Development
- Mix of group discussions, exploratory discussions, and working meetings
- Completed most meetings between September 2019 and August 2020

State assessment

- Seven States: State and County administered, and range of E&T population size and FNS Region
- Virtual interviews over a 3-to-5-day period
- Discussions with key staff in the State and providers
 - State SNAP directors, SNAP E&T policy staff, data systems and information technology (IT) staff, county office administrators, E&T providers, intermediaries, and staff responsible for data reporting



E&T Data Assessment Project Findings & Recommendations

Current data reporting processes

Data collected by States

- SNAP eligibility data
- SNAP E&T participation data
 - Both data from State agencies and providers
- Employment and wage data
 - Generally obtained through agreements with other agencies
- Could draw from integrated data systems but often use multiple
 - Eligibility data systems
 - SNAP E&T participation systems
 - Provider data systems

Challenges with SNAP E&T data collection, validation, and reporting

Availability and quality of data

- Data can be delayed, incomplete, or difficult to collect
- Standardizing and aligning collected data from multiple sources can be challenging
- Staff at all levels may have an inconsistent understanding of the required data

Reliability and quality of State data systems

- Data systems may not share information
- SNAP E&T component names may not align with language used by providers or in other programs in the State data systems
- Adjusting the processes for updated SNAP E&T requirements can be time-consuming

Validation

- Validation is staff and time intensive
- Staff roles in validation may not be clearly defined
- There is a lack of ability to address issues that arise

Recommendations to improve SNAP E&T data

Improve data systems

- Create a single, Federal system to collect SNAP E&T data in a consistent format
 - Features could include data collection; built-in validation; notification and tracking; and analysis and reporting
- Design the system based on identified goals and needs and collect feedback from users
 - Demonstrate the new system with States before official launch

Develop a data handbook

- Develop a data handbook that will provide a single, comprehensive, and detailed documentation of SNAP E&T reporting
 - Simplify reporting requirements and guidance
 - Provide more guidance on reporting time frames and cohorts in the annual report
 - Share how FNS uses data
- Reconcile definitions used across reporting data sources
- Improve the State SNAP E&T plan template

Encourage use of data for program improvement

- Get buy-in to the importance of collecting and providing quality data
- Help States understand the data lifecycle and the ways in which the data are connected
- Train and provide technical assistance to States on how to use data specifically for program improvement and sharing the benefits of doing so

Create more transparency around data

- Make the State SNAP E&T plans, FNS-583 form data, and annual reports publicly available and easily accessible
- Consider developing a short info sheet that describes how the three data sources are reviewed, processed, and used by Federal staff

Improve communication with and feedback from States

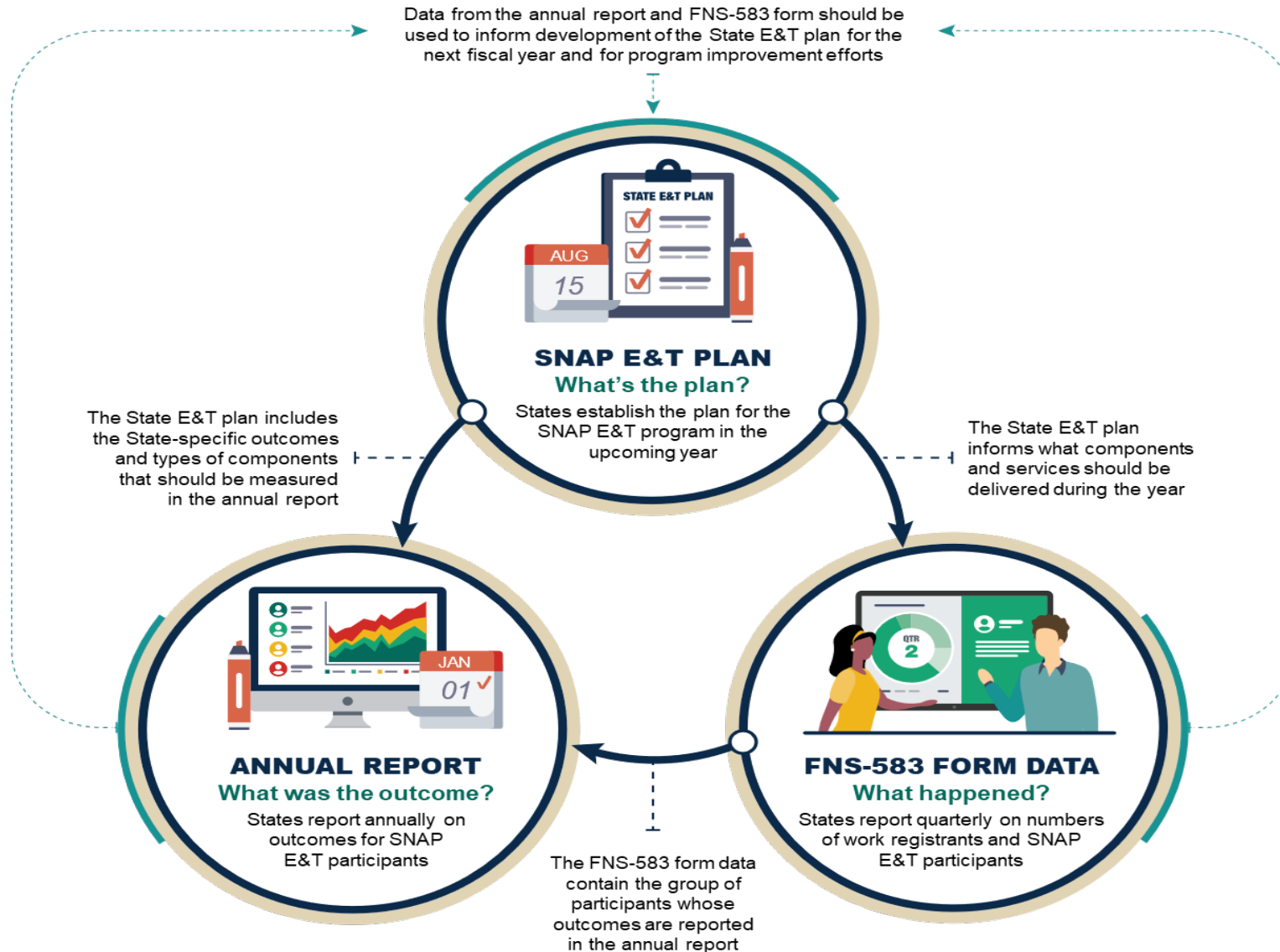
- Provide more targeted training for staff at all levels
- Create opportunities for States to provide feedback and to communicate with other States
 - Improve webinars
 - Facilitate cross-State collaboration

FNS Forward Progress to Improve SNAP E&T Data

FNS Response to Recommendations

- E&T Reporting Measures Final Rule (in OMB clearance)
- Data Analysis and Tracking Application for SNAP Employment and Training (DATASET)
 - Streamline reporting;
 - create transparency;
 - reports/analytics for FNS and States;
 - provide additional tools and resources
- Development of E&T Data Handbook for State Agencies
- E&T Data Grants

SNAP E&T Data Lifecycle



DATASET – States Homepage

https://dataset-test.fns.usda.gov/dataset/s/

An official website of the United States government Here's how you know

USDA Food and Nutrition Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Home All Forms Resources

DATASET
DATA ANALYSIS AND TRACKING APPLICATION FOR SNAP EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Pinned Forms

	Title ↑	Status	Operation	Version	Due Date
1	Annual Report CO FY26	Unsubmitted	Pending State Submission	History	04/15/2027
2	FNS-583 CO FY26 Q1	Unsubmitted	Pending State Submission	History	02/15/2026
3	FNS-583 CO FY26 Q2	Unsubmitted	Pending State Submission	History	05/15/2026
4	FNS-583 CO FY26 Q3	Unsubmitted	Pending State Submission	History	08/15/2026
5	FNS-583 CO FY26 Q4	Unsubmitted	Pending State Submission	History	11/15/2026
6	State Plan CO FY26	Unsubmitted	Pending State Submission	History	08/15/2025

Resources

All Forms

Accessing USDA FNS Forms

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://dataset-test.fns.usda.gov/dataset/s/all-forms>. The page header includes the USDA Food and Nutrition Service logo and the text "U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE". A navigation bar contains links for "Home", "All Forms", and "Resources". The main content area is titled "All Forms" and prompts the user to "Please select a Form Type below". A dropdown menu for "Form Type" is open, showing options: "Select an Option", "FNS-583", "State Plan", and "Annual Report". Below the dropdown is a table with columns: "Status", "Operation", "Version", and "Due Date".

USDA Food and Nutrition Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Home All Forms Resources

All Forms

Please select a Form Type below

Form Type

Select an Option

FNS-583

State Plan

Annual Report

Status	Operation	Version	Due Date
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USDA FNS SNAP E&T State Plan Introduction

Test Users for OET Only.docx

State Plan: State Plan CO FY26

https://dataset-test.fns.usda.gov/dataset/s/set-state-plan/a2BSK0000005taE2AQ/state-plan-co-fy26

HomeAll FormsResources

USDA FNS SNAP E&T State Plan

Export State Plan

State Name	State Code	Federal Fiscal Year	Form Status	Version
Colorado	CO	2026	Unsubmitted	Original Submission

SECTIONS

INTRODUCTION

AMENDMENT LOG

SUMMARY OF PROGRAM

PROGRAM CHANGES

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION WITH THE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

CONSULTATION WITH INDIAN TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS (ITOs)

UTILIZATION OF STATE OPTIONS

CHARACTERISTICS OF INDIVIDUALS SERVED BY E&T

ORGANIZATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

SCREENING FOR WORK REGISTRATION

SCREENING FOR REFERRAL TO E&T

INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE

The purpose of the State Plan is for a State to describe its E&T services and activities for the upcoming fiscal year. The regulations at 7 CFR 273.7(c)(6) outline the types of information the State agency must include in the E&T State Plan. The State agency is responsible and accountable for implementation of the E&T State Plan once it is approved. The State agency must make allowable cost determinations and monitor E&T partners and contractors to ensure funds are spent appropriately. The State agency is fully liable for repayment of Federal funds, should those costs later be determined unallowable. The State agency is responsible for providing clear direction and, as necessary, technical assistance to any subrecipient and contractors to ensure that all projects support the State's E&T goals and objectives, and to clarify which expenses are eligible for reimbursement through SNAP.

In accordance with 273.7(c)(6), a State agency's E&T State Plan must be available for public inspection at the State agency headquarters. State agencies are encouraged to post the E&T State Plans on a public website. State agencies should exclude personally identifiable information that cannot be shared under Federal or State requirements. After an E&T State Plan is approved, it becomes a part of the record of FNS transactions and will be made available to the public. Information that FNS determines to be of a confidential, privileged, or proprietary nature will be held in confidence to the extent permitted by law. Therefore, any information that the State agency wishes to have considered as confidential, privileged, or proprietary should be clearly marked within the E&T State Plan. Any drafts or unapproved versions of the E&T State Plan will be not released to the public.

For more information, refer to the E&T State Plan Handbook in the Resources section.

INSTRUCTIONS

The State Plan consists of narrative and budget sections that require users to respond with specific data, after which users are asked to review it comprehensively before certifying and submitting responses. All sections can be completed at a user's leisure by saving and returning to the plan as needed. It is recommended that users complete each section in the given sequence to avoid missing response fields or delivering inconsistent data. User responses that may need revision will be flagged in red to indicate errors. Once all errors are resolved, users be able to submit their responses to their FNS Regional office. Users will be able to reference their submission by exporting the State Plan as a PDF. If a State agency wishes to make changes to its approved E&T program, it must submit an amendment to its Regional Office at least 30 days before the planned implementation.

Continue

DATASET Implementation Plan

- Training on the system
 - 4 in-person Bi-Regional Trainings
 - Virtual trainings
- Focus groups – State feedback on system, suggestions for future enhancements and reports States would like to generate
- System will go live for States by April 30, 2025 for FY 2026
- Enhancements throughout FY 2026

DATASET In-Person Trainings

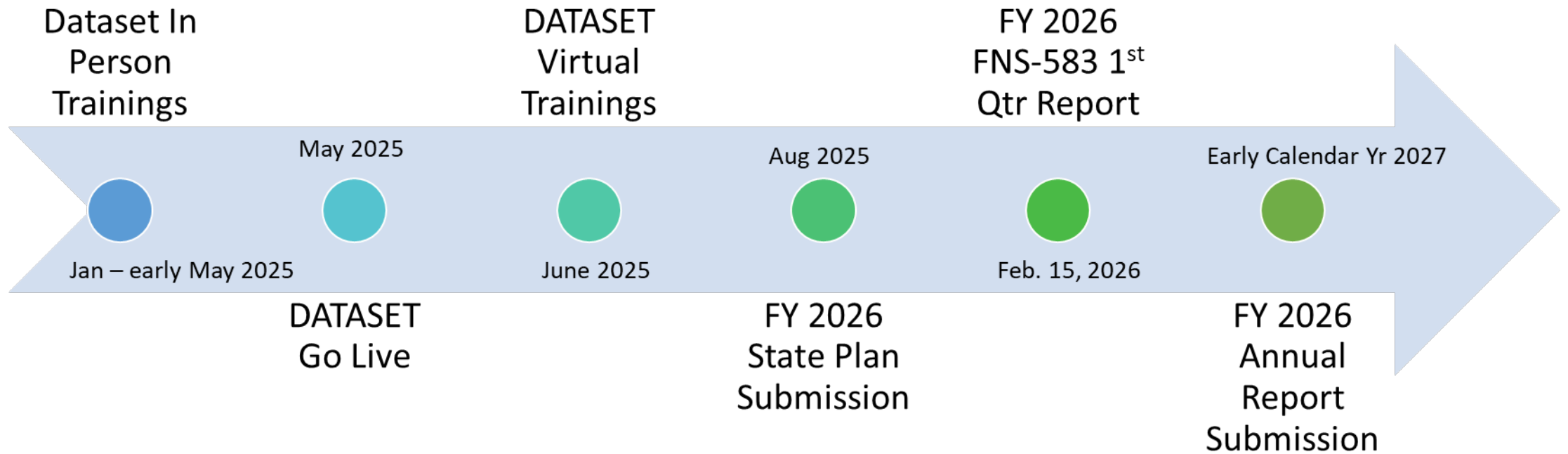
Purpose – Provide engaging and hands-on learning to smooth transition of data collection and reporting via DATASET

- 3 Bi-Regional Trainings & 1 Solo (MARO/NERO; MPRO/MWRO; SERO/SWRO; and WRO
 - Where: Major city in 1 of 2 Regions
 - When: TBD “Save the Dates” in early Nov. 2024
- What: Combination of hands-on use of DATASET and use of data for program improvement.
 - Who: SNAP State agency staff responsible for State Plans, FNS-583 and Annual Reports
 - State exchange funds for up to 4 State agency staff/per State

DATASET Virtual Trainings

- Follows the completion of the in-person trainings.
- Will be available for wider audience
- Up to four 2-hour sessions based on topics (i.e. FNS-583, etc.)
- Will be available on FNS website for future reference.

DATASET Timeline



Note: Current procedures for reporting FNS-583 and Annual Report will continue for FY 2025

Watch List



- E&T Reporting Measures Final Rule
- Early November – Email Notifications of “Save the Dates” for DATASET In-Person Trainings

SAVE THE DATES!

2025 SNAP EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING STATE ACADEMY

JUNE 4 & 5, 2025 | ALEXANDRIA, VA

**Learn how to succeed in the
SNAP E&T financial lifecycle:**

- » Plan
- » Budget
- » Spend
- » Track
- » Support

Call for State Applications coming December 2024!

Q&A



We want to hear from you!

Provide feedback on this session by scanning the QR code and filling out the survey



QR: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/F6HFLHH>