



Partnerships with Advocates and Employers to Strengthen SNAP E&T Programs

OCTOBER 29-30, 2024 | TYSONS CORNER, VA



Session Panelists

- Rachel Cahill - Visiting Fellow, The Center for Community Solutions
- Caitlin Cook - Director of Advocacy and Public Policy, Mountaineer Food Bank
- Ashley Puffenbarger - Program Manager, West Virginia Department of Human Services
- Carol Phillips - Chief Executive Officer, West Virginia Women Work
- Melinda Kowalski - Assistant Director, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

Overview

- Who are “advocates” and what do they do?
- Benefits of partnerships with advocates
- Similarities between advocate and employer engagement

Best practices for...

- ✓ Building productive relationships
- ✓ Aligning on shared goals
- ✓ Working through conflict (if it emerges)



SNAP E&T Redesign in Ohio

Background

The redesign of the SNAP E&T program is based on direction from:

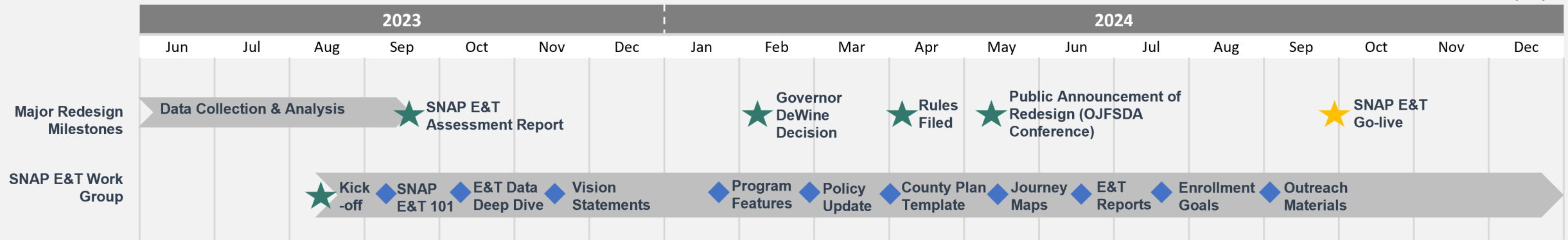
- The General Assembly has required Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) to redesign SNAP E&T to meet the needs of employers.
- The US Department of Agriculture has informed ODJFS that due to program design, Ohio has the worst SNAP E&T outcomes in the Midwest, and the state must significantly change the program or lose funding.

SNAP E&T

The SNAP E&T Program helps SNAP households gain skills, training, work, or experience that will increase self-sufficiency and help participants move into better jobs.

OHIO'S SNAP E&T REDESIGN WORK GROUP TIMELINE

★ Milestone ◆ Sample Work Group Topics



SNAP E&T Redesign Workgroup Members

SNAP E&T WORK GROUP MEMBERS

ODJFS and County Agencies	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nine (9) County Departments of Job and Family Services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allen Clark Cuyahoga Green Licking Meigs Stark Summit Wood

Employers, Advocates, and Interested Parties	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Columbus Legal Aid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Center for Community Solutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> County Commissioners' Association 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> C-TEC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ohio Chamber of Commerce
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Harvest Consulting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ohio Workforce Association
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Napier Trucking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ohio Job and Family Services Directors Association (OJFSDA)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Bridge Cleveland 	

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Employment and Training (E&T) Program Redesign

Work Group Recommendations



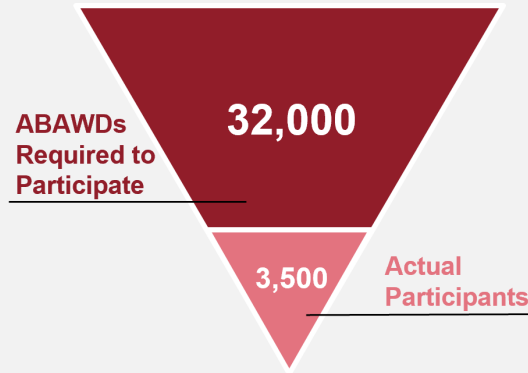
ODJFS convened a work group to hear directly from employers and stakeholders.

The three core recommendations of the work group are:

- 1 Operate a voluntary program that gives **priority of service to unemployed ABAWDs who opt to enroll** and need help finding and keeping a job.
- 2 Focus on **helping people become work-ready and understand basic job etiquette** as employers have been reluctant to work with the SNAP E&T program as it is currently structured.
- 3 Make it possible for **more than just ABAWDs to have the opportunity to participate** through a voluntary program.

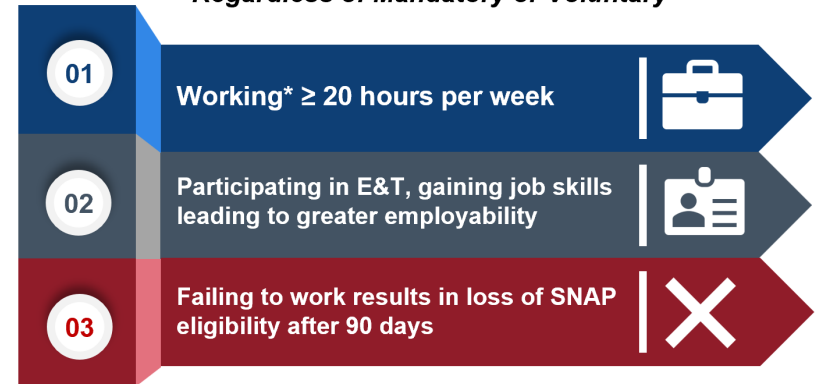
Current State

Monthly SNAP E&T Participation Averages During FFY 2022



Meeting the ABAWD Work Requirement

ABAWD Work Requirement
Regardless of Mandatory or Voluntary



*SNAP E&T is *a way* but not *the only way* to meet the work requirement!

SNAP E&T Partnerships in West Virginia

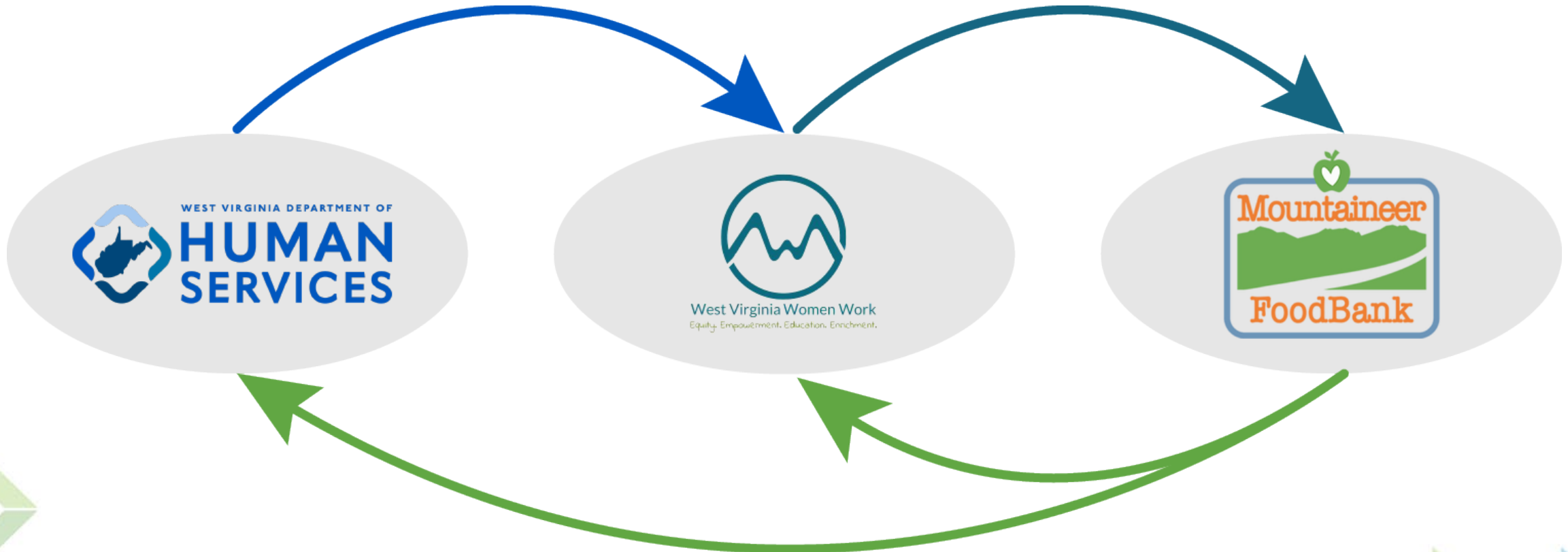
Partnership Overview

- **West Virginia DHS** operates a successful [Voluntary SNAP E&T program](#)
- One successful SNAP E&T provider is [West Virginia Women Work](#), who runs a Construction Pre-Apprenticeship training that provides clients with job-ready credentials (e.g. forklift certification) and hands-on training through real-world projects
- [Mountaineer Food Bank](#) offers support services and volunteer opportunities to WVWW students and DHS clients; Also makes referrals to SNAP E&T opportunities



SNAP E&T Partnerships in West Virginia

- Benefits of partnership in West Virginia's SNAP E&T program:



SNAP E&T Partnerships in West Virginia

Partnerships in Action – 2024 Legislative Session

- Role of advocates and employers to educate lawmakers about the strengths of WV's current SNAP E&T model



Thank you!

For more information or follow up questions please contact:

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