

Colorado's Section 20 Workfare Program



Colorado Department
of Human Services
(CDHS)

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Colorado Department
of Human Services
people who help people

SNAP and SNAP E&T in Colorado

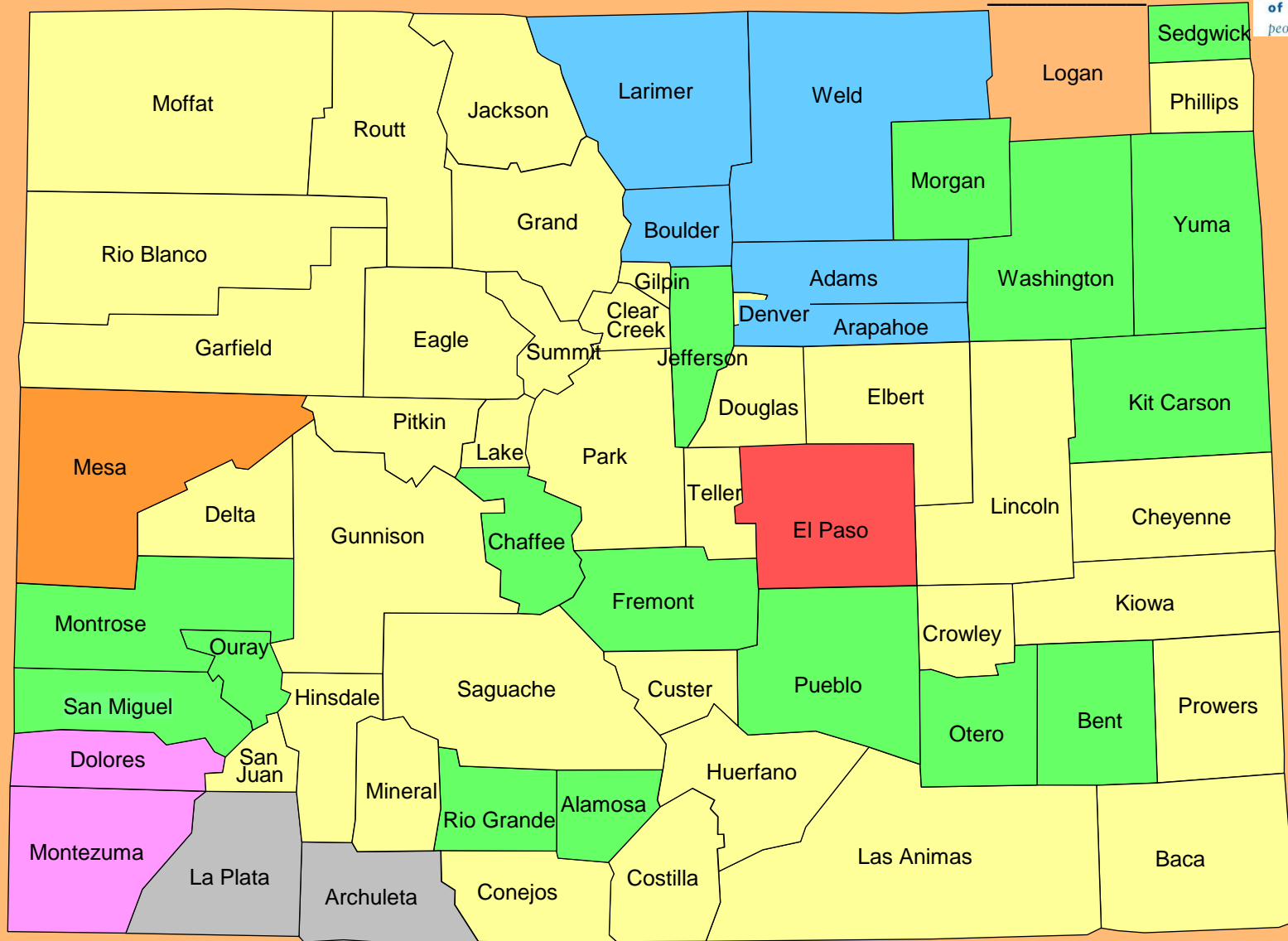
FFY 2013

- State Population 5,187,582
- SNAP recipients statewide 506,889
- Mandatory work registrants 93,407 (17% of total recipients)
- Number of active SNAP E&T participants: 24,359

SNAP E&T

- Operating continuously since 1983
- Called “Employment First” in Colorado
- State Supervised and County administered
- Currently in 27 out of 64 counties including 10 most populous

Colorado Employment First FFY 2014



- Workforce Center
- County Social Services
- Goodwill
- Training Advantage
- Department of Labor
- Hilltop
- Non- E & T

Section 20 Workfare

§273.22 , Title 7 Federal Regulations



“The primary goal of workfare is to improve employability and enable individuals to move into regular employment.”

Background

- ◆ 1992 - Colorado started Section 20 Workfare as a pilot in 1 county
- ◆ 1998 - Expanded to 7 counties
- ◆ 2002 - Mandatory for all counties with SNAP E&T (43 counties)
- ◆ 2013 – SNAP E&T with Section 20 Workfare in 27 counties

Funding

- ◆ Colorado SNAP E&T Program expended \$7.8 million in 2013
- ◆ \$2 million of that total was for Section 20 Workfare
- ◆ Colorado averages \$1.5 million annually in enhanced funding

Section 20 Workfare Data – FFY 2013

- 30% of the 93,407 SNAP E&T population participated in Section 20 Workfare
- 878,902 total hours worked at worksites
- 4,850 jobs reported
- \$9.33 average wage
- \$1,767,237 earned in enhanced funding
- 4,295 sanctions imposed

Section 20 Workfare

- Independent of the SNAP E&T program
- Separate Workfare State Plan submitted to FNS
- Can include TANF and UI recipients as mandatory participants
- Operated only by public or private nonprofit entity (e.g. county office, Department of Labor, Goodwill Industries)

Section 20 Workfare (cont.)

- Involves tracking jobs and changes in allotment
- Specific requirements for documentation and record keeping
- FNS reimburses only 50 percent of agency's administrative costs (100% federal funds cannot be used for this purpose)
- Earns Enhanced Funding

What is Enhanced Funding?

- The share of the benefit reduction is three times the difference divided by two

Formula: 1.5 x reduction or elimination of food assistance







Example:

\$200 reduction x 1.5 = \$300 enhanced funding



Joining

E & T and Section 20 Workfare Together

-  Each serves the SNAP population
-  Each has a goal of Employment
-  Both support voluntary work as a strategy
-  Both are FNS monitored through State Plans
-  State and Counties front costs to build and maintain the program's infrastructure
-  Enhanced funding is an incentive to continue to invest in program operation

Starting a Section 20 Workfare Program

- Worksites and required forms developed
- Participants placed on worksites
- Initial SNAP allotments recorded
- Participation monitored monthly
- When participant leaves Workfare, job info is recorded if start date within 30 days
- SNAP benefits monitored to capture reduction
- Enhanced Funding up to six months later

Required Workfare hours per month

$$\frac{\text{Entire household allotment}}{\text{State minimum wage}} = \text{required hours}$$

Example:

$$\$200 / \$8.00^* = 25 \text{ hours each month}$$

$$\$367 / \$8.00^* = 46 \text{ hours each month}$$

*Note: Colorado's minimum wage is \$8.00. The denominator must either be the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 or the state's minimum wage, whichever is the higher of the two.

Benefits for Participants

- ❖ Employment networking opportunities
- ❖ Gain experience, enhance current skills
- ❖ Current employer reference
- ❖ Involves individual in the community
- ❖ Employers prefer to hire those already working
- ❖ Work experience can make up for a lack of education

Agency Benefits

- ❖ Individuals in frequent contact with SNAP E&T are more likely to report changes affecting their SNAP case, including employment.
- ❖ Enhanced funding provides an incentive to operate an effective Workfare Program.
- ❖ Section 20 Workfare is an efficient way to serve high numbers of individuals

Community Benefits

- ❖ Individuals contribute to community services in exchange for the benefits they receive.
- ❖ Public and private nonprofit agencies benefit through numerous hours of volunteer time.
- ❖ Individuals on assistance move to employment more quickly.

Questions?

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