

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Quick Hits and Updates

June 2022

Hill Updates

The (Major) Issues

Eligibility: Traditional, categorical, non-citizen, felons

Work: Requirements, E&T

Quality Control: Error rates, NAC, retailers

Block Grants: Puerto Rico, CNMI, American Samoa

Pandemic Response: EAs, waivers, spending

Nutrition Education: Nutrition and health outcomes

2023 Farm Bill: Cost, policy, and political constraints

A few things about work...

Bills have been introduced to reinstate work requirements in SNAP, and introduce work requirements to Medicaid.

Advocates for expanded eligibility and spending in SNAP are calling for the elimination of the ABAWD time limit and voluntary-only E&T.

The general work requirement (18-59, register for work, accept a suitable job, do not voluntarily quit or reduce hours) is not widely enforced.

Are there opportunities to talk more about reemploying America, and craft a message about the value of work versus the requirement of it?

How can States help?

There are more jobs than jobless people in more than 40 states, so without Federal permission:

1. Require all ABAWDs to participate in an E&T program.
2. Make E&T assignments mandatory for all work registrants.

Able-Bodied Adult Without Dependents (ABAWD) Time Limit

An ABAWD is a person between the ages of 18 and 49 who has no dependents and is not disabled.

ABAWDs can only get SNAP for three months in three years if they do not meet certain special work requirements. **This is called the time limit.**

To be eligible beyond the time limit, an ABAWD must work at least 80 hours per month, participate in qualifying education and training activities at least 80 hours per month, or comply with a workfare program.

Another way to fulfill the ABAWD work requirement is through a SNAP E&T program.

The time limit does not apply to people who are unable to work due to physical or mental health reasons, pregnant, care for a child or incapacitated family member, or are exempt from the general work requirements.

The law also provides that States may qualify to temporarily waive the three-month time limit in areas with high unemployment or depressed labor markets.

Until the Federal government declares an end to the public health emergency, states cannot apply the time limit to an ABAWD unless the individual is not complying with a work program or workfare program offered by the state that meets standards of section 6(o)(2)(B) or (C).

SNAP Employment and Training (E&T)

The SNAP E&T program helps SNAP participants gain skills and find work that moves them forward to self-sufficiency. These programs also help to reduce barriers to work by providing support services – such as transportation and childcare – as participants prepare for and obtain employment.

Each state is required to operate a SNAP E&T program and receives federal funding annually to operate and administer the program.

In FY 2020, states received a total of \$111,760,173 in E&T 100% allocations and spent \$103,270,315 of those allocations (92%).

Twelve states received ABAWD pledge funding totaling \$20 million, however only \$16,129,407 was used (80%).

Total E&T 50% grant expenditures were \$245,898,174.

To date, only nine states mandate E&T participation: Florida, Idaho, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Texas, and Utah.

Among these states, Florida, Mississippi, and Ohio only require ABAWDs to participate in an E&T program, rather than all work registrants.

Are work requirements merely a work suggestion?

Final Report re: 2014 E&T Pilots

The Agricultural Act of 2014 authorized \$200 million for the development, implementation, and evaluation of pilot projects to test innovative strategies to reduce dependency on and increase employment among SNAP participants.

California, Delaware, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Illinois, Mississippi, Vermont, Virginia and Washington received grants in March 2015 and began implementing their pilots between January and April 2016. All grantees concluded pilot services by April 2019.

The May 2022 final summary report presents employment, earnings, SNAP participation, and other outcome findings that cover a 36-month period for individuals enrolled in the pilots by December 2017.

Key findings include:

- Earnings increased in three pilots and employment increased in five pilots for the treatment group compared to the control group.

- An increase in employment did not mean that earnings increased.

- Pilots generally did not decrease SNAP participation or improve food security.

- The cost of pilot services outweighed benefits in most pilots.

Three issue briefs present cross-pilot findings on SNAP E&T program administration and recruitment strategies.

Key findings include:

- SNAP agencies must take ownership of their E&T programs and provide oversight to ensure proper implementation of policies and procedures by partners and providers.

- Recruiting SNAP participants into E&T programs requires a multifaceted approach.

Title IV
Spending

\$1,100,000,000,000

(over 10 years)