Implementing the SNAP Pilot Projects to Reduce Dependency and Increase Work Levels

April 10, 2014
Exempt vs. Non-Exempt

- Not expected to work (children, elderly, disabled): 68%
- Currently employed: 19%
- Not currently employed: 13%

Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities © Douglas J. Besharov 2014
Who is Exempt?

- Children under 18: 45%
- Non-working parent caring for a child under age 6 in a household with a worker: 2%
- Adult caring for a disabled person: 2%
- Elderly (age 60 or over): 8%
- Non-elderly adults who are disabled: 11%

Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
Welfare’s Growth and Decline

Millions of families


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What Caused Welfare’s Decline?

- Other
- Economy
- Welfare reform

CEA 97 (93-96)
Zilak et. al. 00 (26 states only, 93-96)
Figlio & Ziliak 99 (93-96)
Wallace & Blank 99 (94-96)
Moffitt 99 (93-96)
CEA 99 (93-96)
Wallace & Blank 99 (94-98)
CEA 99 (96-98)
O’Neill & Hill 01 (96-99)

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## Job Search vs. Workforce Development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Short-term effects (1-2 years)</th>
<th>Longer-term effects (4-5 years)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Job Search</strong></td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Workforce Development</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Note: Comparisons are between intervention groups.
Conclusions
(James Riccio, MDRC)

• No miracles, but w-t-w programs can make important difference

• More evidence of success in increasing job entry than in promoting advancement; limited staff capacity on advancement

• Little added value of mandatory “education-first” approach

• Incentives can increase employment, though effects may not last; better when combined with services

• Re-think how to approach training: Generic guidance by itself shows little promise. Sector-strategies promising for skills-building

• Targeting matters: Important variation in effects by subgroup

• Consider connections across transfer programs: Work interventions for housing voucher recipients may be a way to help part of the SNAP caseload