

job placement services, or other direct training or support activities.

Job search training requires a greater amount of resources than job search because of the administrative effort required to run job clubs, job placement services and training activities.

PENNSYLVANIA runs a job search training component that prepares participants for job search by teaching interview techniques, resume writing, workplace etiquette and employer expectations. Additional activities include job clubs, workshops and seminars. These services are offered through Pennsylvania's local County Assistance Offices or its E&T partner agencies.

Workfare



Workfare is a component in which SNAP recipients are required to work off the value of their household's monthly SNAP allotment through an assignment at a private or public non-profit agency as a condition of eligibility. In lieu of wages, workfare participants receive compensation in the form of their household's monthly benefit allotment. The primary goal of workfare is to improve employability and encourage individuals to move into regular employment while returning something of value to the community. Workfare assignments cannot replace or prevent the employment of regular employees. Workfare assignments must provide the same benefits and working conditions provided to regular employees performing comparable work for comparable hours.

In FY2012,
14
States operated a
workfare
component.

The TEXAS WORKFORCE AGENCY runs the State's E&T program and has oversight of the E&T workfare component. E&T services are administered by 28 local Workforce Development Boards. Texas uses the workfare component to keep nonexempt Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWDs) eligible for SNAP benefits in lieu of a State-wide waiver of the time-limit restriction. Workfare placements are offered jobs with public and non-profit entities, including community-based organizations. Local workforce boards work with SNAP clients and local businesses to ensure that clients gain valuable work experience and that local workforce needs are met.



ABAWDs can also elect to participate in self-initiated workfare to fulfill their work requirement if this is a State option. In a self-initiated workfare program, ABAWDs voluntarily participate and find their own workfare job assignments to remain eligible for SNAP. Under this option, the ABAWD is responsible for arranging to have his/her participation reported to the caseworkers and for verifying workfare hours. State agencies may use a range of SNAP allotments and corresponding fixed participation hours in lieu of requiring each participant to work the number

of hours equal to the monthly household allotment divided by the higher of the applicable Federal or State minimum wage. Very few States offer this option.

Work Experience

The work experience component is designed to improve the employability of participants through actual work experience and/or training. The goal of this experience is to enable participants to move into regular employment. In contrast to the workfare component, work experience placements can be with private, for-profit companies. Work experience assignments may not replace the employment of a regularly employed individual, and they must provide the same benefits and working conditions provided to regularly employed individuals performing similar work for equal hours. State agencies can place E&T participants in work experience positions with private sector entities. However, households that include work experience participants must not be required to work more hours monthly than the total obtained by dividing the household’s monthly SNAP allotment by the higher of the applicable Federal or

In FY2012,
18
States included work experience as an E&T component.

State minimum wage. Depending on the amount of the household’s monthly SNAP allotment, mandatory E&T participants can be required to work up to 30 hours per week, and the individual’s total hours of participation in both work and non–work components is limited to 120 hours per month.

Approximately half of all E&T participants in the State of **NEW YORK** participate in a work experience component. New York E&T participants in the work experience component are assigned to public and private nonprofit agencies. Work experience placements include unpaid internships that are a part of non-graduate school curriculum. These work experience placements serve a useful public purpose and do not result in displacement of currently employed workers. New York is an ABAWD pledge State and uses work experience placements to help at-risk ABAWDs gain valuable work skills while remaining eligible for SNAP benefits in lieu of a State-wide waiver of the time-limit restrictions.

Education

The education component includes a wide range of activities that improve basic skills and the employability of SNAP participants.