

June 2017 Update

Quarterly stakeholders, partners webinar summary

Minnesota labor market information and trends presentation

An hour and a half webinar with approximately 60 in attendance. The key presentation was an overview of labor market information presented by Luke Greiner, regional labor market analyst, Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED). Stakeholders and partners were informed about labor market information available, where to access it on DEED's website, and using this information in the planning and building of jobs-driven employment and training programs in response to local workforce needs.

Greiner shared contact information on DEED's regional analysts, an overview of Minnesota's economy, historic and current labor force data, unemployment and jobseekers trends, employment disparities and employment projections. He also share several useful planning tools available on DEED's website. A copy of the presentation, DEED's regional analyst contacts and labor market information resources are attached.

Workgroup updates

As shared in previous meetings and updates, there are five SNAP Employment and Training workgroups assisting in the first year implementation of the expansion. An update was presented at the June 1 meeting with a summary presented below.

Workgroup 1: SNAP Employment and Training Coordination

Purpose: Providing recommendations on employment and training coordination, and integration of contracted community-based organizations with counties as SNAP Employment and Training expands.

Contact: Barnabas Birkeland, team lead; barnabas.birkeland@hennepin.us

Update: The SNAP Employment and Training coordination workgroup has met four times in the past two months, putting together the SNAP Employment and Training Quick-start Guide. A broad group of stakeholders, the group includes members of DHS, DEED, counties, and current and prospective SNAP Employment and Training providers. The Quick-start Guide will

- Clarify the roles and responsibilities of different organizations throughout the SNAP Employment and Training process
- Provide prospective SNAP Employment and Training providers with a comprehensive overview of what it takes to provide employment and training services.

As of June 1, 2017, the workgroup has the first working draft of a guide that will be shared and eventually available on DHS' website, updated and modified as needed.

Although the guide is closed to being finished, the workgroup will continue to meet to work on other assignments, including:

- A Tips for Success document
- Suggestions for a Frequently Asked Questions webpage
- Recommendations for improving SNAP Employment and Training administration
- Participating in and informing the onboarding of new SNAP Employment and Training providers.

The workgroup has begun building key relationships across organizational lines, fundamental to successfully coordinating in the administration of SNAP Employment and Training going forward.

Workgroup 2: Policy and Procedures

Purpose: Create a SNAP Employment and Training provider handbook, revise the manual and develop a new training curriculum for contracted providers.

Contact: Andrea McConnell, team lead; andrea.mcconnell@state.mn.us

Update: The Policy and Procedures Workgroup is currently reviewing a draft of the handbook, making suggestions and volunteering help with various sections. There are 17 individuals in this workgroup, from across the state. After the handbook is complete, they will begin work on the SNAP Employment and Training Policy Manual.

Workgroup 3: Outreach and Marketing

Purpose: Recommend and develop outreach and marketing products to reach and engage a range of potential SNAP recipients.

Contacts: Julie Brekke, team co-lead, julie.brekke@hired.org; Ashley Snyder, team co-lead, ashley.snyder@state.mn.us

Update: The Marketing and Outreach workgroup will be convening its first meeting in June, with representatives from the Twin Cities and one greater Minnesota representative. Ashley Snyder, DHS, will be joining Julie Brekke, Hired, as workgroup co-convenor. In addition to exploring a dense range of creative concepts from our initial meeting, the workgroup will research what has, and has not been, effective in other states who have marketed SNAP Employment and Training.

Workgroup 4: State reporting measures

Purpose: Recommend an outline for the first state report on the SNAP Employment and Training expansion for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2017, and identify measures that will address

- How well the SNAP Employment and Training program expansion is working
- How well participants are being served.

Contacts: Brian Paulson, team co-lead, bpaulson@pohladfoundation.org; Erika Martin, team co-lead; erika.martin@state.mn.us

Update: The first Performance Management Workgroup meeting was held May 17, 2017, at the Roseville Public Library, with a goal of operationalizing the SNAP Employment and Training program strategic plan. Workgroup members provided a wide-range of subject matter expertise and represented non-profit organizations, a

community college, county and state government, as well as a philanthropic foundation. Meeting activities included a review of preliminary documents, a facilitated results-based accountability session, and a gallery walk. The workgroup identified 10 measures in addition to those required by the federal Food and Nutrition Service for further review and discussion. The workgroup is working to ensure that all goals of the strategic plan are measured, and that the SNAP Employment and Training program will have measures that answer the questions posed by results-based accountability:

- How much did we do?
- How well did we do it?
- Are clients better off?

The next session will be spent aligning and operationalizing measures. The operationalization process will include refining the measures, determining sources of data collection, and determining how often, and for which sub-categories, the measures should be reported. The workgroup intends to have recommendations for performance measurement to the steering committee by the end of June.

Workgroup 5: Workforce One (WF1)/MAXIS systems

Purpose: Align Workforce One and MAXIS so the two systems support SNAP Employment and Training's current and future expansion.

Contact: Lynn Dahn, team lead, lynn.dahn@state.mn.us

Update: Lynn will be sending an invitation for the group to meet.

State updates

Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS)

- **Request for Proposal (RFP) update:** The first cohort of additional third-party providers have been selected. DHS will inform stakeholders when the next round of RFPs will be open for contracts to begin in 2018 (updated 9-07-2017).
- **Legislative update:** Legislation moving Minnesota from a mandatory to a voluntary state did not progress forward this session. The department will continue to push for this change in 2018.
- **Website:** The SNAP Employment and Training website is now live. The website will be a central point for providers and partners to access a range of SNAP Employment and Training information. It will continue to be updated as the program expands. [SNAP E&T website](#)
- County local area plan for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2018 is currently under development to meet an August deadline.

Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED)

- Seventeen equity grantees (agencies) will begin the 50 percent reimbursement process with DEED as the intermediary. It is projected that approximately 600 participants will be served. The agencies will spend about \$2 million, seeking \$1 million in federal reimbursements.
- Eleven of the 17 agencies have MAXIS access and will be able to identify program participation, DEED will identify participation for the six agencies that do not have MAXIS access, and verify participation and allowable expenditures for all grantees.

- **Jobs Bill passed:** Approximately \$60 million to workforce development organizations. DEED plans to reach out to direct appropriation organizations that are not working with DEED, the department or Hennepin County on 50 percent reimbursement. DEED is looking to have discussions to explore the possibilities of leveraging 50 percent federal reimbursement funds and how this could work with the department.

Next steps

- The next SNAP Employment and Training stakeholders, partners quarterly meeting WEBINAR is scheduled for Sept. 28, 2017, from 1-2:30 p.m. This is a change from previous updates. Please mark your calendars (Updated 9-07-2017).
- **Tribal Employment Initiative:** The department is working with Minnesota's tribal nations to plan for SNAP Employment and Training.
- **Onboarding and training new grantees:** The department will work with the first cohort of additional providers to onboard, anticipating a contract will be in place by July 2017.
- Preparing Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2018 SNAP Employment and Training state plan for submission to Food and Nutrition Service in August 2017.
- **SNAP to Skills Project (S2S):** Preparing for Food and Nutrition Service and Seattle Jobs Initiative (SJI) site visit June 26-28 and wrapping up S2S in September 2017.
- If you would like to connect with the SNAP E&T Team, please email DHS.SNAPET@state.mn.us.

Links to other resources

SNAP to Skills Policy Briefs

Building an Employer-Driven SNAP E&T Program by utilizing Labor Market Information
[SNAP to skills policy brief](#)

Integrating SNAP E&T into Career Pathway Systems to Boost Outcomes
[More information on how to integrate SNAP E&T into Career Pathway Systems](#)

Employment Strategies Evidence Review

This publication provides research on approaches to improve employment-related outcomes of low-income individuals. Browse the ACF webpage for resources
[ACF webpage for resources on employment strategies evidence review](#)

Attachments

- Quarterly Stakeholders Meeting PowerPoint
- Labor Market Information Presentation PowerPoint
- Labor Market Information Resources Available at DEED
- DEED Regional Analysts Contact Information