



## March 2019 update

**State institute:** Minnesota was chosen to participate in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service **Winter 2019 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training (SNAP E&T) State Institute, *Taking SNAP E&T to Scale*** on March 12-14, 2019. The Winter 2019 SNAP E&T State Institute was focused on SNAP E&T program operations topics to assist states in growing and improving their programs. Minnesota's focus was on employer engagement, and developing strategies to address this 2019 strategic plan goal. A survey of community-based providers on their current employer engagement practices helped provide insight to the team as they refined the action steps that the Minnesota Department of Human Services will take.

**SNAP E&T manual:** Minnesota Department of Human Services SNAP E&T staff are currently working on updating the manual and anticipated release is spring 2019.

**Provider Handbook:** The [Minnesota SNAP Employment and Training Provider Handbook](#) was recently updated and can be accessed on the [state's SNAP E&T website](#). The Provider Handbook will be updated on an ongoing basis and providers will be alerted when those changes are posted.

**Additional federal funding:** Minnesota requested additional funding from Food and Nutrition Services for Federal Fiscal Year 2019 and was awarded \$1,535,000. These funds will be distributed to counties and used to increase capacity at the state level. The department plans to hire a SNAP E&T supervisor in the coming months.

**Orientation video:** The video has been removed from YouTube and can no longer be accessed from the SNAP E&T website. It is being updated to reflect policy changes as a result of the state transition from mandatory to voluntary (see [September 2018 update](#) and [December 2018 update](#) for more information on this change). The updated video will have a dual purpose and can be used for orientation as well as marketing purposes.