

## September 2018 update

**New providers:** The Minnesota Department of Human Services has finalized the contracting process with nine new community-based organizations for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Employment and Training services. This increases the number of department-contracted providers to 17. The new providers and the primary counties they anticipate serving are as follows:

- **Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Area:** Carlton, Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Itasca, Koochiching and Aitkin counties; Cass County (adult education services only)
- **American Indian OIC:** Hennepin, Anoka, Cass, Chisago, Dakota, Ramsey and Washington counties
- **CAPI:** Hennepin and Ramsey counties
- **Comunidades Latinas Unidas en Servicio (CLUES):** Hennepin, Anoka, Cass, Chisago, Dakota, Ramsey and Washington counties
- **Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services:** Kanabec, McLeod, Meeker, Renville, Sherburne and Wright counties
- **Hmong American Partnership:** Hennepin, Anoka, Cass, Chisago, Dakota, Ramsey and Washington counties
- **Minnesota Valley Action Council:** Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, LeSueur, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Waseca and Watonwan counties; under a Support Service Competitive Grant, Minnesota Valley Action Council also serves Big Stone, Chippewa, Cottonwood, Dodge, Jackson, Lac Qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Rock, Steele, Swift and Yellow Medicine counties
- **Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council:** Big Stone, Chippewa, Lac qui Parle, Swift, Yellow Medicine, Lincoln, Lyon, Pipestone, Redwood, Cottonwood, Jackson, Murray, Nobles and Rock counties; under the new On-Ramp Pathways to Prosperity Competitive Grant, Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council also serves Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, LeSueur, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Waseca and Watonwan counties
- **Tri-County Action Program:** Stearns, Benton and Sherburne counties

**Mandatory to voluntary:** Minnesota officials have made the decision to move from a mandatory SNAP Employment and Training program to an all-voluntary program. This change will exempt all work registrants, including able-bodied adults without dependents, from mandatory participation in SNAP Employment and Training. Unless an able-bodied adult without children meets work provisions, regains eligibility or meets a work registration exemption, they will still be eligible for SNAP for only three months in any 36-month period. Case workers will continue to refer these time-limited able-bodied adults without dependents to SNAP Employment and Training, but participation will no longer be mandatory and sanctions for failure to comply will not be allowed. The Minnesota Department of Human Services is working to implement this change as quickly as possible, and has projected a begin date of Dec. 1, 2018.

**More information to follow; the department has notified counties that sanctions should be applied as usual until further notice.**

**Operating budget for 2019:** Minnesota received \$1,032,795 in 100 percent federal funds for Federal Fiscal Year 2019 to provide SNAP Employment and Training Services. Of this, \$690,000 will be allocated to counties for the operation of their SNAP Employment and Training programs.

Minnesota's 50 percent reimbursement goal this year is \$5,160,737, bearing a total expense of \$10,321,474 in non-federal dollars. Of this, counties (seven local areas) plan to spend \$1,383,041; third-party providers plan to spend \$6,768,314; and the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development plans to spend \$2,170,120.

Minnesota is currently awaiting approval from Food and Nutrition Services for the annual SNAP Employment and Training state plan and budget.