Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Employment and Training program

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Employment and Training program provides employment, training and support services for people who are receiving SNAP. It helps recipients participate in training to gain skills and experience that will increase their employment and earnings and reduce their need for assistance. Services include job searches, work experience and skills development training. States are required by law to operate a SNAP Employment and Training program. The Minnesota Department of Human Services, working with partners across the state, is currently expanding this program to serve more Minnesotans in need.

Why is SNAP Employment and Training important?

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Employment and Training program is part of Minnesota’s education and training toolbox, filling the gap left by many traditional workforce programs. This program reaches workers with low education and skills, helping them gain the skills employers are seeking. As participants gain skills, they can move into stable, gainful employment that pays a living wage and reduces their dependence on public assistance. The Minnesota Department of Human Services oversees this program.

The goal is for Minnesotans with low incomes to access clear pathways to develop marketable and in-demand skills leading to career advancement and self-sufficiency.

Who are we impacting?

In federal fiscal year 2017, almost 621,000 Minnesotans — about 11 percent of the state’s population — received SNAP benefits. Of those, 70 percent are children, seniors and people with disabilities. The department estimates that more than 200,000 Minnesotans could potentially benefit from SNAP Employment and Training services as the program is expanded.

All recipients — especially able-bodied adults without children — could potentially benefit from expansion of this program. It focuses on maintaining benefits while developing occupational skills development to obtain employment and career advancement. The Minnesota Department of Human Services will work with partners to engage employers to align their services and skills training with local needs, and to match qualified workers with employers. Goals include:

- Increasing resources and access to suitable employment and training opportunities
- Improving the economic stability and independence of SNAP recipients in employment and trainings.
Why are we expanding?

Many jobs in the future will require at least some education beyond high school. Without the skills to meet the rapidly changing labor market demand, the outcomes for participants in obtaining good, steady employment and minimizing their need for public assistance is reduced drastically. Federal data shows that participants who rely on public assistance longer are also more likely not to earn their high school diplomas.

For accessible formats of this information or assistance with additional equal access to human services, write to dhs.info@state.mn.us, call 651-431-4000, or use your preferred relay service. ADA1 (1-18)