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 help with job searches 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 SNAP recipients 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 in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development. The departments’ vision is a SNAP Employment and Training program in which Minnesotans with low incomes have clear pathways in developing marketable and in-demand skills, leading to career advancement and self-sufficiency.

More information is on the Minnesota SNAP Employment and Training webpage.

Who are we impacting?

More than 346,000 Minnesotans — about 5% of the state’s population — received SNAP benefits in December 2018. Of those, 71% were 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 dependents — could potentially benefit from this program’s expansion. It focuses on maintaining benefits while developing occupational skills to obtain employment and career advancement. The Minnesota Department of Human Services will work with partners to engage employers to align services and skills training with local employers’ needs and to match qualified workers with good jobs.

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