Aligned by Design: WIOA and SNAP E&T

Realizing Innovation and Opportunity in WIOA

July 21, 2015
@skillscoalition
Our Vision

We seek an America that grows its economy by investing in its people, so that every worker and every industry has the skills to compete and prosper.
Our Mission

• **We organize** broad-based coalitions seeking to raise the skills of America’s workers across a range of industries.

• **We advocate** for public policies that invest in what works, as informed by our members’ real-world expertise.

• And we **communicate** these goals to an American public seeking a vision for a strong U.S. economy that allows everyone to be part of its success.
Aligned By Design resources

This webinar is part of NSC’s *Realizing Innovation and Opportunity in WIOA* series of webinars and papers, which include:

- **Playbook** for Creating Effective State Plans
- **Engagement Matters**: A case study of New Jersey's WIOA planning process
- **Aligned by Design** WIOA & CTE; Adult Education; TANF; and SNAP E&T webinars and fact sheets
Today’s Speakers

• Brooke DeRenzis, Senior State Policy Analyst, National Skills Coalition

• Ed Bolen, Senior Policy Analyst, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

• Alice Pritchard, Executive Director, Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund

• Bill Seedman, Public Assistance Consultant, Connecticut Department of Social Services
Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

- Signed into law July 2014, replaces the Workforce Investment Act (WIA)
- Implementation begins July 1, 2015
- Focus on alignment across federal workforce, education programs
SNAP Employment & Training

- Provides employment and training services to SNAP participants
- States receive federal formula funds
- States are also eligible for 50-50 reimbursement grants

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Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Putting Healthy Food Within Reach

NATIONAL SKILLS COALITION
Every worker. Every industry. A strong economy.
WIOA and SNAP E&T – Key Areas for Collaboration

- State unified or combined plans
- One-stop partnering and priority of service
- Able-bodied adults without dependents
- Partnerships focused on skill-building
- Career pathways

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States Use SNAP E&T in Three Basic Ways

• To test an individual’s willingness to work
  – Mandatory E&T with sanction for failure to comply
  – Usually job search, workfare

• To provide unemployed childless adults with a way to keep food benefits
  – The ABAWD time limit

• To improve an individual’s skills and work experience
  – Job training, education and support services
SNAP Work Requirements

SNAP participants are work registrants unless they are:

- Under 16 or over 59 years old;
- Physically or mentally unfit for employment;
- Caring for dependent child under 6 or incapacitated person;
- Complying with work requirements in another program;
- Receiving UI;
- In a drug or alcohol treatment and rehabilitation program;
- Working 30 hours a week;
- A student enrolled at least half time.
SNAP E&T

• States may assign work registrants an E&T activity:
  – States can exempt any additional individuals it chooses
  – Programs can be mandatory or voluntary

• If the state assigns an individual to E&T:
  – The state must determine the appropriate activity
  – The state must reimburse for an individual’s expenses that are reasonable and necessary to participate
  – Individuals in mandatory programs can lose benefits for failure to comply
  – Sanctions can range from one month to permanently
  – The whole household can be sanctioned (at state’s option)
Able-bodied Adults Without Dependents

• Unemployed childless adults can receive benefits for only 3 months in a 3 year period, unless they:
  • Work or participate in a qualifying job training activity for 20 hour per week, or do workfare
  • Limited exemptions exist
• States are not required, and generally do not, provide qualifying activities.
• This time limit was largely waived during the recession.
• Some states focus E&T on this population, just to keep them eligible.
Statewide Waivers Were Prevalent 2009-12

Waiver Status By State
2012

- No Waiver
- Partial Waiver
- Statewide Waiver
Most States Will Lose Their Statewide Waiver by 2016
The Time Limit Results in a Sudden Drop in Participation

Source: Agriculture Department SNAP participation data
Who is Affected by the Time Limit?

- Very poor: average income is 22% of the poverty level
- Not eligible for other public benefits (and don’t qualify for Medicaid in non-expansion states)
- Can be non-custodial parents or have adult children
- Only group federal tax system pushes deeper into poverty
- In Ohio:
  - 35% have felony convictions
  - 31% have physical or mental conditions
  - 44% lacked reliable transportation
  - 30% had no diploma or GED
  - 20% were working but not 20 hours per week
## Allowable Activities in E&T

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Participants (in 000s)</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Job search</td>
<td>698</td>
<td>55</td>
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<tr>
<td>Job search training</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workfare</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Work experience</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education (Adult Basic Ed, GED, ESL, higher education)</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training (on-the-job, vocational)</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workforce Investment Act programs</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job retention up to 90 days</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1269</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2011 data from USDA, Food and Nutrition Services
Connecticut’s SNAP Employment and Training Program

Your Path To Employment
If you are receiving SNAP in Connecticut, and not receiving financial assistance from the Temporary Family Assistance program, you may be eligible to participate. SNAP Employment & Training offers numerous opportunities at no cost to you.

Career Resources • Bridgeport • 203-610-8677
Workforce Alliance • New Haven • 203-624-1493
Community Renewal Team • Hartford • 860-560-5765
Eastern CT Workforce Investment Board • Franklin • 860-859-4100 ext. 22
The Kennedy Center • Waterbury • 203-365-8522 ext. 239
Capital Community College • Hartford • 860-906-5029
Opportunities Industrialization Center • New London • 860-447-1731
Gateway Community College • New Haven • 203-285-2408
Asnuntuck Community College • Enfield • 860-253-3128
Northwestern CT Community College • Winsted • 890-738-6419
Goodwin College • East Hartford • 860-727-6793

SNAP Employment and Training Program
Connecticut Department of Social Services
The USDA and DSS are equal opportunity providers and employers.
100% Formula Grant

- Career Resources
- Community Renewal Team
- The Kennedy Center
- Eastern CT WIB
- Workforce Alliance
50% Reimbursement

- Capital Community College
- Opportunities Industrialization Center
- Gateway Community College
- Asnuntuck Community College
- Goodwin College
- Northwestern CT Community College
Community Colleges
E&T Contractors
Support Services
DSS SNAP Participants
WIOA

Connecticut SNAP Employment and Training

Skills
Family Supporting Employment
Self-Reliance
SNAP E&T Guiding Principles

• SNAP E&T activities should focus on work attachment.
• SNAP E&T programs must balance the short-term goal of moving participants into immediate employment and the long-term goal of moving households to self-sufficiency.
• SNAP E&T programs should respond and adapt to the local economy.
• SNAP E&T programs can maximize both the financial capital and the expertise of local partners.
• SNAP E&T programs should use measurable results to ensure program funds are used for efficient and effective components.
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Opportunities under WIOA

Connecticut’s economic success depends on its ability to produce a highly skilled workforce with the requisite basic and technical skills needed for the 21st century economy.
One-Stop Partnering

• How can the priority of service requirement help ensure that SNAP participants have access to employment and training services?

• What are the opportunities and barriers to partnering with the one-stop system?
Skill-Building Partnerships

• How are SNAP E&T programs currently partnering with others to enhance skill-building opportunities for participants?

• Are there ways that SNAP E&T can use the WIOA planning process to identify potential partners?
Career Pathways

• What opportunities does WIOA provide for building career pathways?

• How can SNAP E&T be integrated into career pathway approaches?
Your Questions

Please submit your questions using the question box.
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