

# Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment & Training (SNAP E&T)

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as Food Stamps, is the main safety net of food and nutrition benefits for low-income individuals. SNAP also includes a component known as Employment & Training (E&T).

## Funding and Administration

SNAP is federally mandated and funded by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) of the [United States Department of Agriculture \(USDA\)](#). Receipt of federal funds to operate this program is contingent upon approval of a [SNAP State Plan of Operation](#) by FNS. The State Plan is the blueprint for the state SNAP E&T program. State formula funding allocations are based on calculations developed by FNS and based on the number of SNAP applicants and participants in the state.

The [Illinois Department of Human Services \(IDHS\)](#) is the administrative body for SNAP in the state. Specifically, the Family and Community Services division of IDHS is responsible for SNAP E&T. IDHS awards contracts to public and private employers, for-profit and not-for-profit community-based organizations and local government units throughout the state to provide employment and training services. Illinois is divided into [six regions](#) for service delivery, as Cook County is divided into two regions (Region 1 North, and Region 1 South). [Family Community Resource Centers \(FCRCs\)](#) across the state are “one-stop” centers for a variety of services, including SNAP E&T. There are 94 FCRCs in Illinois, and 20 in Chicago.

Each state submits a State Plan of Operation to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). This serves as the blueprint for the state SNAP E&T Program.

## Program Components

The SNAP E&T program is designed to help individuals gain work skills, experience, and unsubsidized employment. It consists of the following components: job search, job readiness, vocational training, basic education, Earnfare, work experience, community work and job retention. Each component has specific participation requirements that can be found on the [IDHS website](#). Supportive services, such as transportation, initial employment expenses and child care may be available to participants.

## Populations Served

In Illinois, all able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs), who receive SNAP benefits are required to participate in SNAP E&T in counties where the program is administered. However, individuals are exempt if they are in the following categories:

- Students, enrolled at least half-time
- Participants in drug or alcohol treatment programs
- Unemployment Insurance recipients
- Pregnant women
- Individuals physically or mentally incapable of work
- Individuals employed or self-employed at least 30 hrs/wk
- Individuals caring for an incapacitated person
- Persons under the age of 18 or over the age of 49
- TANF recipients
- Parent or household members responsible for a dependent child under the age of 6

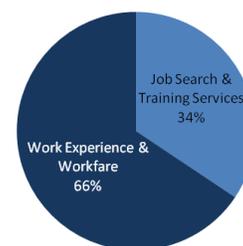
In August 2011, the [Illinois State Plan of Operation](#) reported to FNS that 3,520 Illinoisans are served each month through SNAP E&T.

## Organizational Eligibility

Community-based organizations in Illinois can apply for grants through the Illinois Department of Human Services to become SNAP E&T providers. [Contact IDHS](#) for more information.

For more information on SNAP E&T and other workforce development programs, contact the Chicago Jobs Council at (312) 252-0460 or visit us at <http://www.cjc.net>

Percent of Participants by Activity in Illinois  
FY2011 SNAP E&T Program



Source: Illinois Department of Human Services.  
Data received February 2012