

Background on SNAP Employment and Training Program
Transfer from DSS to DEW

1. Administration of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program in South Carolina

Responsibility for the administration of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is delegated to a single state agency. 7 CFR 271.4(a). In South Carolina, this delegation has been made to the South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS) to administer SNAP. Nothing about the recent waiver submitted by the South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS) to the United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) will change this designation.

2. What is the Subject Matter of the Waiver?

Federal regulation allows DSS to submit a waiver request to transfer the administration of certain components of the SNAP program to another state agency. 7 CFR 272.3(c). **DSS submitted a waiver on January 26, 2016, to transfer only the administration of the SNAP Employment and Training program (E&T Program).** If the waiver is granted, DSS would continue to administer all other aspects of SNAP, including SNAP eligibility and work requirements, referrals to DEW for the SNAP E&T program, determination of good cause for failure to comply, issuance of notices of adverse action, and disbursement of benefits. DSS anticipates receiving a decision from FNS within 30 days.

DEW will submit its SNAP E&T state plan on February 12, 2016, and anticipates approval on or before March 14, 2016.

3. What is the SNAP E&T Program?

SNAP E&T programs are designed to assist SNAP recipients by improving their ability to obtain employment, increase earnings, and reduce their dependency on public assistance. For example, federal regulations provide that able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD) are only eligible for SNAP benefits for three months in a 36-month period unless the individual meets work requirements. 7 CFR 273.24.

In order to meet the work requirements, an ABAWD must comply with one of the following:

- Work 20 hours or more per week, averaged monthly
- Participate in and compliance with the requirements of a work program at least 20 hours per week
- Any combination of work and participation in a work program for a total of 20 hours per week
OR
- Participate in and compliance with a workfare program

7 CFR 273.24(a).

Participation in the E&T Program can help ABAWD SNAP recipients meet their work requirement.

4. Why has DSS Submitted a Waiver to Transfer the E&T Program?

The E&T Program aligns with DEW's mission, and DEW already provides a full array of services to assist individuals with obtaining employment. This transfer maintains DEW's focus on positive employment outcomes and allows DSS to concentrate on providing quality service delivery and case management.

5. Will DEW make a budget request associated with the transfer of the program?

Two federal grants totaling approximately \$13 million and a small amount of general funds for FY2016 and Earmarked Maintenance Fee revenue collected during FY2016 will be transferred from DSS to DEW. Further, 17 TG positions and 1 FTE position will be transferred from DSS to DEW with this program. DSS and DEW are working with the Executive Budget Office and the Division of State Human Resources to effectuate these transfers.

DEW has not made a budget request for FY2017 for this program. DEW has requested sufficient federal and other funds authorization to absorb the additional expenditures in FY2017.

6. Other States

Other states, such as Florida, Tennessee and Texas, administer SNAP E&T Programs through the state workforce agencies/boards.