



# HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

## SNAP WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS

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### THE PROBLEM

Too many Americans at poverty-level are trapped in a cycle.

They suffer from food insecurity and depend on SNAP to feed themselves and their families. Some of these men and women are work-capable, but **lack access to adequate skills training** to obtain a job that provides meaningful income and a chance to improve their future.

**We want to change that** by shifting the anti-poverty conversation from one purely focused on benefits to one focused on helping someone climb the economic ladder.

Currently, SNAP includes **outdated work requirements** for beneficiaries that are riddled with loopholes that create disincentives to work.

Two versions of work requirements exist: a general rule that applies to a broad segment of the SNAP population and a second rule that applies to Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWDs).

The general work requirement is an **unenforceable and vague “requirement”** that lets most states “check the box” by having a participant register for work simultaneous to applying for benefits.

The ABAWD requirement, which requires recipients to work or participate in a qualifying program for at least 20 hours per week, is **antiquated and undermined by overblown waivers** of those requirements promoted by welfare-insiders and bureaucrats.

For those who want to develop the job skills and training needed to find work, current Employment and Training (E&T) services are **inadequately funded and inconsistent**.

### THE SOLUTION

Create a **streamlined, simplified work requirement** through meaningful investments in workforce training.

To do this we must stop treating ABAWDs as a separate population from other work-capable adults—doing so eliminates duplication and confusion.

Implement a **realistic and supportive workforce solution** for work-capable adults (aged 18-59), with exemptions for the caretaker of a child under 6, those who are pregnant and those who are mentally or physically disabled.

Require and fund sufficient E&T slots, **guaranteeing access** to all non-exempt SNAP participants subject to the work requirement.

Require **20 hours per week** of participation in a combination of: work, a work program, or participation in SNAP E&T.

Modernize the components of SNAP E&T to include **assessment and case management**, and permit additional options including supervised job search, apprenticeships, time-limited unpaid or volunteer work, subsidized employment and financial literacy.

**Standardize** the ineligibility policy: after due process or appeal, 12 months for the first instance, 36 months for subsequent instances.

Allow states a two-year **transition period** to achieve these goals.

## PROTECTING SNAP RECIPIENTS

For children, seniors age 60 and older, and the disabled – who represent nearly 2/3 of program participants – this **requirement changes nothing**.

For those working who may not be at the point of removing themselves from SNAP, they **continue on their path**.

Any work-capable, non-exempt SNAP beneficiary who would like to receive training will be **guaranteed** a federally-funded spot in a SNAP E&T program.

States **must meet the minimum services requirement** and provide E&T services to all non-exempt SNAP participants subject to the work requirement. If they do not, the state is subject to warnings, suspensions, and/or a disallowance of administrative funds. A state's inability to offer a spot does not compromise an individual's eligibility for SNAP.

States will maintain the authority to waive the requirement for individuals facing temporary obstacles.

**Geographic waivers will be maintained** to address areas with high rates of unemployment.

# BOTTOM LINE:

**Anyone** receiving SNAP who is subject to the work requirement is **guaranteed a spot through work E&T**.

Individuals who actively choose not to participate are **self-selecting to remove themselves from SNAP**.