

Supplemental Nutrition
Assistance Program
Employment and Training Guide

Texas Workforce Commission

March 18, 2024

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Overview of Guide

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) requires Local Workforce Development Boards (Boards) to plan for services to be delivered using an integrated approach. Integrated service delivery is more than just a good practice—it is a way of looking at how services are delivered and finding ways to ensure Workforce Solutions Offices meet employer and job seeker needs.

Workforce Solutions Offices provide services that are designed to lead to employment. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training (SNAP E&T) services are an important part of this process because they serve both employers and job seekers and provide employment solutions that all Workforce Solutions Office staff may use.

Purpose

The purpose of this guide is to:

- provide information about SNAP E&T policies and procedures;
- provide guidance and instruction on assisting SNAP E&T participants to prepare for and obtain employment; and
- highlight how SNAP E&T supports the Boards' goals.

Objectives

The objectives of this guide are to:

- improve linkages between the needs of employers and job seekers;
- ensure service consistency;
- establish a base for quality assurance; and
- communicate expectations for service outcomes, limitations, and funding.

Target Audience

The target audience for this guide is:

- Workforce Solutions Office staff;
- Board staff; and
- TWC staff.

Updates to the guide will be issued through WD Letters and Release Notes, which will indicate that the guide has been revised to incorporate new information. A List of Revisions appears at the end of the guide, containing revision dates, sections revised, and brief explanations of specific revisions.

Part A – Policy and Requirements

Goal of SNAP E&T

The goal of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training (SNAP E&T) is to assist SNAP recipients by improving their ability to obtain regular employment, increase their earnings, and reduce their dependency on public assistance.

A-100: General Policy Information

A-101: Background

The following sections provide a brief history of SNAP E&T, including changes in policy resulting from federal and state laws.

A-101.a: Legislative Authority

The Food Stamp Act of 1964 (Public Law [PL] 88-525) created the Food Stamp Program to allow families in need to have a nutritionally adequate diet using government-issued coupon allotments. The original Food Stamp Program did not include work-related provisions.

Congress amended the Food Stamp Act in 1971 (PL 91-671), establishing certain work search requirements for food stamp recipients. Specifically, the amendment denied eligibility to any person between the ages of 19 and 60 who refused to:

- register for work;
- fulfill inquiry-about-employment requirements; or
- accept a job at a specified pay level.

If the head of household voluntarily quit work without good cause, the household was ineligible to receive food stamp benefits.

The statute also exempted from work requirements any person who:

- complied with work registration requirements set by the state;
- was employed a minimum of 30 hours per week; or
- received weekly earnings at a specified rate.

The amended Food Stamp Act did not mandate states to provide employment assistance. Texas voluntarily provided job search assistance for mandatory food stamp recipients.

The Food Security Act of 1985 (PL 99-198) created FSE&T and required each state to implement it. The intent of the statute was to ensure that able-bodied food stamp recipients engaged in meaningful work-related activities that led to paid employment and decreased dependency on public assistance. This Act defined FSE&T components as job search, workfare, work experience, and training. The statute also gave states the option of exempting people from FSE&T requirements because of individual circumstances, the remote location of work opportunities, or unavailability of child care.

The Hunger Prevention Act of 1988 (PL 100-435) made further changes to the Food Stamp Program. The Mickey Leland Domestic Hunger Relief Act of 1990 authorized demonstration

initiatives to test the feasibility of combining FSE&T and Job Opportunities and Basic Skills (JOBS) services. In 1993, the Mickey Leland Child Hunger Relief Act (PL 103-66) established a limit on the dependent care reimbursement amount paid to mandatory work registrants.

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA) (PL 104-193) and the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 included significant changes to the Food Stamp Program. PRWORA imposed a new work requirement on food stamp recipients of at least 18 but less than 50 years of age who have no dependents—known as Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs). To remain eligible for SNAP benefits for more than three months in any 36-month period, ABAWDs must be:

- engaged in work (paid or unpaid) for at least 20 hours per week; or
- participating in FSE&T.

The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (PL 105-33) required states to target 80 percent of their 100 percent federal FSE&T grant funds to services for ABAWDs.

The Farm Bill (PL 107-171), signed into law on May 13, 2002, significantly altered the FSE&T funding provisions of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 USC §2025) for Federal Fiscal Years 2002 through 2007.

Section 4121 of the Farm Bill:

- reauthorized FSE&T;
- set the basic amount of unmatched federal funding;
- provided an additional amount of funds to reimburse states that guarantee to serve all ABAWDs before their three months of benefits in any 36-month period expire;
- eliminated the requirement that states target 80 percent of their 100 percent federal funds for services to ABAWDs; and
- removed the \$25 cap on FSE&T participant reimbursements for transportation and other expenses necessary for participation in FSE&T.

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act (FCEA) of 2008, enacted June 18, 2008, amended the Food Stamp Act of 1977, now named the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008. The amendments included changing the name of the Food Stamp Program to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), which administers the federal program, has changed the name of the state Food Stamp Program to SNAP. To align with the federal and state name changes, TWC has changed the name of Food Stamp Employment and Training (FSE&T) to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training (SNAP E&T).

Effective October 1, 2009, Texas implemented an FCEA provision giving states the option of providing up to 90 days of allowable job retention services and support services to SNAP recipients who participated in SNAP E&T activities and then entered full- or part-time employment. See B-115 for additional information on job retention.

The Agricultural Act of 2014 (PL 113-79), enacted February 7, 2014, amended the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008. Section 4022 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 included the following provision: A requirement that the US Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service

(FNS) develop performance measures to monitor how well states prepare SNAP E&T participants for employment and employment retention after participation in SNAP E&T.

On December 20, 2018, SNAP was reauthorized as part of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (PL 115-334). The law contains provisions that affect SNAP eligibility, benefits, and program administration. Section 4005 of the Act:

- adds a new E&T program that incorporates the activities from the 2014 Farm Bill Pilots that FNS determined to have the most demonstrable impact on an individual's ability to find and retain employment, and that lead to increased household income and reduced reliance on public assistance; and
- changes the allocation of ABAWD time-limit percentage exemptions from the current 15 percent of covered individuals to 12 percent of covered individuals.

On January 5, 2021, FNS published the *Employment and Training Opportunities in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program* final rule (RIN 0584-AE68). Many of the provisions in the rule implemented changes to the SNAP E&T program made by §4005 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018.

On June 3, 2023, President Biden signed into law the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 (FRA) (PL 118-5). The FRA amends the purpose of SNAP E&T; changes the SNAP work requirement policy, including the exceptions from the ABAWD time limit; and reduces the number of discretionary exemptions state agencies will earn and carry over annually.

A-101.b: History

In April 1987, the Texas Department of Human Services (TDHS) contracted with the Texas Employment Commission (TEC) for the delivery of employment services to mandatory work registrants. TDHS and TEC renewed the contract yearly and established an interagency agreement addressing services for both FSE&T and JOBS (now SNAP E&T and Choices, respectively).

The 74th Texas Legislature, Regular Session (1995), enacted House Bill (HB) 1863, which moved the state toward an integrated system by consolidating job training and employment and training services into the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). This included moving programs administered by TEC to TWC and transferring FSE&T from TDHS to TWC. HB 1863 also created a locally designed, integrated workforce development system that allows Local Workforce Development Boards (Boards) with approved plans to administer FSE&T and other employment and child care services under contract with TWC. TDHS continued to determine food stamp eligibility.

HB 2292, enacted in 2003, moved food stamp eligibility and other services for low-income individuals from TDHS to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC).

A-101.c: SNAP E&T Funds

FNS under the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) administers SNAP E&T and approves state plans describing services to be provided and the planned use of funds. Funding for SNAP E&T in Texas falls into three categories:

1. 100 Percent Federal Grant

FNS allocates the 100 percent federal grant authorized by Congress to fund the administrative costs of planning, implementing, and operating SNAP E&T services. Boards must use federal grant funds only for providing SNAP E&T activities to eligible SNAP recipients (such as mandatory work registrants and exempt recipients who voluntarily participate in SNAP E&T). Boards must not use 100 percent federal funds for support services (for example, transportation).

Effective October 1, 2009, Boards may use the 100 percent federal grant funds to provide allowable SNAP E&T activities such as job search, education, and training for up to 90 days to assist SNAP recipients with retaining full-time employment (see B-115).

Because no additional federal funds will be allocated for job retention services or support services, Boards must work within their existing allocation.

Before using SNAP E&T funds to provide job retention services or support services, Boards must ensure that careful planning and consideration is taken in determining the available funds for outreach and regular SNAP E&T services to ABAWDS and General Population.

Note: SNAP E&T activities are also referred to as “regular SNAP E&T services” in B-115 and B-406, regarding job retention services and support services, respectively.

2. State and Federal Funds (50/50)

Fifty Percent Funding for Allowable SNAP E&T Activities

In addition to the 100 percent federal grant, states have the flexibility to access federal matching funds to provide services at a 50/50 matching rate. The Texas Legislature appropriates State General Revenue funds to supplement services that Boards provide through the 100 percent federal grant, with state funds matched by FNS on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

Texas accesses these federal funds each federal fiscal year to allow Boards to provide SNAP E&T activities to eligible SNAP recipients (such as mandatory work registrants and exempt recipients who voluntarily participate in SNAP E&T).

Effective October 1, 2009, Boards may use 50/50 funds to provide allowable SNAP E&T activities such as job search, education, and training for up to 90 days, to assist SNAP recipients with retaining full-time employment (see B-115).

Fifty Percent Funding for Support Services

Section 16(h)(3) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 states that USDA must reimburse state agencies for costs associated with transportation and other expenses that are reasonable, necessary, and directly related to participation in SNAP E&T. The 50/50 funds are also to be used to provide these support services to SNAP recipients participating in SNAP E&T, or for job retention to provide a minimum of 30 days and not more than 90 days of assistance with retaining full- or part-time employment (see B-115).

In Texas, SNAP E&T dependent care costs are funded with Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) funds. SNAP E&T funds are not used.

3. ABAWD-Only 100 Percent Federal Funds

FNS provides additional 100 percent funds for states that commit to offering ABAWDs qualifying SNAP E&T activities—such as education, training, or workfare—that permit them to remain eligible for SNAP beyond the three-month time limit. ABAWD-only 100 percent federal funds cannot be used for support services (for example, transportation).

Boards must ensure that ABAWD-only funds are not used to provide any type of job retention services or support services.

A-101.c(1): Use of SNAP E&T Funds for Incentives

Boards must ensure that SNAP E&T 100 percent federal grant, 50/50, and ABAWD-only funds are not used to provide any type of incentives (such as monetary or non-monetary) to SNAP recipients participating in SNAP E&T.

Boards choosing to provide incentives to SNAP recipients for any reason must ensure that alternative funding sources are used.

A-101.d: Ensure Offer of SNAP E&T Activities for ABAWDs

Boards must ensure that all ABAWDs (not meeting work requirements*) in full-service counties are offered a SNAP E&T activity within 10 calendar days from the date of referral from HHSC. This means an outreach attempt must be made within 10 days of the ABAWD's appearance in the WorkInTexas.com outreach pool. For more information about outreach, see B-104.

*See definition of ABAWDs not meeting work requirements in A-102.

The intent of the 10-day notification is to ensure that Texas Workforce Solutions Office staff serves ABAWDs as quickly as possible—not merely to notify them that they are scheduled to be served at some point in the distant future.

A delay in scheduling an appointment could result in ABAWDs losing their SNAP benefits. Therefore, Boards must ensure that ABAWDs are scheduled for SNAP E&T activities within 15 days of the date of outreach.

ABAWDs are limited to three months of SNAP benefits (in a 36-month period) unless they are working or participating in SNAP E&T activities. HHSC determines whether to continue or discontinue an ABAWD's SNAP benefits beyond the three-month limit based on notification from a Workforce Solutions Office that the ABAWD is participating. Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff sends this notification—the Work Requirement Verification form (Form H1822)—to HHSC within two weeks of initial participation in SNAP E&T activities. See A-203.a for additional information on Form H1822.

A-101.e: SNAP E&T Rules

TWC's SNAP E&T rules at 40 Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Chapter 813, are based on established laws and policies. This ensures that SNAP recipients have the assistance and support needed, through participation in SNAP E&T activities, to obtain employment. The SNAP E&T rules are located on the TWC website at [Chapter 813](#).

A-102: Definitions of SNAP E&T Terms

ABAWDs (Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents)—SNAP household members who are determined by HHSC to be mandatory work registrants and are:

- classified as an able-bodied adult;
- at least 18 but less than 53 years of age (Beginning in FFY'25, this will change to at least 18 but less than 55 years of age.)
- without dependents; and
- subject to limitation on the receipt of SNAP benefits for three months out of 36 months if the ABAWD does not work at least 20 hours per week or participate in employment and training activities, as specified in 7 USC §2015(o)(1)(A)–(C).

ABAWDs meeting E&T work requirements—ABAWDs who are:

- participating for at least 30 hours per week in SNAP E&T employment and training activities;
- employed at least 20 hours per week; or
- participating in employment and training activities other than those funded under SNAP E&T—that is, self-initiated activities funded by Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA), or workforce programs for veterans operated by the US Department of Labor or US Department of Veterans Affairs—at the time of the initial SNAP certification at HHSC.

ABAWDs not meeting E&T work requirements—ABAWDs who are not employed at least 20 hours per week, and prior to certification for SNAP benefits are not participating in any self-initiated employment and training activities, such as those funded by WIOA or TAA.

ABAWDs not meeting work requirements at the time of SNAP certification will be required to participate in SNAP E&T activities. Failure to comply may result in loss of SNAP benefits.

Note: After initial SNAP certification is completed and an ABAWD's eligibility information is sent through the Texas Integrated Eligibility Redesign System (TIERS) and the WorkInTexas.com interface, WorkInTexas.com displays a Secondary Status-in-Group (*SIG*) Code C to indicate that an ABAWD is not meeting work requirements. See B-500 for information on obtaining access to TIERS.

Assessment—an in-depth evaluation of employability, educational history, vocational and educational skills, work experience, family circumstances, and support service needs.

Close of Business—For purposes of the SNAP E&T Guide, 5 p.m. on business days, or the time at which the office closes for the day, whichever comes first.

CFR (Code of Federal Regulations)—CFR is the compilation of general and permanent rules published in the *Federal Register*. Each CFR volume is divided into numbered titles. Title 7, issued for USDA, contains the SNAP E&T regulations.

Compliance period—a three-day grace period that follows a SNAP recipient's non-compliance with SNAP E&T program requirements. During the compliance period, the SNAP recipient is

still considered compliant with program requirements and is not subject to sanctions (see B-113.a).

Dependent—an individual under 18 years of age who is not the head of household.

Employment planning meeting—a meeting or orientation, conducted one-on-one or in a group setting, that provides SNAP recipients with an introduction to SNAP E&T services and activities.

Exempt recipient—a SNAP recipient who is part of the SNAP E&T General Population, is not required to participate in SNAP E&T services and must not be sanctioned for failure to cooperate with SNAP E&T requirements as set forth in 7 USC 2015(d)(2).

Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA)—Establishes a federal minimum wage, overtime pay eligibility, child labor standards, and payroll record-keeping requirements.

Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)—a department of USDA responsible for administration of SNAP E&T.

Full-service counties—counties in which:

- all mandatory ABAWDs are served;
- SNAP E&T General Population is served based on available funding;
- mandatory work registrants are sanctioned (SNAP benefits are denied) for failure to cooperate with SNAP E&T requirements;
- exempt recipients may volunteer to participate in SNAP E&T services but must not be sanctioned for failure to cooperate with SNAP E&T requirements.

Good cause—an HHSC determination that a mandatory work registrant’s lack of participation is warranted by illness, court appearance, lack of available transportation, or other acceptable reason.

Job Retention Services—activities such as case management, job coaching, job search, education, and training that are provided for a minimum of 30 days and not more than 90 days to SNAP recipients who participate in regular SNAP E&T services, enter employment, and meet the requirements outlined in B-115. These services will assist SNAP recipients by:

- improving basic skills;
- increasing employability;
- achieving satisfactory job performance;
- retaining employment;
- increasing earnings;
- aiding work progress and career advancement; and
- enabling them to gain better employment.

Job Retention Support Services—transportation, work-related, or other support services that are:

- reasonable, necessary, and directly related to retaining the SNAP recipient’s job; and

- provided for a minimum of 30 days and not more than 90 days, after SNAP recipients who participated in specific regular SNAP E&T activities enter full- or part-time employment.

Mandatory work registrant—a SNAP household member who is required to register for SNAP E&T services and is:

- classified as part of the SNAP E&T General Population (not exempt); or
- an ABAWD.

Minimum-service counties—counties in which:

- any SNAP recipient (mandatory or exempt) may volunteer to participate in SNAP E&T services, and whom Boards may serve based on available funds;
- outreach is not conducted; and
- SNAP recipients (mandatory or exempt) who voluntarily participate in SNAP E&T services must not be sanctioned for failure to cooperate with SNAP E&T requirements.

Noncooperation—a lack of response to outreach notices or a failure to participate in SNAP E&T activities in accordance with the employment plan. Noncooperation begins at the close of business on the date of a missed appointment or a failure to meet participation requirements.

Outreach—the process of informing mandatory work registrants of a scheduled appointment to begin SNAP E&T services.

Participant—a SNAP recipient participating in SNAP E&T.

Reconsideration—At initial intake or during participation in the SNAP E&T program, a SNAP recipient reports to Workforce Solutions Office staff his or her situation, which meets a federal exemption or ABAWD exception criterion. Workforce Solutions Office staff notifies HHSC that the SNAP recipient needs an eligibility reconsideration.

Sanction—the denial of SNAP benefits for a mandatory work registrant who fails to respond to outreach or fails to cooperate with SNAP E&T requirements without good cause.

SNAP E&T activities—allowable Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training work activities, as listed in B-108.

SNAP E&T General Population—includes mandatory work registrants and exempt SNAP household members who are:

- at least 16 but less than 60 years of age; and
- not classified as ABAWDs.

SNAP recipient—an adult, or teen household member at least 16 years of age, in a family who receives SNAP benefits; includes exempt recipients and mandatory work registrants.

Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)—the state agency responsible for determining individuals' eligibility for SNAP benefits and referring them to the Workforce Solutions Offices for SNAP E&T services.

Time-limited SNAP eligibility—three months of SNAP eligibility in a 36-month period for ABAWDs who are not working at least 20 hours per week (paid or unpaid) or participating in employment and training activities, as specified in 7 USC §2015(o)(1)(A)–(B).

Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA)—provides funding for training, job search allowances, and relocation allowances to participants certified by the US Department of Labor, as appropriate. Workers engaged in making a product can be certified if foreign imports or a production shift to a country with which the US has a free trade agreement contribute significantly to their layoff. Participants also may be eligible to receive weekly support payments called Trade Readjustment Allowances while in training.

Volunteer—a SNAP recipient who is not required to participate, but who voluntarily participates in SNAP E&T services, including:

- exempt recipients in full-service counties;
- exempt recipients and mandatory work registrants in minimum-service counties; and
- ABAWDs employed at least 20 hours per week in a full- or minimum-service county.

Volunteers may not be sanctioned and must receive support services that are reasonable, necessary, and directly related to E&T participation.

Workfare—A work-based activity that consists of placement of an ABAWD with a public or private nonprofit entity in an unpaid job assignment. To obtain the number of work hours per month, the ABAWD's monthly household SNAP allotment amount is divided by the number of ABAWDs in the SNAP household (when there are multiple ABAWDs in the household), which is then divided by the federal minimum wage.

Workfare includes a four-week job search period before placement in a workfare assignment. The four weeks of job search that precede a workfare assignment is part of the workfare activity and not a stand-alone job search activity. ABAWDs who are participating in the job search portion of workfare are tracked in WorkInTexas.com as job search participants. ABAWDs who are participating in a workfare assignment are tracked in WorkInTexas.com as workfare participants.

A-103: SNAP E&T Responsibilities

In Texas, the following five entities are responsible for SNAP E&T requirements:

- HHSC State Level
- TWC
- HHSC Local Level
- Boards
- Workforce Solutions Offices

SNAP E&T mandatory work registrants' and exempt recipients' responsibilities are listed in A-103.f of this guide.

A-103.a: HHSC State-Level Responsibilities

HHSC state-level staff:

- administers SNAP and SNAP E&T;
- issues HHSC rules and policies governing SNAP eligibility; and
- performs reporting and monitoring functions for state and federal purposes.

A-103.b: TWC State-Level Responsibilities

TWC:

- issues rules, policies, and guidelines for SNAP E&T;
- contracts with Boards to provide SNAP E&T services;
- provides technical assistance to Board staff and Workforce Solutions Office staff; and
- performs reporting and monitoring functions for state and federal purposes.

A-103.c: HHSC Local-Level Responsibilities

HHSC local-level staff:

- determines eligibility for SNAP benefits statewide;
- determines work registration or exemption status for SNAP E&T services;
- refers SNAP recipients to Workforce Solutions Offices for SNAP E&T services;
- provides the household SNAP allotment amount to Workforce Solutions Office staff for ABAWDs entering a workfare activity;
- acts on requests from Workforce Solutions Office staff to reconsider the work registration status;
- acts on the Workforce Solutions Office's report of noncooperation with service requirements;
- determines good cause for noncompliant SNAP E&T participants based on information provided by the SNAP recipient, which is transmitted through the TIERS/WorkInTexas.com interface; and
- refers SNAP recipients who wish to resume participation following noncooperation to the Workforce Solutions Office for SNAP E&T services.

A-103.d: Board Responsibilities

Boards must ensure that:

- outreach is conducted for all ABAWDs in full-service counties within 10 days of appearance in the SNAP E&T outreach pool;
- outreach is conducted in full-service counties for the SNAP E&T General Population, as funding permits;
- SNAP recipients are scheduled for SNAP E&T activities within 15 days of the date of outreach;
- Workforce Solutions Offices provide SNAP E&T activities and support services to:
 - ABAWDs in full-service counties;
 - ABAWDs in minimum-service counties, as funding permits; and
 - SNAP E&T General Population in full- or minimum-service counties, as funding permits;
- General Population SNAP recipients and volunteers are served until they are employed for 30 or more hours per week or are no longer eligible for services;

- ABAWDs who meet the 20-hour work requirement and who volunteer for services are served until they are employed for 30 hours per week or no longer need services;
- all allowable SNAP E&T activities are made available to SNAP E&T participants, as appropriate, and as funding permits;
- monitoring of service requirements and activities is ongoing and frequent;
- all claims for good cause based on information provided by noncompliant SNAP E&T participants are forwarded to HHSC through the TIERS/WorkInTexas.com interface before or after a penalty is initiated in WorkInTexas.com, in accordance with §813.13 of TWC's SNAP E&T rules and A-300 of this guide;
- SNAP E&T activities are conducted in compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act;
- placement in work-based services does not result in the displacement of currently employed workers or impair existing contracts for services or collective bargaining agreements;
- enough workfare slots are available at the beginning of each board contract year to serve all ABAWDs who require workfare placement;
- memoranda of understanding with workfare providers are kept on file and made available to TWC upon request; and
- memoranda of understanding (MOU) with workfare providers include the number of workfare slots available.*

*This requirement applies to current and future MOUs.

A case manager may determine whether a SNAP recipient requires a service, such as Basic Education, before placement in Job Search.

A-103.e: Workforce Solutions Office Staff Responsibilities

Workforce Solutions Office staff:

- provides case management services as part of allowable SNAP E&T activities to all SNAP E&T participants;
- conducts employment planning meetings to provide SNAP recipients with an introduction to SNAP E&T services and activities;
- develops an employment plan using the WorkInTexas.com Individual Employment Plan/Service Strategy;
- assesses each participant to identify the most appropriate placement in an activity or activities;
- schedules appointments for and enrolls mandatory work registrants or exempt recipients who voluntarily participate in SNAP E&T activities;
- forwards all claims for good cause based on information provided by noncompliant SNAP E&T participants to HHSC through the TIERS/WorkInTexas.com interface, before or after a penalty is initiated in WorkInTexas.com, in accordance with §813.13 of TWC's SNAP E&T rules and A-300 of this guide;
- arranges child care services as needed for the SNAP E&T General Population;
- provides support services including reimbursement of transportation expenses, as needed;
- develops workfare work sites for ABAWDs;
- monitors participation in all SNAP E&T activities;

- informs HHSC of an ABAWD's participation in SNAP E&T activities within two weeks of initial participation;
- informs HHSC of employment, need for reconsideration of work registration status, and noncooperation with service requirements;
- enters all actions into WorkInTexas.com (for example, all appropriate documentation of services); and
- leverages funding through coenrollment in other allowable workforce programs, such as WIOA or partnerships with local organizations.

A-103.f: SNAP E&T Mandatory Work Registrants' and Exempt Recipients' Responsibilities

Mandatory work registrants and exempt recipients who voluntarily participate:

- report to Workforce Solutions Offices to begin SNAP E&T activities;
- report to employers when referred to suitable employment based on assessment;
- report to Workforce Solutions Office staff for subsequent meetings concerning SNAP E&T activities;
- complete and return to the Workforce Solutions Office all forms and reports concerning SNAP E&T activities;
- participate in SNAP E&T activities for an average of 30 hours per week; and
- accept bona fide offers of suitable employment.

A-104: Appeals of SNAP E&T Activities and Support Services Decisions

Workforce Solutions Office staff providing SNAP E&T services must inform SNAP recipients who will be participating in SNAP E&T services of their rights to appeal a decision related to SNAP E&T activities and support services. Boards must establish policies to inform individuals of their right to file an appeal if a determination adversely affects the type and level of services provided by the Board or its designee. This may be accomplished by:

- verbally informing SNAP recipients who will be participating in SNAP E&T activities of their appeal rights during employment planning meetings;
- distributing materials, including leaflets and brochures, during employment planning meetings, that inform SNAP recipients who will be participating in SNAP E&T activities of their rights to appeal at the Workforce Solutions Office; and
- posting signs regarding the right to appeal at the Workforce Solutions Office.

Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff provides SNAP recipients who will be participating in SNAP E&T activities with the Workforce Solutions Office's address, name of a contact person, and a specific time period for filing an appeal.

SNAP recipients who will be participating in SNAP E&T activities also may appeal a decision under the hearings process in TWC's Integrated Complaints, Hearings, and Appeals rules at [40 TAC, Chapter 823](#).

A-105: Discrimination Complaints

SNAP recipients alleging discrimination on the basis of age, race, color, national origin, or physical or mental disability have a right to file a written complaint of alleged discriminatory acts within 180 calendar days from the date of the alleged discriminatory act. Recipients must submit complaints to the following address:

Texas Workforce Commission
Equal Opportunity Department
101 East 15th Street, Room 504
Austin, Texas 78778-0001

Boards must ensure that Board staff or Workforce Solutions Office staff advises SNAP recipients who express an interest in filing a discrimination complaint of their rights to file a complaint and of the complaint procedures.

A-105.a: Complaints, Hearings, and Appeals

Boards must ensure that appropriate staff members are aware of and adhere to the requirements, procedures, and time frames set forth in Chapter 823, Integrated Complaints, Hearings, and Appeals.

A-106: Geographic Coverage

For Fiscal Year 2021 (FY'21), there are 202 SNAP E&T full-service counties in Texas and 52 minimum-service counties. Boards wishing to expand into additional counties must submit a written request to TWC.

The following list shows full- and minimum-service county designations for each Board.

Workforce Solutions Alamo

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Atascosa County | Full Service |
| Bandera County | Full Service |
| Bexar County | Full Service |
| Comal County | Full Service |
| Frio County | Full Service |
| Gillespie County | Full Service |
| Guadalupe County | Full Service |
| Karnes County | Full Service |
| Kendall County | Full Service |
| Kerr County | Full Service |
| McMullen County | Minimum Service |
| Medina County | Full Service |
| Wilson County | Full Service |

Workforce Solutions Borderplex

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Brewster County | Full Service |
| Culberson County | Full Service |
| El Paso County | Full Service |
| Hudspeth County | Minimum Service |
| Jeff Davis County | Minimum Service |
| Presidio County | Full Service |

Workforce Solutions Brazos Valley

| | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Brazos County | Full Service |
| Burleson County | Full Service |
| Grimes County | Full Service |
| Leon County | Full Service |
| Madison County | Full Service |
| Robertson County | Full Service |
| Washington County | Full Service |

Workforce Solutions Cameron

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| Cameron County | Full Service |
|----------------|--------------|

Workforce Solutions Capital Area

| | |
|---------------|--------------|
| Travis County | Full Service |
|---------------|--------------|

Workforce Solutions of Central Texas

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| Bell County | Full Service |
| Coryell County | Full Service |

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Hamilton County | Full Service |
| Lampasas County | Full Service |
| Milam County | Full Service |
| Mills County | Minimum Service |
| San Saba County | Full Service |

Workforce Solutions Coastal Bend

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Aransas County | Full Service |
| Bee County | Full Service |
| Brooks County | Full Service |
| Duval County | Minimum Service |
| Jim Wells County | Full Service |
| Kenedy County | Minimum Service |
| Kleberg County | Full Service |
| Live Oak County | Minimum Service |
| Nueces County | Full Service |
| Refugio County | Full Service |
| San Patricio County | Full Service |

Workforce Solutions Concho Valley

| | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Coke County | Full Service |
| Concho County | Full Service |
| Crockett County | Full Service |
| Irion County | Full Service |
| Kimble County | Full Service |
| Mason County | Full Service |
| McCulloch County | Full Service |
| Menard County | Full Service |
| Reagan County | Full Service |
| Schleicher County | Full Service |
| Sterling County | Full Service |
| Sutton County | Full Service |
| Tom Green County | Full Service |

Workforce Solutions Deep East Texas

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Angelina County | Full Service |
| Houston County | Full Service |
| Jasper County | Full Service |
| Nacogdoches County | Full Service |
| Newton County | Minimum Service |
| Polk County | Full Service |
| Sabine County | Full Service |
| San Augustine County | Minimum Service |
| San Jacinto County | Full Service |

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| Shelby County | Full Service |
| Trinity County | Full Service |
| Tyler County | Full Service |

Workforce Solutions East Texas

| | |
|------------------|--------------|
| Anderson County | Full Service |
| Camp County | Full Service |
| Cherokee County | Full Service |
| Gregg County | Full Service |
| Harrison County | Full Service |
| Henderson County | Full Service |
| Marion County | Full Service |
| Panola County | Full Service |
| Rains County | Full Service |
| Rusk County | Full Service |
| Smith County | Full Service |
| Upshur County | Full Service |
| Van Zandt County | Full Service |
| Wood County | Full Service |

Workforce Solutions Golden Crescent

| | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Calhoun County | Full Service |
| DeWitt County | Full Service |
| Goliad County | Full Service |
| Gonzales County | Full Service |
| Jackson County | Full Service |
| Lavaca County | Full Service |
| Victoria County | Full Service |

Workforce Solutions Greater Dallas

| | |
|---------------|--------------|
| Dallas County | Full Service |
|---------------|--------------|

Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast

| | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Austin County | Full Service |
| Brazoria County | Full Service |
| Chambers County | Full Service |
| Colorado County | Full Service |
| Fort Bend County | Full Service |
| Galveston County | Full Service |
| Harris County | Full Service |
| Liberty County | Full Service |
| Matagorda County | Full Service |
| Montgomery County | Full Service |

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| Walker County | Full Service |
| Waller County | Full Service |
| Wharton County | Full Service |

Workforce Solutions for the Heart of Texas

| | |
|------------------|--------------|
| Bosque County | Full Service |
| Falls County | Full Service |
| Freestone County | Full Service |
| Hill County | Full Service |
| Limestone County | Full Service |
| McLennan County | Full Service |

Workforce Solutions Lower Rio Grande Valley

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| Hidalgo County | Full Service |
| Starr County | Full Service |
| Willacy County | Full Service |

Workforce Solutions Middle Rio Grande

| | |
|------------------|--------------|
| Dimmit County | Full Service |
| Edwards County | Full Service |
| Kinney County | Full Service |
| LaSalle County | Full Service |
| Maverick County | Full Service |
| Real County | Full Service |
| Uvalde County | Full Service |
| Val Verde County | Full Service |
| Zavala County | Full Service |

Workforce Solutions for North Central Texas

| | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Collin County | Full Service |
| Denton County | Full Service |
| Ellis County | Full Service |
| Erath County | Full Service |
| Hood County | Full Service |
| Hunt County | Full Service |
| Johnson County | Full Service |
| Kaufman County | Full Service |
| Navarro County | Full Service |
| Palo Pinto County | Full Service |
| Parker County | Full Service |
| Rockwall County | Full Service |
| Somervell County | Full Service |
| Wise County | Full Service |

Workforce Solutions North Texas

| | |
|------------------|--------------|
| Archer County | Full Service |
| Baylor County | Full Service |
| Clay County | Full Service |
| Cottle County | Full Service |
| Foard County | Full Service |
| Hardeman County | Full Service |
| Jack County | Full Service |
| Montague County | Full Service |
| Wichita County | Full Service |
| Wilbarger County | Full Service |
| Young County | Full Service |

Workforce Solutions Northeast Texas

| | |
|------------------|--------------|
| Bowie County | Full Service |
| Cass County | Full Service |
| Delta County | Full Service |
| Franklin County | Full Service |
| Hopkins County | Full Service |
| Lamar County | Full Service |
| Morris County | Full Service |
| Red River County | Full Service |
| Titus County | Full Service |

Workforce Solutions Panhandle

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Armstrong County | Minimum Service |
| Briscoe County | Minimum Service |
| Carson County | Minimum Service |
| Castro County | Full Service |
| Childress County | Full Service |
| Collingsworth County | Minimum Service |
| Dallam County | Minimum Service |
| Deaf Smith County | Full Service |
| Donley County | Minimum Service |
| Gray County | Minimum Service |
| Hall County | Minimum Service |
| Hansford County | Minimum Service |
| Hartley County | Minimum Service |
| Hemphill County | Minimum Service |
| Hutchinson County | Full Service |
| Lipscomb County | Minimum Service |

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Moore County | Full Service |
| Ochiltree County | Full Service |
| Oldham County | Minimum Service |
| Parmer County | Minimum Service |
| Potter County | Full Service |
| Randall County | Full Service |
| Roberts County | Minimum Service |
| Sherman County | Minimum Service |
| Swisher County | Minimum Service |
| Wheeler County | Minimum Service |

Workforce Solutions Permian Basin

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Andrews County | Minimum Service |
| Borden County | Minimum Service |
| Crane County | Minimum Service |
| Dawson County | Full Service |
| Ector County | Full Service |
| Gaines County | Minimum Service |
| Glasscock County | Minimum Service |
| Howard County | Full Service |
| Loving County | Minimum Service |
| Martin County | Minimum Service |
| Midland County | Full Service |
| Pecos County | Full Service |
| Reeves County | Full Service |
| Terrell County | Minimum Service |
| Upton County | Minimum Service |
| Ward County | Full Service |
| Winkler County | Minimum Service |

Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area

| | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Bastrop County | Full Service |
| Blanco County | Full Service |
| Burnet County | Full Service |
| Caldwell County | Full Service |
| Fayette County | Full Service |
| Hays County | Full Service |
| Lee County | Full Service |
| Llano County | Full Service |
| Williamson County | Full Service |

Workforce Solutions South Plains

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Bailey County | Full Service |
| Cochran County | Minimum Service |

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Crosby County | Minimum Service |
| Dickens County | Minimum Service |
| Floyd County | Minimum Service |
| Garza County | Full Service |
| Hale County | Full Service |
| Hockley County | Full Service |
| King County | Minimum Service |
| Lamb County | Full Service |
| Lubbock County | Full Service |
| Lynn County | Minimum Service |
| Motley County | Minimum Service |
| Terry County | Full Service |
| Yoakum County | Minimum Service |

Workforce Solutions Southeast Texas

| | |
|------------------|--------------|
| Hardin County | Full Service |
| Jefferson County | Full Service |
| Orange County | Full Service |

Workforce Solutions for South Texas

| | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Jim Hogg County | Full Service |
| Webb County | Full Service |
| Zapata County | Full Service |

Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| Tarrant County | Full Service |
|----------------|--------------|

Workforce Solutions Texoma

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| Cooke County | Full Service |
| Fannin County | Full Service |
| Grayson County | Full Service |

Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Brown County | Full Service |
| Callahan County | Minimum Service |
| Coleman County | Full Service |
| Comanche County | Full Service |
| Eastland County | Full Service |
| Fisher County | Minimum Service |
| Haskell County | Full Service |
| Jones County | Full Service |
| Kent County | Minimum Service |

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Knox County | Minimum Service |
| Mitchell County | Full Service |
| Nolan County | Full Service |
| Runnels County | Full Service |
| Scurry County | Full Service |
| Shackelford County | Minimum Service |
| Stephens County | Full Service |
| Stonewall County | Minimum Service |
| Taylor County | Full Service |
| Throckmorton County | Minimum Service |

A-200: SNAP Recipients Eligible for SNAP E&T Services

A-201: SNAP Recipients Eligible for SNAP E&T Services

The following categories of SNAP recipients are eligible for SNAP E&T services:

- Mandatory work registrants
- Exempt recipients

A-202: Mandatory Work Registrant Criteria and Corresponding Work Codes

At the initial SNAP certification and at each recertification, HHSC staff informs SNAP household members ages 16 through 59 of the requirement to register for SNAP E&T services if the household member:

- is employed fewer than 30 hours a week (Work Code 2); or
- is not employed (Work Code 3).

SNAP recipients who meet one of the above criteria are mandatory work registrants.

Boards must provide appropriate services, such as educational programs, for mandatory SNAP E&T participants who are not eligible to work in the United States. If there is no appropriate and available placement, Boards must initiate the good cause process. See A-300 for more information.

Note: HHSC's TIERS does not display work codes but does display a work registration status description and work registration reason. For example, if HHSC determines that a SNAP recipient is a mandatory work registrant because he or she is not employed, the work registration status description shows "mandatory registrant," and the work registration reason shows "registered, not working."

A-203: ABAWDs

ABAWDs are mandatory work registrants who meet the definition of ABAWDs in A-102.

An ABAWD residing in a full-service county may receive only three months of SNAP benefits in a 36-month period unless the ABAWD is:

- employed at least 20 hours per week; or
- successfully participating in SNAP E&T (or other allowable services such as WIOA or TAA).*

*Successful participation means the SNAP recipient is participating in SNAP E&T only or is coenrolled in SNAP E&T and WIOA or TAA services, for a minimum weekly average of 30 hours. Failure to participate results in denial or reduction of SNAP benefits.

A-203.a: Form H1822 Work Requirement Verification

The Work Requirement Verification form (Form H1822) is used only for notifying HHSC of an ABAWD's participation in SNAP E&T activities.

Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff sends Form H1822 to HHSC within two weeks of an ABAWD's initial participation in SNAP E&T activities. Initial participation

starts at the orientation. Sending this form ensures that the ABAWD will not be in jeopardy of losing his or her SNAP benefits.

Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff:

- completes Form H1822, Work Requirement Verification;
- enters into WorkInTexas.com a statement that Form H1822 was sent to HHSC, including the date Form H1822 was sent to HHSC; and
- keeps a copy of Form H1822 and fax confirmation on file at the Workforce Solutions Office.

At SNAP recertification, HHSC staff provides Form H1822 to each nonexempt registrant in the household to verify participation with SNAP E&T or another employment program. The SNAP recipient must take the form to a Workforce Solutions Office for verification of participation and then return the completed form to HHSC.

A copy of Form H1822 is included in the Appendix of this guide.

A-203.b: ABAWDs in Minimum-Service Counties

ABAWDs residing in a minimum-service county are not required to participate in SNAP E&T services but can volunteer as funding permits.

A-203.c: ABAWDs Who Meet Work Requirements through 20 Hours of Employment

ABAWDs who are employed at least 20 hours per week upon certification for SNAP benefits meet SNAP E&T ABAWD work requirements. These SNAP recipients are not placed in the WorkInTexas.com SNAP E&T outreach pool but can volunteer for SNAP E&T services in any county, as funding permits.

Use information in B-108.f: Unsubsidized Employment to calculate employment hours.

Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff does not initiate a sanction request if an ABAWD is meeting the work requirement through 20 hours of employment and volunteers for SNAP E&T services but later decides not to cooperate. However, Workforce Solutions Office staff must close all SNAP E&T services, support services, and the SNAP E&T application immediately. No further action is required.

A-203.d: Federal Time-Limit Exceptions for ABAWDs

ABAWDs are subject to a three-month out of 36-month time limit on SNAP benefits unless they meet one of the following federal time-limit exceptions:

- Exempt from SNAP E&T work requirements based on one of the federal exemptions listed in A-204.a, Federal Exemptions
- Pregnant
- Parent or another caretaker of a child
- Member of a SNAP household with a child under age 18, regardless of parental or caretaker status
- Physically or mentally unfit to work 20 hours per week
- Homeless individuals

- Veterans
- Individuals who are 24 years of age or younger and who were in foster care on the date of turning 18 years of age

Note: The FRA added homeless individuals, veterans, and former foster youth to the groups excepted from the ABAWD time limit.

When an ABAWD meets one of the exceptions listed above, the exception is not displayed in TIERS.

If an ABAWD informs Workforce Solutions Office staff that he or she meets one of the federal time-limit exceptions listed in A-204.a, Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff follows the procedures for reconsideration requests set forth in A-205.

ABAWDs who meet one of the time-limit exceptions listed are not subject to ABAWD work requirements but can voluntarily participate in SNAP E&T services as funding permits.

A-204: SNAP E&T General Population

Mandatory work registrants are part of the SNAP E&T General Population if they are:

- at least 16 but less than 60 years of age; and
- not classified as ABAWDs.

SNAP recipients in the SNAP E&T General Population who are mandatory work registrants are required to participate in SNAP E&T services for a minimum weekly average of 30 hours if they reside in a full-service county (as funding permits). If the SNAP recipient is outreached and fails to cooperate with SNAP E&T services, he or she must be sanctioned.

A-204.a: Federal Exemptions

In addition to determining a SNAP recipient's work registration status, HHSC determines whether the SNAP recipient will be eligible for a federal exemption.

SNAP recipients eligible for a federal exemption are known as exempt recipients. These recipients are part of the SNAP E&T General Population but are not required to participate in SNAP E&T services. However, with the exceptions set forth in A-204.a(1), they can volunteer and participate in SNAP E&T services, as funding permits, but must not be sanctioned for noncooperation.

HHSC staff is responsible for determining the work registration and exemption status of all SNAP recipients. Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff does not attempt to determine work registration and exemption status.

A-204.a(1): Federal Exemption Criteria and Corresponding Work Codes

SNAP recipients are exempt from SNAP E&T work registration if they meet one of the following federal exemptions:

Work Code A requires that the recipient be one of the following:

- Age 15 or younger
- Age 16 or 17 and not the head of household

- Age 16 or 17 and attending school or an employment and training program on at least a half-time basis

Boards must be aware that the exempt recipients coded with Work Code A cannot receive SNAP E&T services. Staff must inform them that youth services are not available through SNAP E&T and refer them to another funding source that provides services to youth, such as WIOA.

Work Code E requires that the recipient be one of the following:

- Physically or mentally unfit for employment
- A Supplemental Security Income (SSI) applicant or recipient; household members applying for SSI will have their work requirements waived until they are determined eligible for SSI; HHSC must determine if these individuals are exempt from participation in SNAP E&T until they are determined ineligible for SSI

Work Code F requires that the recipient be age 60 or older.

Work Code G requires that the recipient be a parent or other adult SNAP household member responsible for the care of a child or children under age six. More than one adult in a SNAP household can receive an exemption from participation in SNAP E&T if each of those adults is responsible for the care of a child under age six.

Work Code H requires that the recipient be a parent or other household member caring for a disabled individual of any age living in the household.

Work Code J requires that the recipient be a regular participant (residential or outpatient) in a drug addiction or alcoholic treatment and rehabilitation program.

Work Code N requires that the recipient be receiving unemployment insurance (UI) benefits or has applied but has not yet been notified of eligibility.

Work Code P requires that the recipient meet one of the following conditions:

- Employed or self-employed at least 30 hours per week, or receiving earnings equal to 30 hours per week multiplied by the federal minimum wage
- Accepted a job offer—to begin work immediately or within 30 calendar days—of at least 30 hours per week or is receiving earnings equal to 30 hours per week multiplied by the federal minimum wage
- Is a migrant and seasonal farmworker under contract or similar agreement with an employer or crew chief to begin employment within 30 days
- Homeschooling his or her child at least 30 hours per week, which is considered self-employment

Recipients are not required to participate further in SNAP E&T activities after they have accepted employment but can voluntarily participate until the job begins. If the recipient chooses not to participate, Boards must ensure that a sanction request is not initiated. Additionally, Boards must ensure that a reconsideration request is sent to HHSC as soon as Workforce Solutions Office staff has been informed of the recipient's full-time employment. See B-108.f for more information.

Work Code Q requires that the recipient be an individual subject to and complying with any work requirement under TANF.

Boards must be aware that TANF recipients are not permitted to receive SNAP E&T services. Federal law prohibits the use of SNAP E&T funds for TANF recipients. If a TANF recipient requests SNAP E&T services at a Workforce Solutions Office, Workforce Solutions Office staff must inform the recipient that SNAP E&T services are not available to TANF recipients.

Work Code S requires that the recipient be:

- a student age 18 or older who is enrolled at least half-time in school, a training program, or an institution of higher education (as defined by the institution); or
- a refugee who is enrolled at least half-time in an English as a Second Language course or an E&T program administered by a refugee contractor. See B-109.

Boards must ensure that at the time the recipient informs Workforce Solutions Office staff that he or she is potentially eligible for an exemption, a penalty is not initiated, and a reconsideration is processed immediately. See A-205.

A-205: Requests for Reconsideration

Workforce Solutions Office staff does not conduct redeterminations of SNAP recipients who attend an employment planning meeting. However, if a SNAP recipient informs Workforce Solutions Office staff that he or she meets one of the federal exemptions or if Workforce Solutions staff determines that a SNAP recipient is not suited for any E&T component,* Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff:

- completes and sends HHSC Form H1817 to HHSC requesting that the SNAP recipient's work registration status be reconsidered;
- records the reconsideration request into WorkInTexas.com;
- enters into WorkInTexas.com:
 - a statement that Form H1817 was sent to HHSC;
 - the date Form H1817 was sent to HHSC; and
 - the reason for the reconsideration;
- closes out all SNAP E&T services, support services, and the SNAP E&T application;
- ensures that all completion dates are entered in the employment plan; and
- keeps a copy of Form H1817 and fax confirmation on file at the Workforce Solutions Office.

*If Workforce Solutions Office staff believes that an individual is not suited for any E&T component, staff must notify HHSC (via Form H1817) within 10 days. For individuals referred back to HHSC because they are not suited for E&T, TWC recommends that staff uses the Comment section of Form H1817 to provide the reason for the referral and to make recommendations for next steps.

Workforce Solutions Office staff must carefully consider how to enable an individual to participate and make every reasonable effort to assist individuals' participation in E&T.

In accordance with 7 CFR §272.6(a), Boards are prohibited from discriminating against any applicant or participant in any aspect of SNAP administration for reasons of age, race, color, sex, disability, religious creed, national origin, or political beliefs.

Boards must treat any records that refer to a participant’s mental or physical condition in accordance with WD 17-07, Change 1, issued on January 26, 2018, and titled “Storage and Use of Disability-Related and Medical Information—*Update*.”

HHSC staff is responsible for determining the work registration and exemption status of all SNAP recipients. Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff does not attempt to determine whether a claim is legitimate.

If the reconsideration is for reasons other than employment of 30 hours or more per week, Boards may determine whether an exempt recipient can voluntarily participate in SNAP E&T services (before closing the SNAP E&T application) based on:

- a discussion with the exempt recipient regarding whether he or she wishes to voluntarily participate; and
- available funding.

An exempt recipient who chooses to voluntarily participate, but later fails to cooperate without good cause, must not be sanctioned for noncooperation.

For an exempt recipient who chooses to discontinue voluntary participation in SNAP E&T services (or if funds are not available), Workforce Solutions Office staff closes out all SNAP E&T services, support services, and the SNAP E&T application.

A mandatory work registrant, pending approval of a reconsideration, will appear in the WorkInTexas.com SNAP E&T outreach pool 61 days from the date the SNAP E&T application is closed. Workforce Solutions Office staff contacts the HHSC office by phone or e-mail to obtain the individual’s work registration status if the reconsideration is not processed and the SNAP recipient reappears in the SNAP E&T outreach pool.

Based on HHSC response, the SNAP recipient:

- resumes SNAP E&T participation if reconsideration is denied; or
- is not required to resume participation in SNAP E&T if reconsideration is pending or approved.

A-300: Good Cause

A-301: Good Cause

Good cause claims are forwarded to HHSC by Workforce Solutions Office staff for SNAP recipients who are not complying with SNAP E&T and are temporarily unable to participate in SNAP E&T because of personal circumstances or a crisis.

Boards must ensure that good cause:

- is based on individual or family circumstances;
- is based on face-to-face or telephone contact;
- includes a temporary period when SNAP recipients are unable to attend scheduled appointments or participate in ongoing SNAP E&T activities;
- is made at the time Workforce Solutions Office staff learns of the change in circumstances; and
- is conditional upon efforts to address circumstances that limit SNAP recipients' ability to participate in SNAP E&T services.

Claims for good cause based on information provided by the noncompliant SNAP E&T participants are forwarded to HHSC through the TIERS/TWIST interface for noncompliant SNAP recipients who are unable to participate in SNAP E&T because of personal circumstances or a crisis. Good cause can be claimed if:

- mandatory work registrants have a reason for failing to respond to the SNAP E&T outreach notice; or
- mandatory work registrants have a reason for failing to comply with SNAP E&T participation requirements. See A-302, Reasons for Good Cause, for more information.

Mandatory work registrants can claim good cause before or after a penalty has been initiated in WorkInTexas.com if the penalty has not been imposed by HHSC and the 13-day Adverse Action period has not ended. Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff notes the penalty reason, such as failed to respond to outreach or failed to participate, and document in WorkInTexas.com the noncooperation date, the good cause reason, decision date, and end date. All good cause recipient communication and case actions must be documented in WorkInTexas.com.

A-301.a: Good Cause Actions before a Penalty Has Been Initiated

If—*before* a penalty has been initiated—a SNAP recipient claims good cause after failing to respond to outreach or failing to participate in SNAP E&T, Boards must notify HHSC of the circumstance and that the recipient is asking for good cause (see B-404.b(1) SNAP Recipient Indicates Good Cause before a Penalty).

Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff identifies whether the mandatory work registrant:

- can immediately resume participation after HHSC good cause approval is received through the TIERS/WorkInTexas.com interface; or

- needs more time to address the circumstances or situation. If more time is needed, Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff:
- has received approval from HHSC through the TIERS/WorkInTexas.com interface;
- makes monthly contact to confirm that the circumstance that led to the good cause claim still exists; and
- enters one of the good cause reasons in WorkInTexas.com monthly, if applicable (for example, illness, court appearance).

Boards must ensure that a penalty is initiated by close of business on the fourth day following noncooperation, unless the recipient indicates before the compliance period expires that they have good cause.

Sometimes, months after a penalty has been initiated, SNAP recipients contact Workforce Solutions Office staff to state that they had good cause.

To ensure that information in WorkInTexas.com corresponds to the most recent penalty transaction, Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff enters good cause by the 30th day after the penalty is initiated (unless the reason for good cause occurred after the 13-day adverse action period).

If a penalty was initiated, and Workforce Solutions Office staff attempts to enter good cause after the adverse action period (even if the penalty has not been imposed), HHSC will deny the request.

If this occurs, Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff informs the individual that they will need to contact HHSC directly for a good cause determination.

A-301.b: Good Cause Actions after a Penalty Is Initiated

1. When HHSC receives a penalty:

- it sends a notice to the SNAP recipient that includes an opportunity to provide good cause;
- if no good cause recommendation has been received from Workforce Solutions staff, it sends the SNAP recipient a letter informing the recipient that his or her SNAP benefits will be denied; and
- it allows a 13-day adverse action period in which the SNAP recipient can contact HHSC or a Workforce Solutions Office to claim good cause and avoid denial of benefits.

2. The recipient contacts HHSC to indicate that he or she had good cause for not cooperating with SNAP E&T requirements. HHSC determines good cause and notifies TWC through the TIERS/WorkInTexas.com interface.

If the recipient contacts Workforce Solutions Office staff to indicate that he or she had good cause for not cooperating with SNAP E&T requirements and Workforce Solutions Office staff determines that the 13-day adverse action period has not expired, Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff:

- enters a good cause recommended reason in WorkInTexas.com; this good cause claim is electronically transmitted through the TIERS/WorkInTexas.com interface to alert HHSC that the recipient has provided a good cause reason;
- includes a description of the good cause reason in WorkInTexas.com (for example, temporary illness, court appearance); and
- if HHSC provides a good cause determination, allows the recipient to resume participation in SNAP E&T.

Example: Charlie Wonder missed his initial SNAP E&T appointment because his daughter was in the hospital. Charlie did not realize he missed the appointment until he received a notice of adverse action from HHSC stating that his SNAP benefits would be denied in 13 days. He contacted the Workforce Solutions Office to report good cause. Because Charlie contacted the Workforce Solutions Office before the HHSC 13-day adverse action period expired, a good cause claim was sent through the TWIST/WorkInTexas.com interface to HHSC staff for a determination.

If HHSC denies the good cause claim, the SNAP E&T case must be closed immediately.

3. If—*after* the 13-day adverse action period has expired—it is reported by the individual that he or she had good cause, Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff:
 - refers the individual back to HHSC;
 - does not make any type of good cause recommendation;
 - does not send any type of “penalty in error” notice to HHSC; and
 - notes the following in WorkInTexas.com:
 - The 13-day adverse action period
 - The date of referral to HHSC
 - The good cause information provided by the SNAP recipient.

A-302: Reasons for Good Cause

Good cause includes, but is not limited to, the following reasons:

- temporary illness or incapacitation;
- court appearance;
- caring for a physically or mentally disabled household member who requires the SNAP recipient’s presence in the home
- a demonstration that there is:
 - no available transportation and the distance prohibits walking; or
 - no available job within reasonable commuting distance, as defined by the Board;
- distance from the home of the mandatory work registrant who participates in SNAP E&T services, to the Workforce Solutions Office or employment service provider requires commuting time of more than two hours per day (not including taking a child to and from a child care facility), or the distance prohibits walking and there is no available transportation;
- farmworkers who are away from their permanent residence or home base, who travel to work in an agriculture or related industry during part of the year, and who are under contract or similar agreement with an employer to begin work within 30 days of the date that the individual notified the Board of his or her seasonal farm work assignment;

- an inability to obtain needed child care, as defined by the Board and based on the following reasons:
 - informal child care provided by a relative or child care provided under other arrangements is unavailable or unsuitable, and based on, where applicable, Board policy regarding child care. Informal child care may also be determined unsuitable by the parent;
 - eligible formal child care providers, as defined in TWC’s Child Care Services rules at [40 TAC, Chapter 809](#), are unavailable;
 - affordable formal child care arrangements within maximum rates established by the Board are unavailable; and
 - formal or informal child care within a reasonable distance from home or the work site is unavailable;
- an absence of other support services necessary for participation;
- receipt of a job referral that results in an offer below the federal minimum wage, except when a lower wage is permissible under federal minimum wage law;
- an individual or family crisis or a family circumstance that precludes participation, including substance abuse, mental health, and disability-related issues, provided the mandatory work registrant who participates in SNAP E&T services, engages in problem resolution through appropriate referrals for counseling and support services;
- a SNAP recipient being a victim of family violence;
- a work schedule conflict; or
- no appropriate and/or available E&T activity.

If the good cause reason relates to caring for a physically or mentally disabled household member who requires the SNAP recipient’s presence in the home, or to any other federal exemption (see A-204.a), Workforce Solutions Office staff must refer the recipient back to HHSC for reconsideration (see A-205). The good cause actions must also be completed if there is noncompliance (see B-404.b).

If the noncompliant SNAP E&T participant is claiming good cause that does not meet one of the above criteria, Workforce Solutions Office staff must document in WorkInTexas.com the specific circumstances claimed as good cause by the SNAP recipient.

Workforce Solutions Office staff also must complete the SNAP E&T Noncompliance Report (Form H1816), and fax it to HHSC.

A-303: Workforce Solutions Office Staff Responsibility

Boards must ensure that HHSC-approved good cause:

- is monitored at least monthly and results are shared with HHSC if there is a change in the circumstances surrounding the good cause exception;
- is extended in WorkInTexas.com if the circumstances giving rise to the good cause exception are not resolved after available resources to remedy the situation have been considered;
- does not exceed a total of 12 consecutive months per occurrence if the good cause is based on the existence of family violence;

- is used only for purposes of temporarily excusing SNAP recipients who have a reason for not participating in SNAP E&T activities; and
- is not used for administrative or case management-related reasons.

If a reconsideration is not requested, Workforce Solutions Office staff is required to monitor good cause monthly and enter new information into WorkInTexas.com, as appropriate.

ABAWDs who have been granted good cause do not accrue countable months.

A-400: Temporary Interruption

A-401 Temporary Interruption

Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff discontinues the use of temporary interruptions.

Part B – Operations

B-100: SNAP E&T Services

B-101: Background

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training (SNAP E&T) services are provided to mandatory work registrants such as SNAP E&T General Population and Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs). The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) also allows Local Workforce Development Boards (Boards) the flexibility, as funding permits, to provide SNAP E&T services to exempt SNAP recipients who voluntarily participate in SNAP E&T services.

B-102: Statewide Expansion of SNAP E&T Services

SNAP E&T services are available statewide in full- and minimum-service counties. The statewide expansion of SNAP E&T services allows Boards, as funding permits, to offer SNAP E&T services to SNAP recipients, in any county, who meet SNAP eligibility requirements.

In full-service counties:

- ABAWDs who are not working at least 20 hours per week are outreached within 10 days of appearing in the WorkInTexas.com outreach pool and receive SNAP E&T services.
- The SNAP E&T General Population receives SNAP E&T services based on available funding.
- Mandatory work registrants must be sanctioned for failing to cooperate with SNAP E&T requirements.
- Exempt recipients who voluntarily participate in SNAP E&T services must not be sanctioned for failing to cooperate with SNAP E&T requirements.

In minimum-service counties:

- SNAP recipients (mandatory or exempt) can volunteer to participate in SNAP E&T services.
- Boards may provide services to SNAP recipients based on available funds.
- Outreach is not conducted.
- SNAP recipients (mandatory or exempt) who voluntarily participate in SNAP E&T services must not be sanctioned for failing to cooperate with SNAP E&T requirements.

Through a nightly automated interface, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) sends information to WorkInTexas.com on newly certified or recertified SNAP recipients. The nightly exchange of information allows:

- Boards in full-service counties to begin the SNAP E&T outreach process for mandatory work registrants; and
- Boards in both full- and minimum-service counties to begin the service delivery process for all SNAP recipients who will be participating in SNAP E&T.

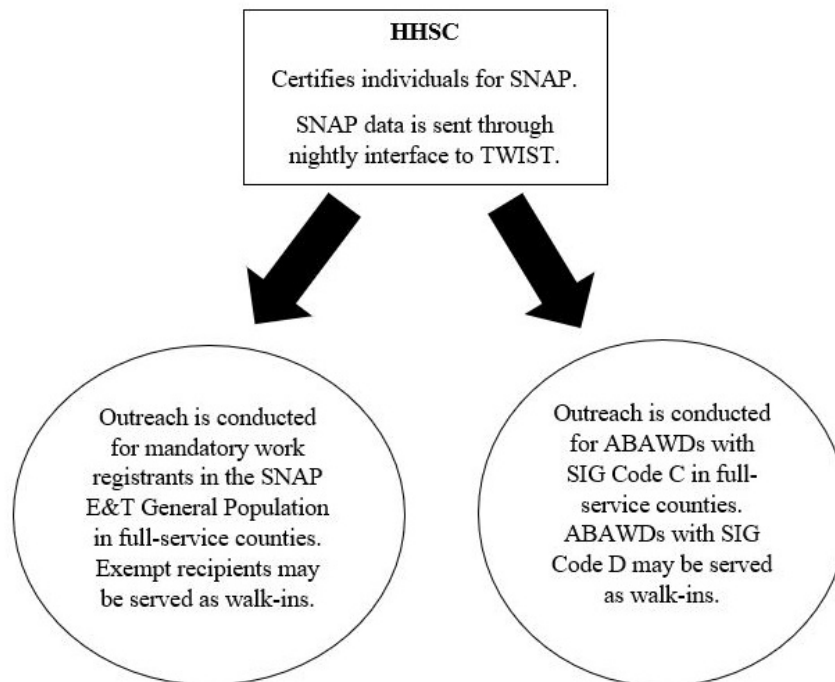
The outreach function is not available for mandatory work registrants in a minimum-service county or for exempt SNAP recipients in any county. If these SNAP recipients volunteer for SNAP E&T services and funding is available, Boards may serve them as *walk-ins*.

B-103: WorkInTexas.com SNAP E&T Outreach Pool

The SNAP E&T outreach pool identifies all mandatory work registrants (ABAWDs and SNAP E&T General Population) referred from HHSC and allows Texas Workforce Solutions Office staff to generate appointment letters for SNAP E&T activities.

To ensure that ABAWDs who are not meeting the work requirements enroll in qualifying SNAP E&T activities before their three-month time limit expires, Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff outreach all ABAWDs within 10 calendar days of the ABAWD appearing in the WorkInTexas.com SNAP E&T outreach pool. Boards also must ensure that all ABAWDs are scheduled for SNAP E&T activities within 15 days of the date of outreach.

Boards must conduct initial outreach through the outreach letters generated by WorkInTexas.com. Automated contact, such as an outgoing voicemail message, does not qualify.



B-104: SNAP E&T Outreach

Outreach attempts must be made by the letter generated by WorkInTexas.com. Boards may follow up the initial outreach attempt with another contact method, such as by phone. Boards must ensure that outreach letters are sent to all mailing addresses listed in WorkInTexas.com.

SNAP E&T outreach attempts must be documented in WorkInTexas.com and must contain:

- time, date, and place to which the mandatory work registrant must report in order to begin SNAP E&T activities;
- name and telephone number of a contact person at the Workforce Solutions Office;
- an opportunity to provide a good cause reason on or before the scheduled appointment date, if the recipient is not able to attend; and
- consequences for noncooperation.

Workforce Solutions Office staff is no longer required to make a second attempt or give final notice to mandatory work registrants who do not respond to the initial outreach attempt. Boards must ensure that a penalty is not initiated during the compliance period. (See B-113.a for more information.) Boards must process a penalty by close of business on the fourth day if the mandatory work registrant does not respond to the outreach attempt.

B-105: Monthly SNAP Eligibility Verification

It is essential that individuals receiving regular SNAP E&T or job retention services are eligible SNAP recipients. To ensure that SNAP E&T funds are not used for individuals who are not receiving SNAP benefits, monthly SNAP eligibility verification is required for all individuals who:

- are, or who will be, enrolled in SNAP E&T services; or
- have requested SNAP E&T job retention services, support services, or both.

Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff documents the date of eligibility verification in WorkInTexas.com.

Note: If sufficient verification cannot be obtained using WorkInTexas.com HHSC's automated systems must be used.

It is recommended that Boards develop local procedures on how to document continuing eligibility when HHSC's automated systems are used.

For example, Workforce Solutions Office staff can document in WorkInTexas.com the date that SNAP eligibility was verified by HHSC's Texas Integrated Eligibility Redesign System (TIERS) and obtain printouts from this automated system. See B-500 for information on obtaining TIERS access.

If a Board chooses to verify eligibility by viewing HHSC's automated system information and documenting results in WorkInTexas.com, it is recommended that the Board periodically review the verification process to determine whether it is effective. If the process is not effective, it is recommended that Boards enhance controls by requiring Workforce Solutions Office staff to obtain and maintain printouts or other paper documents that verify continuing eligibility.

If the individual's eligibility status in WorkInTexas.com does not match the individual's eligibility status in TIERS, staff must use what is in TIERS for eligibility purposes.

B-106: Employment Planning and Assessment

An introduction to SNAP E&T is generally provided to SNAP recipients during an initial employment planning meeting. This meeting is generally held weekly or as often as needed. Boards may choose how to structure the meeting, including the frequency and the information given.

However, Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff schedules the meetings frequently enough to accommodate ABAWDs (who, due to their time-limited eligibility, must be outreached within 10 days of appearing in the SNAP E&T outreach pool).

The employment planning and assessment meeting, which is intended to determine appropriate E&T activity placement, must include:

- an explanation of job search benefits;
- an explanation of job readiness activities such as interviewing skills, the Job Seeker Registration in WorkInTexas.com, job search techniques, and job referrals;
- help completing necessary forms;
- a discussion of requirements for all SNAP E&T activities;
- a discussion of expectations and the SNAP recipient's responsibilities; and
- information on dates, times, and locations of SNAP E&T activities.

B-106.a: Providing Job Retention Information during Employment Planning Meeting

Boards must ensure that information on job retention services, support services, and the job retention period is shared with recipients at the employment planning meeting or before the recipient begins participation in regular SNAP E&T services.

Boards may incorporate information on career advancement, career paths, and how an employed recipient can obtain a better job into regular SNAP E&T service planning and assessment processes and discuss this information during participation in regular SNAP E&T services.

B-106.b: Employment Planning Meeting—Overview of SNAP E&T Service Requirements

During the employment planning meeting, the SNAP recipient is provided with an overview of SNAP E&T, which may include:

- an explanation of SNAP E&T activities and requirements for participating in SNAP E&T; and
- an explanation of the appeals process and the SNAP recipient's right to appeal, and materials and handouts with information on the right to appeal and where to file an appeal.

An assessment is completed during the meeting or shortly thereafter that includes the following possible topics:

- Current Skills

- Education/basic skills (to determine if the customer needs AEL, HSE, ESL classes or literacy/numeracy remediation)
- Job readiness, including employment history, reasons for gaps in employment, and employment goals
- Interests
 - Skills the participant wants to develop
 - Trainings the participant is interested in
- Barriers
 - Expired certifications
 - Involvement in the justice system
 - Disabilities
 - Pregnant, parenting, or caretaking
 - Mental health issues
 - Former foster youth
 - Substance abuse
 - Family violence
 - Homeless
- Participant Needs
 - Support services
 - Soft skills training
 - Digital skills Training
 - Help with interviewing
 - Financial literacy training
 - Clothing, uniforms, and/or tools
- Involvement with other agencies
 - Child Protective Services (CPS)
 - Office of the Attorney General (OAG)
 - Other
- Information to provide to participant
 - Overview of SNAP E&T activities, including dates, times, and locations of the activities, as needed
 - Explanation of job readiness activities, including registration in WorkInTexas.com
 - Available E&T services, including WIOA or TAA, as appropriate
 - Benefits of participating in job search
 - Explanation of job retention services
 - Details on the local labor market
 - Who to contact to help with job applications
 - Information on external services and/or resources beneficial to the participant
 - Available support services
 - Participant responsibilities
 - Participation requirements
 - Consequences of noncooperation
 - Review of appeals process

When developing the employment plan, Workforce Solutions Office staff completes the Job Seeker Registration information in WorkInTexas.com to identify occupational choices that the SNAP recipient qualifies. It is recommended that Workforce Solutions Office staff completes the

registration information before the SNAP recipient enters the job search activity. Workforce Solutions Office staff is responsible for helping the SNAP recipient understand how to use WorkInTexas.com and the circumstances under which the SNAP recipient should change or update his or her registration information.

When developing the employment plan, Workforce Solutions Office staff and the SNAP recipient must also decide on the SNAP E&T activities in which the SNAP recipient will participate. During development of the employment plan, Workforce Solutions Office staff and the SNAP recipient must consider appropriate activities that provide the SNAP recipient with the education and training necessary to improve his or her employment outcome, and Workforce Solutions Office staff must make every effort to provide SNAP recipients with appropriate training opportunities. Activities assigned must help the SNAP recipient obtain sustainable employment as quickly as possible.

B-106.c: SNAP E&T General Population Mandatory Work Registrants

If a SNAP E&T General Population mandatory work registrant fails to cooperate in any activities set forth in the employment plan, staff initiates a discussion with the participant to determine whether the participant is compliant with the SNAP E&T program.

B-106.d: ABAWDs Not Meeting Work Requirements

An ABAWD not meeting work requirements can receive SNAP benefits for only three months in a 36-month period unless he or she is participating in a SNAP E&T activity. Therefore, if an ABAWD remains eligible for SNAP benefits and resides in a full-service county, the ABAWD must participate in a SNAP E&T activity (for example, workfare, work experience) each month. If the ABAWD fails to cooperate, staff initiates a sanction request to HHSC by close of business on the fourth day following noncooperation.

B-106.e: ABAWDs Meeting Work Requirements (through 20 Hours of Employment) Who Voluntarily Participate in SNAP E&T

ABAWDs who are employed at least 20 hours per week may voluntarily participate in education, training, or job search activities that will improve basic skills, increase employability, and help them get better jobs to progress up a career ladder.

Note: ABAWDs meeting the work requirements cannot be enrolled in workfare activities.

Boards have the flexibility to determine the length of time an ABAWD employed at least 20 hours per week participates in job search or other activities set forth in the employment plan. However, the weekly SNAP E&T participation hours and the 20 hours of employment must total 30 hours.

If an employed ABAWD later decides not to participate, Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff does not initiate a sanction request but immediately closes out all services, support services, and the SNAP E&T application.

B-106.f: Exempt SNAP Recipients Who Voluntarily Participate in SNAP E&T

Boards may enroll exempt SNAP recipients in job retention services, that is, job search, education, and training for a minimum of 30 days and not more than 90 days, if the recipients:

- are exempt for reasons other than full-time employment;

- voluntarily participate in SNAP E&T services on or after October 1, 2009; and
- then enter into full-time employment and request job retention services.

Boards must ensure Workforce Solutions Office staff works with SNAP recipients to determine the number of hours and weeks of participation in job search and other activities. See B-115 for descriptions of job search, education, and training available as job retention services.

Boards must ensure that when an exempt recipient enters into full-time employment after voluntarily participating in regular SNAP E&T services, Form H1817 is sent to HHSC informing HHSC of the recipient's employment.

Boards may provide an exempt SNAP recipient with job retention services even if the exempt code is not changed to reflect full-time employment (Work Code P) at the time the request for job retention services is made.

B-107: SNAP E&T Hourly Participation Requirements

All mandatory work registrants are required to participate 30 hours per week in SNAP E&T activities, except ABAWDs participating in workfare (see following Note) or employment (see A-102). Actual hours of participation in SNAP E&T activities can be entered into WorkInTexas.com as participation. Job search hours may be assigned based on local Board policy.

An exempt recipient who voluntarily participates in SNAP E&T services is required to participate 30 hours per week unless the recipient is employed full time.

If the SNAP recipient (mandatory or exempt) is employed part time (fewer than 20 hours for ABAWDs not meeting work requirements; fewer than 30 hours for ABAWDs meeting work requirements and who voluntarily participate; or fewer than 30 hours for the SNAP E&T General Population), the SNAP recipient must be enrolled in another SNAP E&T activity that will increase the total number of hours per week to 30.

See B-108.f, Workfare, for more information.

Mandatory work registrants are required to participate in all assigned SNAP E&T activities each month (including workfare for ABAWDs). SNAP E&T activities, support services, or the application must remain open, unless:

- the SNAP benefits are denied;
- the SNAP recipient claims an exemption from SNAP E&T participation and chooses not to voluntarily participate in SNAP E&T;
- the ABAWD becomes employed (paid or unpaid) at least 20 hours per week and chooses not to voluntarily participate in SNAP E&T; or
- the SNAP E&T General Population or ABAWD recipient enters full-time employment, and the job retention period has expired.

Note: The number of hours ABAWDs are required to participate each month in workfare is based on the SNAP allotment amount divided by the number of ABAWDs in the SNAP household (when there are multiple ABAWDs), divided by the federal minimum wage (see B-108.f).

120-Hour Monthly Limitation

The maximum monthly participation requirement for SNAP E&T mandatory work registrants is 120 hours. The 120 hours include hours in all SNAP E&T activities, including any hours worked, regardless of compensation. SNAP E&T mandatory work registrants who are scheduled to participate more than 120 hours per month must not be sanctioned for noncooperation after 120 hours have been reached. The 120-hour monthly cap applies to SNAP E&T General Population participants and ABAWDs but does not apply to voluntary participants.

B-108: SNAP E&T Activities for ABAWDs and the SNAP E&T General Population

In Texas, ABAWDs and the SNAP E&T General Population may participate in any of the following allowable SNAP E&T activities:

- Case-managed job search (General Population only)
- ABAWD job search, as part of workfare (ABAWDs only)
- Job readiness
- Job retention services
- Vocational training
- Nonvocational education, including driver education
- Work experience
- Workfare (ABAWDs only)
- WIOA work programs*
- TAA work programs
- Unsubsidized employment (allowable only if enrolled in other SNAP E&T activities)**

*WIOA is no longer considered a stand-alone component, and all WIOA activities that SNAP E&T participants engage in must be tracked under SNAP E&T participation and WIOA funding.

**The US Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) does not recognize unsubsidized employment as an allowable category of service for SNAP E&T. Therefore, employed SNAP recipients (ABAWDs or SNAP E&T General Population) also must participate in other allowable SNAP E&T activities in addition to unsubsidized employment. See B-108.f and B-405 for additional information regarding unsubsidized employment.

If there is no appropriate and/or available E&T activity for a mandatory participant, Workforce Solutions Office staff must make a good cause recommendation to HHSC. In WorkInTexas.com, staff must note that there was no appropriate and/or available E&T activity for the participant.

Workforce Solutions Office staff also must complete the SNAP Information Transmittal (Form H1817) and fax it to HHSC.

B-108.a: Case-Managed Job Search

Case-managed job search is a supervised SNAP E&T activity that provides a direct link to employment opportunities and requires Workforce Solutions Office staff to:

- make weekly contact with SNAP E&T participants in the Workforce Solutions Office;
- help SNAP E&T participants search for employment 30 hours per week by offering services and information such as:

- job development services focused on active engagement of employers;
- career counseling;
- information on available jobs;
- occupational exploration, including information on local emerging and demand occupations;
- job fairs;
- life skills;
- guidance and motivation for development of positive work behaviors necessary for the labor market;
- help completing job applications; and
- provision of job referrals;
- set employment goals for job inquiries and follow-up; and
- define general workplace expectations and how to retain employment.

The goal of case management is to move the participant toward self-sufficiency, independent of public assistance.

Case-managed job search may occur either remotely or in person and does not need to occur in the same place or at the same time. Additionally, the case manager and SNAP E&T participant do not need to access participation information or requirements simultaneously. Case management involves engagement with a skilled staff member. A skilled staff member has the knowledge and skills to guide and support the SNAP recipient's participation in E&T, with the goal of finding suitable employment.

SNAP recipients participating in SNAP E&T can spend the following number of weeks in a job search activity:

- ABAWDs—four weeks (total) as part of the workfare activity
- SNAP E&T General Population (including exempt recipients who voluntarily participate)—four consecutive weeks, then placed in another activity, and then two weeks of job search, for a total of six weeks in a federal fiscal year

ABAWDs participating in workfare must participate in four weeks of job search up front and in conjunction with a workfare assignment. ABAWDs can participate in job search only *once*, following the initial certification period, unless they did not complete the full four weeks. See B-108.f, Workfare, for additional information on the workfare activity.

If job search is offered as a part of other SNAP E&T activities, or as a part of WIOA services, the number of weeks in job search for both ABAWDs and the SNAP E&T General Population can extend beyond the four- or six-week limitation. However, the time spent in job search must not constitute more than half of the required time spent in SNAP E&T activities. Job search must not be tracked as the actual activity being provided (that is, job search provided as part of a training activity must be tracked as training, with job search constituting less than half of the required time).

Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff also provides employment preparation information during the job search period. Boards may choose how to structure and format job search services.

Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff providing job search services coordinates with Business Services Unit (BSU) staff.

Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff and BSU staff:

- coordinate and identify the hiring needs of employers; and
- assist SNAP recipients in their job search using referrals or job development contacts.

B-108.a(1): Verification of Participation in Case-Managed Job Search

Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff providing job search services supervises the job search of SNAP E&T participants by:

- reviewing job search worksheets to ensure completion;
- reviewing and providing job leads in WorkInTexas.com; and
- recording the participant's time spent making job search contacts or participating in other job search activities in WorkInTexas.com.

Because the intent of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA) and Texas' work-first philosophy is to move customers into the workforce as quickly as possible, employer contact to verify job search activities is not appropriate.

TWC recognizes the administrative burden that contacting employers has on Boards, Workforce Solutions Office staff, and employers, and rescinded guidance allowing employer calls or other verified employer contacts. Further changes introduced in October 2011 eliminated verification for job search and other SNAP E&T activities entirely.

However, TWC acknowledges that if a job search log looks questionable, for example, having multiple contacts with the same employer for the same position, then Boards may pursue further validation.

During the customer's participation in job search, sound case-management practices serve as a means for ensuring that the customer is achieving the job search goals outlined in his or her employment plan.

Appropriate case management actions include, but are not limited to:

- assisting the customer with job referrals;
- career counseling; and
- ensuring that the participant is progressing toward self-sufficiency and independence from public assistance.

See B-300 for additional case management information.

B-108.b: Job Readiness

Job readiness is a short-term structured activity that increases the job seeker's employability and prepares a job seeker for employment. Job readiness includes:

- job search training;
- employability assessments*;

- training in techniques for employability;
- job placement services;
- interviewing skills and practice interviews;
- assistance with applications and résumés; and
- financial literacy training.

*Employability assessments identify general skills that are necessary for success in the labor market at all employment levels and in all sectors. Employability assessments should help identify barriers to work and determine an individual’s readiness for employment, which includes:

- job skills;
- applied academic skills;
- interpersonal skills;
- critical thinking skills; and
- communication skills.

A job skills assessment may be one piece of an employability assessment that determines whether an individual has the skills appropriate for a specific job.

B-108.c: Vocational Training

Vocational training is a SNAP E&T activity that improves the employability of SNAP recipients by providing training in a skill or trade. This allows SNAP recipients to move directly into employment.

Vocational training incorporates:

- occupational assessment and remedial and entry-level job skills training;
- short-term, prevocational, entrepreneurial training;
- customized training;
- institutional skills training;
- upgrade training; and
- vocational education.

Vocational training must be:

- related to the types of jobs available in the labor market;
- consistent with employment goals identified in the SNAP recipient’s employment plan, when possible; and
- provided in either a classroom or work-based setting.

Training that is appropriate to the SNAP recipient’s job goal and leads to a license or certificate can last up to 24 calendar months. However, because the intent of the PRWORA and Texas’ *work first* philosophy is to move SNAP recipients into the workforce as quickly as possible, it is recommended that Workforce Solutions Office staff limit the number of months a SNAP recipient is in training unless the provider states that a specific number of months is needed to complete the activity or obtain sufficient skills that will ultimately lead to employment.

Per TWC rules at 40 Texas Administrative Code §841.31, training does not have to be provided by an Eligible Training Provider.

Boards must ensure that SNAP recipients are enrolled in educational institutions that prepare them for employment in high-growth, high-demand occupations and that do not require a baccalaureate or advanced degrees.

Note: Boards must ensure that if any of the educational services or activities provided to participants who are enrolled in vocational training are available to individuals other than E&T participants, the costs charged to E&T by the provider do not exceed the costs charged for non-E&T participants. TWC recommends that Boards include this requirement in their contracts with providers.

B-108.d: Nonvocational Education

Nonvocational education is a nonwork SNAP E&T activity that provides educational programs or activities to improve basic skills or otherwise improve employability. It incorporates the following:

- Adult Basic Education
- Basic skills and literacy
- High School Equivalency (HSE) and high school instruction
- English as a Second Language
- Postsecondary education that does not result in a baccalaureate or advanced degree
- Work readiness training

In addition to basic skills and literacy, workforce development services must include financial literacy training. Boards providing financial literacy training can use the [Money Smart](#) resource available in English and Spanish through the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's website.

Only educational activities (including postsecondary education) that directly enhance the employability of the SNAP recipient are allowable. A direct link between the educational activity and work readiness must be established before the SNAP recipient begins the activity.

In accordance with 7 CFR §273.7(d)(1)(ii)(C), Boards must ensure that:

- federal E&T funds used for activities within the education component do not supplant non-federal funds for existing educational services and activities; and
- the costs charged to E&T do not exceed the costs charged for non-E&T participants.

Boards must provide evidence of compliance with these supplanting and cost parity requirements upon request by FNS, HHSC, or TWC.

TWC recommends that Boards include supplanting and cost parity requirements in their contracts with providers; however, inclusion in a contract does not count as evidence of cost parity or not supplanting.

An example of evidence of not supplanting non-federal funds is documentation, such as an invoice that shows that a local grant-funded service that was provided to a SNAP recipient is charged to the local grant and not to SNAP E&T funds.

An example of evidence of cost parity is documentation, such as an invoice that shows that a SNAP recipient who is enrolled in a program is charged the same as a non-SNAP recipient who is enrolled in the same program.

Boards may also use as documentation a Counselor note that states:

- payment has been verified as being from a nonfederal source; and/or
- the cost of training has been verified to be the same for SNAP and non-SNAP training participants.

B-108.e: Work Experience

Work experience is authorized by 7 USC. §2015(d)(4)(B)(iv) and WIOA [20 CFR §663.200(b)]. The work experience activity is available to all SNAP recipients who need help acquiring basic work skills.

A work experience program:

- is designed to improve the employability of participants through actual work experience;
- is intended to enable individuals employed under such programs to move promptly into regular employment;
- is a planned, structured experience that takes place in a workplace for a limited period of time;
- may be paid or unpaid, as appropriate;
- must be consistent with laws such as the FLSA;
- must provide the same benefits and working conditions that are provided at the jobsite to employees performing comparable work for comparable hours;
- must not provide work that has the effect of replacing the employment of an individual not participating in the E&T program; and
- provides participants opportunities to acquire skills, knowledge, and work habits necessary to obtain employment.

Per 7 CFR 273.7(e)(4)(ii), the number of hours in a work activity component must not exceed the hours that result from the calculation of dividing the household's allotment by the higher of the applicable federal or state minimum wage. Additionally, the total hours of participation in an E&T program for any individual household member in any month, together with any hours worked in a workfare program under paragraph (m) of this section, and any hours worked for compensation (in cash or in kind), must not exceed 120. Boards must ensure that hours do not exceed the assigned participation hours for each participant.

Work-based learning activities (apprenticeship, pre-apprenticeship, internship, and on-the-job training) are no longer allowable SNAP E&T activities. Additionally, SNAP E&T funds must not be used to pay for these activities. However, Boards may coenroll SNAP recipients in WIOA work-based learning activities, as appropriate. Work-based learning activities may not be counted toward SNAP E&T participation hours.

SNAP recipients participating in SNAP E&T can enroll in either paid or unpaid work experience. Before the SNAP recipient enters the work experience activity, Boards must ensure

that Workforce Solutions Office staff determines whether the work experience activity is conducted in accordance with the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) (see B-112).

Boards must not use SNAP E&T funds to subsidize wages. This includes stipends or incentives paid to the SNAP recipient participating in work experience activities. If wages, stipends, or incentives are paid to the SNAP recipient, alternative sources of funding (for example, WIOA) must be used.

B-108.f: Workfare

Workfare is a SNAP E&T activity designed to improve the employability of ABAWDs through actual employment experience and/or training. Nonexempt ABAWDs perform work in a public service capacity as a condition of eligibility to receive the SNAP allotment.

ABAWDs must participate in workfare each month they receive SNAP benefits, unless a reassessment indicates they need to change to a more appropriate SNAP E&T activity.

An ABAWD who is not employed at the end of the four-week job search period is offered a workfare placement with a public or private nonprofit entity. Public entities are city, county, state, and federal agencies. Private nonprofit entities include, but are not limited to, community-based organizations. Jobsites can be created for ABAWDs at Workforce Solutions Offices* regardless of the profit or nonprofit status of the Workforce Solutions Office operator, because the site is under the jurisdiction of the Board.

Boards that allow Workforce Solutions Offices to provide workfare placements to SNAP recipients must be aware that the primary goal of workfare is to improve employability and enable individuals to transition into regular employment. Workforce Solutions Office staff must consider activities that provide SNAP recipients with the education and training necessary to improve their employment outcomes.

Boards and workfare providers, including Workforce Solutions Offices, must establish agreements for the provision of workfare in accordance with 7 CFR §273.7(m)(3)(ii) before they assign ABAWDs to workfare slots.

Boards must be aware that to comply with FNS's requirement that States make available sufficient workfare slots for ABAWDs, TWC requires that the number of workfare slots across all workfare agreements in the state equal or exceed the number of estimated workfare slots as estimated in each federal fiscal year's SNAP E&T State Plan. TWC will require Boards to submit the workfare agreements they have in effect for the federal fiscal year prior to the start of each federal fiscal year. Each federal fiscal year runs from October 1 to September 30.

The process for Boards to submit workfare agreements each federal fiscal year, beginning with the workfare agreements in FFY'24, will include the steps detailed in the table below.

| Step Taken | Timeline |
|---|---|
| TWC notifies Boards of the number of workfare slots that they must provide during the upcoming federal fiscal year. This notification will be sent via WD Letter. | This step must be completed by June 30 of each federal fiscal year. |

| | |
|--|--|
| | |
| Boards find workfare providers and establish workfare agreements with the providers for the provision of workfare during the upcoming federal fiscal year. | This step must be completed by September 1 each year for the federal fiscal year that begins on October 1. |
| Boards provide the workfare agreements to ChoicesTechnicalAssistance@twc.texas.gov . | This step must be completed by September 1 of each federal fiscal year. |

Boards must:

- use the Workfare Agreement Template included in the Appendix of this guide to create agreements with workfare providers;
- use the Workfare Agreement Checklist included in the Appendix of this guide when creating and submitting workfare agreements;
- ensure that the total number of workfare slots in their agreements is greater than or equal to the number of workfare slots assigned by TWC to the Board; and
- submit workfare agreements for the upcoming federal fiscal year to ChoicesTechnicalAssistance@twc.texas.gov by September 1 each year.

Each year, TWC will issue guidance that informs Boards of the minimum number of workfare slots they must provide for the upcoming federal fiscal year.

The following scenarios illustrate how a Board may ensure that there are an adequate number of workfare slots:

- TWC assigns Board Y 15 monthly workfare slots. Board Y finds two workfare providers. One provider will make 8 slots available per month, and the other provider will make 7 slots available per month. Board Y’s workfare providers have made 15 workfare slots available. Board Y has complied with the requirement to provide at least 15 monthly workfare slots.
- TWC assigns Board Z 20 monthly workfare slots. Board Z finds four workfare providers, three of which will provide 5 monthly workfare slots and one of which will provide 7 workfare slots. Board Z’s workfare providers have made 22 workfare slots available. Board Z has complied with the requirement to provide at least 20 monthly workfare slots.

Boards that do not comply with all workfare agreement requirements must place ABAWDs in appropriate and available activities other than workfare. If there is no appropriate and available activity, Boards must initiate a good cause recommendation.

Boards must be aware that workfare agreements are subject to monitoring and review by TWC, HHSC, and FNS.

Workfare participants with access to TWC computer systems or non-public data must complete the P-41 Information Resources Usage Agreement form as required by WD Letter 11-16, issued on November 15, 2016, and titled “Access and Data Security for Workforce Applications.”

*TWC discourages this practice as it may appear to be a conflict of interest. Boards must make every effort to find workfare providers outside of Workforce Solutions Offices.

Workforce Solutions Office staff assigns ABAWDs to a workfare jobsite. The workfare appointment can be given to the ABAWD:

- at the initial job search activity; or
- during the four weeks of job search.

The number of hours ABAWDs must work each month equals their household SNAP allotment amount divided by the number of ABAWDs in the SNAP household (when there are multiple ABAWDs in the household), which is then divided by the federal minimum wage.

Scenario for Calculating Workfare Hours

An ABAWD resides in a one-person household with no income. HHSC determines that the household's allotment amount is \$200.

Divide \$200 by \$7.25* = 27.58 (fractions of hours of obligation are rounded down). The ABAWD is assigned to workfare for 27 hours per month.

*The current federal rate must be used when determining the number of hours of workfare participation.

Until the HHSC automated system is programmed to send the SNAP allotment information (for a one-person household member or when there are multiple ABAWDs in a household) through the TIERS/WorkInTexas.com interface, the number of ABAWDs and the amount of the household SNAP allotment* must be obtained by contacting HHSC:

- in writing;
- through HHSC TIERS; or
- by telephone (document the name and date of contact).

*Do not attempt to determine the SNAP allotment amount without contacting HHSC or verifying through HHSC TIERS.

Workforce Solutions Office staff can schedule participation in workfare anytime during the month. The ABAWD can complete the hours in a week or be scheduled each week in a month. Boards must ensure that the hours are based on employer needs, administrative efficiency, and the needs of ABAWDs.

Fractions of hours of obligation must be rounded down, and the household's hours of obligation for any month must not be carried over into another month.

Nonfinancial Agreements (Workfare)

Boards—or Workforce Solutions Offices if directed by the Boards—must establish contractual agreements with the local workfare employing entity at the beginning of the board contract year and before they assign ABAWDs to workfare slots.

An updated TWC nonfinancial agreement template is included in Appendix of this guide. Boards may use this template or may develop their own agreements.

Boards that elect to use an agreement other than the TWC template must include similar information to ensure that the agreement addresses certain legal requirements with the employer. Those requirements are specified in 7 CFR §273.7(m)(3).

Boards must provide workfare agreements to TWC according to the instructions provided above and at any other time upon request.

Other Requirements for ABAWDs Participating in Workfare

Under 7 CFR §273.7(m)(6)(i)(E) the operating agency must ensure that all persons employed in workfare jobs receive job-related benefits at the same levels and to the same extent as similar non-workfare employees. These are benefits related to the actual work being performed, such as workers' compensation, and not to the employment by a particular agency, such as health benefits. Of those benefits required to be offered, any elective benefits that require a cash contribution by the ABAWD will be optional at the discretion of the ABAWD.

The operating agency must ensure that ABAWDs participating in workfare have the same working conditions as non-workfare employees similarly employed. The Service Contract Act of 1965 (Public Law 89-286), relating to health and safety conditions, applies to the workfare activity. Operating agencies must not provide work to ABAWDs that has the effect of replacing or preventing the employment of an individual not participating in workfare. Compliance with workfare requirements will be reviewed during annual monitoring.

B-108.f(1): Workfare Assignment Letter Requirements

Boards must ensure that the letter they use to notify participants of workfare assignments includes:

- where and when the participant is to report;
- to whom the participant is to report;
- a brief description of the duties to be performed; and
- the number of hours to be worked.

Boards may use the Sample Workfare Assignment letter below or create their own letter; however, in accordance with 7 CFR §273.7(m)(3)(iv)(B), Boards must send a Workfare Assignment letter to SNAP E&T participants.

Sample Workfare Assignment Letter

Individual's Full Name
Address
City, Texas ZIP Code

Dear [Individual's Name]:

If you have not found employment after completing four weeks of job search, you will be required to enter a workfare activity. Workfare places you in public-service-related employment, so you can continue receiving your SNAP benefits.

A workfare assignment is scheduled for you on _____ at _____.

The duties for this placement include _____.

Each week, you are required to work for _____ hours at this assignment.

You must report to:

Street Address
City, State ZIP Code
Telephone number

When you arrive, ask for _____.

If you fail to report for this workfare assignment, your SNAP benefits may be denied.

B-108.g: Unsubsidized Employment

Unsubsidized employment is full- or part-time employment with wages paid in full by an employer.

Full-time Employment

Full-time employment is:

- employment of 30 hours per week or more, for which the individual receives wages or compensation from an employer or from self-employment; or
- weekly wages from an employer or from self-employment that are at least equal to 30 hours per week multiplied by the federal minimum wage.

If—*during* participation in SNAP E&T—a SNAP recipient enters full-time employment, Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff:

- sends Form H1817 to HHSC to reconsider the recipient's work registration status;
- enters into WorkInTexas.com:
 - a statement that Form H1817 was sent to HHSC;
 - the date Form H1817 was sent to HHSC; and
 - the reason for the reconsideration;
- keeps a copy of Form H1817 and fax confirmation on file at the Workforce Solutions Office;

- records the reconsideration in WorkInTexas.com;
- closes all SNAP E&T activities;
- adds the Unsubsidized Employment service in WorkInTexas.com; and
- leaves the SNAP application open for the job retention period to enter any job retention services that may be requested (see B-115).

If—*before* receiving SNAP E&T services—the SNAP recipient enters full-time employment, Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff:

- sends Form H1817 to HHSC to reconsider the recipient’s work registration status;
- enters into WorkInTexas.com:
 - a statement that Form H1817 was sent to HHSC;
 - the date Form H1817 was sent to HHSC; and
 - the reason for the reconsideration;
- records the reconsideration in WorkInTexas.com;
- closes all SNAP E&T activities, and the WorkInTexas.com; and
- does not provide job retention services (see B-115.d).

Federal Exemption for Recipients Who Become Employed Full Time

A SNAP recipient is considered to be meeting the federal exemption (Work Code P)—and as such is exempt from SNAP E&T participation—if the recipient:

- accepts a job offer of at least 30 hours per week; and
- is scheduled to begin work immediately, or within 30 calendar days of reporting the employment.

If the SNAP recipient’s job is not scheduled to begin immediately, but will begin within the next 30 days, the recipient may voluntarily participate in SNAP E&T services until the job begins. Boards must be aware that a penalty cannot be initiated if the recipient does not voluntarily continue participation in SNAP E&T.

Part-time Employment

Part-time employment is employment of fewer than 30 hours per week, for which the individual receives:

- wages or compensation from an employer or from self-employment; or
- weekly wages from an employer or from self-employment that equal less than wages for 30 hours per week multiplied by the federal minimum wage.

SNAP recipients employed part time must be enrolled in other SNAP E&T activities as follows:

- **ABAWDs (not meeting work requirements)**—ABAWDs who are employed fewer than 20 hours per week must also participate in a SNAP E&T activity that will increase the total number of hours of participation to 30 hours per week.
- **ABAWDs (meeting work requirements)**—ABAWDs who are employed at least 20 hours per week and who volunteer must also participate in a SNAP E&T activity that will increase the total number of hours of participation to 30 hours per week.

ABAWDs meeting the work requirements cannot be enrolled in workfare activities. If an ABAWD decides not to participate, immediately close out all services and support services.

- **SNAP E&T General Population**—SNAP E&T General Population who are employed fewer than 30 hours per week must also participate in SNAP E&T activities that will increase the total number of hours of participation to 30 hours per week.

ABAWDs employed fewer than 20 hours per week can request additional hours from the employer to increase work hours to 20 or more. If the employer increases the hours, Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff notifies HHSC that the ABAWD is meeting the work requirement.

SNAP E&T General Population employed fewer than 30 hours per week can request additional hours from their employer to increase work hours to 30. If the employer increases the hours to 30, Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff notifies HHSC of the increased hours and requests a reconsideration of the work registration status.

Unpaid Employment

Mandatory work registrants are considered employed if they receive room and board instead of wages. HHSC considers SNAP recipients employed (that is, unsubsidized) even if the employment is unpaid. If the mandatory work registrant works in lieu of paying rent or utilities, Workforce Solutions Office staff determines the number of hours per week that the work registrant is employed.

If the mandatory work registrant is an ABAWD who is employed at least 20 hours per week in exchange for room and board, Workforce Solutions Office staff refers him or her back to HHSC unless the ABAWD indicates that he or she wishes to continue SNAP E&T services and funding is available.

Example:

An ABAWD is employed by the River Valley Apartment Complex for 20 hours per week, but the ABAWD does not receive wages. Instead, the ABAWD receives free rent in exchange for her work. In this case, inform HHSC that the ABAWD has met the 20-hour work requirement. Because the ABAWD is meeting work requirements through 20 hours of employment, she is not required to continue participation in SNAP E&T but can choose to volunteer (by participating in an additional 10 hours of SNAP E&T activities) if funding is available.

See B-300 for general documentation and verification information.

B-108.h: Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

Apart from work experience under WIOA, SNAP recipients participating in SNAP E&T can explore WIOA activities that provide them with the skills necessary to meet the emerging demands of local businesses. SNAP recipients can enroll in WIOA career, training, or other job seeker services.

The job search limitation (four weeks for ABAWDs and four to six weeks for SNAP E&T General Population) does not apply to WIOA activities as long as:

- the job search activity does not comprise more than half of the required time spent in those activities; and
- the activity is tracked in WorkInTexas.com as a WIOA-funded service (see B-108.a).

B-108.i: Trade Adjustment Assistance Work Programs

TAA provides funding for training, job search, relocation assistance, and weekly income support to individuals whose jobs were trade affected. Most TAA customers will become exempt—because of application and receipt of UI benefits—before a referral for TAA services is made; however, they may volunteer and participate in SNAP E&T activities as funding permits.

B-109: Students

A student is classified by HHSC as an individual of at least 18 but less than 50 years of age who is enrolled at least half-time (as defined by the institution) in:

- a college or university curriculum that offers degree programs, regardless of whether a high school diploma is required for admittance; or
- a business, technical, trade, or vocational school that normally requires a high school diploma or equivalent for admittance.

SNAP recipients enrolled in a college or university (as defined above) must meet special student eligibility requirements in order to remain eligible for SNAP benefits. HHSC determines whether a SNAP recipient meets the student eligibility requirements. If a SNAP recipient self-enrolls (self-initiates) in a college or university, as defined above, while participating in SNAP E&T services, refer the SNAP recipient back to HHSC as soon as possible using Form H1817 and immediately close out all SNAP E&T services, support services, and the SNAP E&T application in WorkInTexas.com.

If HHSC determines that the SNAP recipient meets the student eligibility criteria, the individual will be exempt (Work Code S) from participation in SNAP E&T but may voluntarily participate.

If Workforce Solutions Office staff enrolls a SNAP recipient participating in SNAP E&T in a college, or business, trade, or technical school, do not refer the SNAP recipient back to HHSC.

Only educational activities (including postsecondary education) that directly enhance the employability of the SNAP recipient are allowable. If postsecondary educational activities are provided through SNAP E&T, Boards must ensure that SNAP recipients are enrolled in educational institutions that prepare them for employment in current and emerging occupations and that do not require baccalaureate or advanced degrees.

B-110: Changing SNAP E&T Activities

A SNAP recipient who is participating in a SNAP E&T activity can change to a different activity if Workforce Solutions Office staff determines during a reassessment that a more appropriate SNAP E&T activity is necessary. For example, an ABAWD who is participating in four weeks of job search in conjunction with a workfare assignment can change to an education or training activity if Workforce Solutions Office staff determines during a reassessment of the ABAWD's circumstances that education or training is more appropriate.

However, if the education and training ends, or if the ABAWD decides to return to workfare, the ABAWD cannot resume or reenter the job search activity unless he or she did not complete the full four weeks of job search as outlined in B-108.a.

B-111: Participation in More than One SNAP E&T Activity (Stacking)

The SNAP E&T General Population can participate in more than one SNAP E&T activity as agreed on by Workforce Solutions Office staff and the SNAP E&T General Population participant and as set forth in the employment plan. The SNAP E&T General Population can combine education and training activities, or if the SNAP E&T General Population participant is employed part time (as defined in B-108.f), the individual can participate in unsubsidized employment and education or training activities, to total 30 hours per week.

ABAWDs can combine education and training activities, or unsubsidized employment and education or training activities, to total 30 hours per week. In Texas, ABAWDs cannot combine another SNAP E&T activity with the workfare activity.

B-112: Fair Labor Standards Act

Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff determines whether SNAP recipients participating in SNAP E&T activities (for example, work experience) are *employees* entitled to the wage and hour protections of FLSA, 29 USC, Chapter 201. For FLSA to apply, there must be an employment relationship between an employer and an employee. An *employee* is defined under 29 USC §203(e) as “any individual employed by an employer.” An *employer* is defined at 29 USC §203(d) to include “any person acting directly or indirectly in the interest of an employer in relation to an employee and includes a public agency but does not include any labor organization...or anyone acting in the capacity of officer or agent of such labor organization.”

The term *employee* does not include an individual who volunteers to perform services for a public agency—such as a state, a political subdivision of a state, or an interstate governmental agency—if:

- the individual receives no compensation or is paid expenses, reasonable benefits, or a nominal fee to perform the services for which the individual volunteered; and
- the services are not the same type of services that the individual is employed to perform for such public agency.

Before enrolling a SNAP recipient in a SNAP E&T activity (for example, work experience), Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff references the policy set forth in 29 USC, Chapter 203, and explores whether an employee/employer relationship exists (certain situations can require legal counsel before a determination is made). If an employer/employee relationship exists, the SNAP E&T activity must be conducted in compliance with FLSA by dividing the SNAP benefit amount by the federal minimum wage to obtain the amount of time per week the SNAP recipient will be required to participate in the SNAP E&T activity (for example, work experience). This calculation must be documented in WorkInTexas.com for each month that the participant is in any FLSA SNAP E&T activity.

One of the most common misconceptions associated with the employment relationship under FLSA relates to *trainees*. Whether trainees are employees of an employer under FLSA depends upon all of the circumstances surrounding their activities on the employer’s premises.

Trainees are not employees under FLSA if all of the following criteria apply to the SNAP E&T activity in which the individual will be participating:

- The training is similar to that given in a vocational school.
- The training is for the benefit of the trainees.
- Trainees do not displace currently employed workers.
- Employers derive no immediate advantage from the trainees' SNAP E&T activities.
- Trainees are not entitled to a job after completing training.
- Employers and trainees understand that the trainees are not paid.

If all of the above criteria apply, the SNAP E&T activity is considered *training* under FLSA and Workforce Solutions Office staff is not required to calculate the maximum hourly participation using minimum wage and overtime standards.

B-113: Noncooperation with SNAP E&T Requirements

Workforce Solutions Office staff is responsible for determining noncooperation with SNAP E&T requirements and for initiating a sanction request in WorkInTexas.com.

When a mandatory work registrant fails to respond to outreach, notifies staff that he or she does not wish to participate, or fails to cooperate with SNAP E&T requirements, Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff initiates a sanction request. The request must be entered into WorkInTexas.com by close of business on the fourth day following a mandatory work registrant's failure to cooperate, unless the SNAP recipient indicates that he or she was unable to participate based on an extenuating circumstance and Workforce Solutions Office staff recommends good cause to HHSC. Day one of the compliance period begins the day the recipient non-cooperates with SNAP E&T requirements.

Boards must ensure that:

- all outreach attempts must notify SNAP recipients of the consequences of noncompliance and of the opportunity to provide good cause on or before their appointment date;
- if the SNAP E&T participant is found to be in noncompliance and fails to make contact during the compliance period does not have good cause, a sanction is initiated;
- if the SNAP E&T participant provides a good cause reason, Workforce Solutions Office staff follows the procedures set forth in B-404 SNAP E&T Good Cause Actions in WorkInTexas.com;
- by close of business on the fourth calendar day from the date of the missed appointment or participation, the SNAP E&T participant either meets one of the following conditions or a penalty must be initiated:
 - The participant's appointment has been rescheduled.
 - The participant is fully participating.
 - The participant has claimed good cause.
- if the SNAP E&T participant is found to be noncompliant and is not fully participating or has not claimed good cause, Workforce Solutions Office staff immediately closes the SNAP E&T application in WorkInTexas.com.

Boards must be aware that a second notice is not required for failure to respond to outreach.

Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff documents in WorkInTexas.com:

- the date of noncompliance; and
- each of the following that is applicable:
 - The date a penalty was initiated
 - The date good cause was recommended
 - The reason for the good cause recommendation
 - The date of the rescheduled appointment
 - The reason for the rescheduled appointment

Note: For any mandatory SNAP E&T customer who notifies Workforce Solutions Office staff that he or she does not wish to participate in the program, Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff documents in WorkInTexas.com that staff explained to the customer the consequences of noncooperation.

A customer's circumstances may result in a need to reschedule an appointment. Boards may establish a procedure for how to address rescheduled appointments.

When Workforce Solutions Office staff calls a SNAP E&T participant, it is considered a courtesy. Any communication with the customer must be documented in WorkInTexas.com.

Upon initiating a sanction, staff must immediately close out all SNAP E&T services, support services, and the SNAP E&T application in WorkInTexas.com.

Sanction periods for mandatory General Population work registrants who fail to cooperate with SNAP E&T requirements are:

- one month for the first noncooperation, or until the individual agrees to cooperate, whichever is longer;
- three months for the second noncooperation, or until the individual agrees to cooperate, whichever is longer; and
- six months for a third or subsequent noncooperation, or until the individual agrees to cooperate, whichever is longer.

Mandatory work registrants who are sanctioned for noncooperation must not receive SNAP E&T services or support services until the sanction period has ended and the individual has reapplied and begun receiving SNAP benefits again.

B-113.a: Compliance Period

Boards must be aware that during the compliance period, the SNAP recipient is granted a three-day grace period and is still considered compliant with the requirements of the SNAP E&T program. Mandatory work registrants who notify Workforce Solutions Office staff that they will not fulfill their SNAP E&T requirements must be granted the same three-day grace period.

During the compliance period, a good cause recommendation is not required for a SNAP recipient to maintain compliance with the requirements of the SNAP E&T program. Staff must not penalize a participant during the compliance period.

When a SNAP recipient makes contact between the end of the compliance period and the adverse action date, staff must complete the good cause recommendation process. See A-300 for more information.

Boards must use business days to calculate the compliance period. Holidays are excluded from the compliance period calculations.

If a customer fails to attend a rescheduled appointment and does not make contact, the compliance period does not restart.

Example 1

Mr. Smith is required to turn in his participation hours every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Smith missed his appointment on Tuesday. Mr. Smith has until the close of business on Thursday (day 3) to reschedule or provide a good cause reason. Mr. Smith called on Thursday and states he can come into the office on Friday, and the appointment is rescheduled. Mr. Smith attends his Friday appointment and restarts his participation.

| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|------------------------------|-----|--|---|-----|
| | | Customer missed appointment. | | Customer called and rescheduled appointment. | Customer attended appointment and is compliant. | |

Example 2

Mr. Smith is required to turn in his participation hours every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Smith missed his appointment on Tuesday. Mr. Smith has until close of business on Thursday (day 3) to reschedule or provide a good cause reason. Mr. Smith failed to provide a good cause reason during the compliance period and a sanction was initiated. Mr. Smith claimed good cause on Monday. Staff completes the good cause recommendation on Monday and receives approval from HHSC on Friday. Staff schedules the next appointment for the following Tuesday.

| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|-----|---|------------------------------|-----|-------|---|-----|
| | | Customer missed appointment. | | | Sanction is initiated. | |
| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
| | Customer claimed good cause. Good cause recommendation sent to HHSC. through interface. | | | | Good Cause recommendation approved. Customer has appointment on | |

| | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|----------------------|--|
| | | | | | upcoming Tuesday. | |
|--|--|--|--|--|----------------------|--|

Example 3

An outreach letter was mailed to Mr. Smith directing him to attend orientation on Wednesday, but he failed to attend the orientation. Mr. Smith has until close of business on Friday to reschedule or communicate a good cause reason. If Mr. Smith has made no contact by close of business on Friday, staff will initiate a sanction the following business day. Because the fourth day falls on a Saturday, the penalty must be initiated by close of business on the following Monday.

| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|-----|------------------------|------|------------------------------|-------|-----|-----|
| | | | Customer missed Orientation. | | | |
| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
| | Sanction is initiated. | | | | | |

Example 4

Mr. Smith attended a SNAP E&T orientation on Wednesday and decided he did not want to participate in the program. He notified staff on Friday. Unless Mr. Smith changes his mind and decides to stay in the program, staff must initiate a penalty by the close of business on the following Wednesday.

| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|------|-------------------------------|-------|---|-----|
| | | | Customer attends Orientation. | | Customer notifies staff he will not participate in the program. | |
| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
| | | | Sanction is initiated. | | | |

Example 5

Mr. Smith is required to turn in his participation hours every Friday by noon. Mr. Smith missed his appointment on Friday. Because Monday is a holiday, Mr. Smith has until close of business on Wednesday (day 3) to reschedule or provide a good cause reason. If Mr. Smith has made no contact by close of business on Wednesday, staff will initiate a sanction the following day.

| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|-----|---------|------|-----|-----------------------|------------------------------|-----|
| | | | | | Customer missed appointment. | |
| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
| | Holiday | | | Sanction is initiated | | |

B-114: Regaining SNAP Eligibility (ABAWDs Only)

ABAWDs who non-cooperate with SNAP E&T requirements and have ceased receiving SNAP benefits can decide to regain their SNAP eligibility. ABAWDs can regain SNAP eligibility—even if their sanction period has ended—if, in a 30-day period, they:

- work 80 or more hours (monitored by HHSC);
- participate in and comply with the requirements of WIOA or TAA for 80 or more hours;*
- combine work and participation in a work program for a total of 80 hours; or
- become exempt.

*ABAWDs ineligible for SNAP benefits cannot participate in SNAP E&T activities to regain eligibility.

It is recommended that Boards coordinate with HHSC staff and ask that HHSC inform the ABAWD that he or she can participate in Workforce Solutions Office services such as WIOA or TAA to regain SNAP eligibility. Additionally, it is recommended that Workforce Solutions Office staff establish local procedures for confirming with or reporting to HHSC that the ABAWD successfully completed the 80 hours of participation.

Once the ABAWD has participated 80 hours and regains SNAP eligibility, he or she can be outreached again and resume participation in SNAP E&T.

B-115: SNAP E&T Job Retention Services and Support Services

Individuals residing in full- or minimum-service counties in Texas must receive job retention services, support services, or both, if requested, for a minimum of 30 days and not more than 90 days, based on Board policy. Job retention services may be provided if the individual:

- is a SNAP recipient who has received SNAP benefits the month of or the month prior to beginning job retention services;
- is a current or former SNAP recipient (eligibility must be verified);
- participated in regular SNAP E&T services within three full calendar months from the date of the last regular SNAP E&T service recorded in WorkInTexas.com; and
- then entered full- or part-time employment during or immediately after participation in regular SNAP E&T services.

B-115.a: SNAP E&T Funding and Job Retention

Because additional federal funds will not be allocated for job retention services or support services, Boards must work within their existing allocation. Before using SNAP E&T funds to provide job retention services or support services, Boards must give careful consideration when determining the amount of funds available for outreach for regular SNAP E&T services to ABAWDS and General Population.

See A-101.c for information on use of 100 percent federal funds and 50/50 federal and state funds for job retention. Boards must ensure that ABAWD-only funds are not used to provide any type of job retention services or support services.

B-115.b: Eligibility Verification and Monitoring of Job Retention Activities

Boards must ensure that SNAP eligibility (approved or denied) is verified. While verification and supervision of job retention activities are not required for SNAP recipients who are employed full-time, Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff:

- verifies SNAP eligibility upon request of job retention and once each month of the job retention period;
- contacts the SNAP recipient each month of the job retention period to determine whether the SNAP recipient is still employed;
- determines that the SNAP recipient is actively participating in accordance with the mutually agreed-upon job retention plan; and
- documents in WorkInTexas.com the SNAP eligibility review results.

B-115.c: SNAP Recipients Who Request Job Retention Services or Support Services

Before providing any services, Boards must ensure that when a SNAP E&T General Population or ABAWD recipient enters full-time or part-time (see B-108.f: Unsubsidized Employment) employment during or after participation in regular SNAP E&T services, Workforce Solutions Office staff:

- notifies HHSC of the recipient's full-time or part-time employment; and
- requests that HHSC reconsider the recipient's work registrant status.

The recipient is not required to participate further in regular SNAP E&T services but can participate in job retention activities even if the mandatory work code is not changed to exempt Work Code P at the time the request is made. Job retention services, support services, or both can be provided for the individual employed full-time or part-time within three calendar months of the date the last SNAP E&T service was recorded in WorkInTexas.com, if:

- SNAP eligibility is verified in the month of or the month before beginning job retention services; and
- if a determination is made, based on the Decision Table in B-115.d, that job retention services can be provided.

See A-204.a(1) for the definition of Work Code P.

In many instances, job retention services, support services, or both will be requested:

- during participation in regular SNAP E&T services when the individual enters full- or part-time employment; or
- after participation in regular SNAP E&T services at time of entry into full- or part-time employment (within three calendar months) by:
 - the SNAP E&T General Population recipient who loses a job and subsequently enters new employment;
 - an exempt recipient who voluntarily participated, discontinued participation, and subsequently enters new employment; or
 - an ABAWD who became employed at least 20 hours per week and then discontinued participation but requests job retention support services.

Boards must ensure that these individuals receive only job retention support services that will assist them with retaining employment. See B-201 and B-202 for additional information on support services.

Boards must ensure that job retention services or support services are not provided, if the request was made more than three full calendar months from the date of the last SNAP E&T service recorded in WorkInTexas.com.

If a SNAP E&T General Population or ABAWD recipient who is employed part-time requests job retention assistance other than support services (for example, high school equivalency (HSE) classes or training), Boards must ensure that the recipient is informed that as a mandatory SNAP E&T work registrant, participation in SNAP E&T services, combined with part-time employment for a total of 30 hours of weekly participation, is required.

B-115.d: Job Retention Services and Support Services Decision-Making Process

The following decision process sets forth the time frames for determining whether job retention services and support services will be provided.

Job Retention Services and Support Services

Decision 1: Was the SNAP recipient or former SNAP recipient *participating* in regular SNAP E&T services within the last three calendar months from the date of the last SNAP E&T services in WorkInTexas.com?

If yes, go to Decision 2.

If no, job retention services or support services must not be provided. (The SNAP recipient must be or have been participating in SNAP E&T services within the last three calendar months and then have entered employment before job retention services can be provided.)

Decision 2: Did the SNAP recipient or former SNAP recipient *enter full- or part-time employment* and request job retention services or support services?

If yes, go to Decision 3.

If no, no action is necessary. Continue providing regular SNAP E&T services as appropriate.

Decision 3: Did the SNAP recipient receive benefits in the month of or the month before requesting job retention services?

If yes, job retention services may be provided if eligibility is verified and the job retention period has not expired.

If no, do not provide job retention or support services.

Decision 4: If regular SNAP E&T services ended, and the SNAP E&T application in WorkInTexas.com closed, did the services end due to noncooperation?

If yes, do not provide job retention or support services.

If no, go to Decision 5.

Decision 5: Did the SNAP recipient or former SNAP recipient enter full- or part-time employment and request job retention services or support services after the SNAP E&T application in WorkInTexas.com was closed?

If yes, go to Decision 6.

If no, no action is necessary.

Decision 6: Did the SNAP recipient or former SNAP recipient receive SNAP benefits in the month of or the month before requesting job retention services?

If yes, go to Decision 7.

If no, do not provide job retention or support services.

Decision 7: Was the request for job retention services made within three full calendar months of the last regular SNAP E&T service recorded in WorkInTexas.com?

If yes, proceed with the provision of job retention or support services if eligibility is verified and the job retention period has not expired.

If no, do not provide job retention or support services.

B-115.e: Determining the Job-Retention Period after Regular SNAP E&T Services Have Ended and Job Retention Services Are Requested

The following are examples of a 90-day job-retention period and explain how to determine whether the job-retention period has expired when a request is made for job retention services after regular SNAP E&T services have ended and the SNAP E&T application in WorkInTexas.com has been closed.

Example 1

John Doe is an ABAWD who was successfully participating in regular SNAP E&T services until he entered employment of 20 hours per week on October 3. John discontinued participation in regular SNAP E&T services, so all services ended and were closed on the same day. On December 3, John, who is still a SNAP recipient, requested transportation assistance to get to work. Since the request was made within the job-retention period, transportation can be provided.

| October | November | December | January |
|--|-----------------|---|----------------|
| John stopped participating on October 3. | | On December 3, John requested transportation assistance to get to work. | |

Example 2

Mary Jane Weeworth is a SNAP E&T General Population recipient who participated in regular SNAP E&T services until October 30. On February 3, Mary Jane entered full-time employment and requested to participate in training to advance her career. Mary Jane’s wages are not enough to deny her SNAP benefits; therefore, she is still a SNAP recipient with a Work Code P.

However, since more than 90 days have passed since Mary Jane’s last regular SNAP E&T service, Mary Jane cannot receive job retention services.

| October | November | December | January | February |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|--|
| Mary Jane participated in regular SNAP E&T services until October 30. | | | | Mary Jane entered full-time employment on February 3 and requested training. |

Example 3

Joe Lee Watercraft is an exempt recipient who voluntarily participated in regular SNAP E&T services until November 1, when he discontinued participation. All services stopped, and the SNAP E&T application was closed November 1. On January 14, Joe Lee entered full-time employment and needed steel-toed boots for the new job. Joe Lee stopped being a SNAP recipient on November 30. Because Joe Lee was not receiving SNAP benefits in the month of or the month before requesting job retention services, he is not eligible for job retention services, even though he entered full-time employment within 90 days of his last regular SNAP E&T service.

| October | November | December | January | February |
|---------|---|----------|---|----------|
| | Joe Lee participated in regular SNAP E&T services until November 1. | | January 14, Joe Lee entered employment and requested job retention support services | |

B-115.f: SNAP Recipients Exempt for Reasons other than Full-Time Employment

Boards must be aware that SNAP recipients who were exempt for reasons other than full-time employment may receive job retention services, support services, or both if:

- the recipient voluntarily participated in regular SNAP E&T services, and then entered full-time employment; and
- a determination is made—based on the Decision Table in B-115.d—that job retention services, support services, or both can be provided.

If the exempt recipient entered part-time employment and requests job retention services, Boards must ensure that the exempt recipient receives only job retention support services because he or she is employed part time. If services other than support services are requested, Boards must ensure that exempt recipients participate in regular SNAP E&T services and work for a combined total of 30 hours per week before they receive job retention services other than support services.

B-115.g: Job Retention Time Frame

Once a determination is made that job retention services or support services can be provided, Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff informs the SNAP recipient that job retention services and support services are available for a minimum of 30 days and not more than 90 calendar days, based on Board policy.

Day one of the job retention period begins the day after a SNAP recipient enters full- or part-time employment. A SNAP recipient can request to participate in more than one SNAP E&T job retention activity or receive multiple job retention support services during the job retention time frame if:

- the activity is an allowable job retention service that will lead to a better job, assist with progressing up a career ladder, and can be completed within the job retention period; and

- the support services are reasonable, necessary, directly related to retaining employment, and will be completed by the end of the job retention period.

Boards must ensure that if job retention services, support services, or both are needed after the job retention time frame has expired, SNAP E&T funds are not used. Alternative funding sources must be used. See B-115.g(1) for examples of a 90-day job retention time frame.

B-115.g(1): 90-Day Time Frame Examples for the Provision of Job Retention Services

Example 1

| September | October | November | December |
|-----------|---|----------|--|
| | SNAP recipient is enrolled in regular SNAP E&T services on October 1, enters full-time employment on October 2, and requests job retention support services on October 2. | | Job retention services, support services, or both can be provided until December 31 when the 90-day job retention period ends. |

Example 2

| September | October | November | December |
|---|--|---|--|
| SNAP recipient is enrolled in regular SNAP E&T services on September 9. | SNAP recipient continues participation in regular SNAP E&T services on October 1 and enters full-time employment on October 2. Job retention services or support services are not requested at this time. The SNAP E&T application in WorkInTexas.com will remain open for 90 days. | Job Retention services and support services are requested on November 21. | Since the individual entered employment on October 2, the individual can receive job retention services only until December 31, when the 90-day job retention period ends. |

B-115.h: Assessment and Job Retention Service Planning

Before job retention services are provided, Boards must ensure that:

- an assessment is conducted of the SNAP recipient’s skills, strengths, and weaknesses to determine which activities will best help the individual retain employment and move up a career path;
- the number of hours of participation and all activities assigned are mutually agreed upon by the SNAP recipient and Workforce Solutions Office staff; and
- the activities are completed by the end of the job retention period.

B-115.i: Allowable SNAP E&T Activities for Job Retention

SNAP recipients employed full time may participate in allowable SNAP E&T job retention activities during the job retention period.

Allowable SNAP E&T activities that may be used for helping SNAP recipients with retaining full-time employment are limited to the following:

- Case management services that help SNAP recipients with job retention.
- Job coaching activities that are designed to improve the job performance of SNAP recipients.
- Job search activities that SNAP recipients may participate in to help increase their employability, obtain better jobs, and progress up a career path, such as:
 - career planning and counseling; and
 - career development.
- Job Readiness activities that SNAP recipients may participate in to improve their skills for advancement in employment, such as:
 - job search training;
 - employability assessments; and
 - training in techniques for employability.
- Education activities, such as career advancement classes or programs, that SNAP recipients may participate in to improve basic skills or employability that include a direct link between the education activity and the work readiness of the individual.
- Training services that SNAP recipients may participate in to increase their skills and career opportunities or assist them with a career change.

B-115.j: Allowable Support Services for Job Retention

All support services outlined in B-201 can be used to assist SNAP recipients employed full time or part time with retaining employment. See B-201 and B-202 for additional information on support services and job retention.

B-115.k: Provision of Job Retention Services

Boards must be aware of the following FNS clarifications:

- States may provide job retention services and support services to a SNAP recipient who enters new employment during the initial job retention period. This means that a SNAP recipient who loses a job, and subsequently enters new employment, can receive assistance with retaining the new job, as long as the job retention period has not expired. The job retention period will be a minimum of 30 days and not more than 90 days based on the Board’s local policy.

- Once a participant has entered into the job-retention period, Boards must make a good faith effort to remind the participant of available job-retention services.

FNS further clarified the following for the new job:

- The initial job retention period cannot be extended.
- A new job retention period may be allowed if:
 - a new SNAP E&T case application has been opened; and
 - once reengaged in SNAP E&T, the participant gains new employment.

Example 1 (using a 90-day job retention period)

Clyde Acorn has been participating in SNAP E&T for a few weeks. Mr. Acorn entered full-time employment at Bennie’s seafood market on August 9. The first day of the 90-day job retention period began on August 10. Mr. Acorn was laid off from Bennie’s on August 28, continued SNAP E&T, and entered new employment at Mickie Dee’s restaurant on October 4.

Mr. Acorn requested assistance with purchasing a chef’s uniform and a pair of shoes for the new job. Since the initial 90-day job retention period has not expired, Workforce Solutions Office staff must provide the uniform and shoes. When the initial 90-day period ends, Mr. Acorn will not be eligible to receive additional job retention assistance. If additional job retention assistance is needed after the 90-day period expires, alternative funding must be used. SNAP E&T funds cannot be used.

Example 2 (using a 90-day job retention period)

Clyde Acorn’s last SNAP E&T case ended in October. Mr. Acorn has become a SNAP recipient effective October 5, a SNAP E&T case was opened, and Mr. Acorn began participating on October 12. Mr. Acorn entered new employment at Faith Steak House on November 8. Because this is a new case with a new SNAP E&T application, Mr. Acorn is eligible for a new 90-day job retention period. The first day of the 90-day job retention period is November 9.

B-115.I: Closing Job Retention Services and Support Services

Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff closes out all job retention services, support services, or both, if the:

- job retention period has expired;
- recipient who was employed part time noncooperated with regular SNAP E&T services*;
or
- recipient’s full or part-time employment is terminated.

*Boards must ensure that job retention services or support services are not provided to individuals who enter full-time or part-time employment and request job retention services while on sanction or penalty status.

B-200: Support Services

B-201: Support Services

Boards must provide support services to mandatory work registrants and exempt recipients who voluntarily participate in SNAP E&T activities if the support services are reasonable, necessary, and directly related to participation in SNAP E&T or to the recipient's employment.

Support services include payment or reimbursement for:

- transportation expenses;
- work-related expenses;
- training or education-related expenses such as high school equivalency (HSE) test payments, uniforms, personal safety items or other necessary equipment, and books or training materials;
- clothing suitable for job interviews or employment;
- licensing and bonding fees;
- vision needs (such as eyeglasses and eye exams);
- housing assistance; or
- child care (SNAP E&T General Population).

Boards must have a policy in place for providing advance payments for anticipated expenses for support services in the coming month and for reimbursements for documented expenses incurred for support services.

Boards may provide support services for SNAP recipients who are participating in the following SNAP E&T activities:

- Case-managed job search (General Population only)
- ABAWD job search, as part of workfare (ABAWDs only)
- Job readiness
- Job retention services
- Vocational training
- Nonvocational education
- Work experience
- Workfare (ABAWDs only)

Boards must provide SNAP E&T participants, including volunteers, reimbursement or advance payment for expenses, including:

- child care;
- transportation costs; and
- work, training, or education-related expenses that are reasonable and necessary for E&T participation, such as:
 - uniforms;
 - necessary equipment;
 - books; and
 - training manuals.

Support services may be provided if the individual is a mandatory work registrant or exempt and is participating in E&T activities.

B-202: Transportation Assistance

Boards must ensure that when alternative transportation resources are not available, transportation assistance is provided if it is reasonable, necessary, and directly related to SNAP E&T participation or the job retention period.

Transportation assistance includes:

- bus tokens;
- gas vouchers;
- prepaid gas cards;
- automobile repairs;
- car pools;
- mileage reimbursement (personal vehicles only);
- taxicab or rideshare services;
- contracts with private entities, such as transit providers who provide shuttle or van services;
- purchase of tires or automobile batteries; and
- driver license fees (includes renewals).

Boards must ensure that SNAP E&T funds are not used for any of the following:

- Automobile insurance
- Vehicle inspection
- Vehicle registration

Each Board must determine the methods and amounts used to provide transportation assistance.

It is recommended that Boards encourage Workforce Solutions Office staff using checks as the method of dispersing transportation funds to make agreements or arrangements with local check-cashing facilities to ensure that these facilities do not charge SNAP recipients a check-cashing fee.

Recouping Transportation Expenses: Boards must ensure that the amount of transportation expenditures is tracked for each SNAP recipient participating in SNAP E&T activities. When a SNAP recipient participating in SNAP E&T receives transportation assistance erroneously (for example, the SNAP recipient was ineligible, or the amount exceeded what the Board determined the SNAP recipient was entitled to), Board staff must make an attempt to recoup those expenditures. The Board may send a locally developed letter to the SNAP recipient. Boards must ensure that a copy of the letter is retained in the SNAP recipient's SNAP E&T record, and that Workforce Solutions Office staff attempts to recoup any erroneous disbursements regardless of the reason.

Additionally, similar procedures must be followed in cases of suspected fraud, waste, theft, and program abuse. See additional procedures addressed in WD Letter 59-06, Change 1, issued February 2, 2007, and titled "Requirements for Reporting, Fact-Finding, and Prosecution of

Fraud, Waste, Theft, and Program Abuse Cases, and Collection of Overpayments: *Update*,” and subsequent issuances, available on the [Workforce Policy Letters and Guidance](#) web page.

Accepting Repayment: If the SNAP recipient agrees to repay the amount issued in error, Boards may offer assistance with establishing a repayment plan and may decide on the method of repayment.

B-203: Expenses Related to SNAP Recipients Accepting or Retaining Employment

Boards must ensure that work-related expenses are provided only if the expenses are reasonable, necessary, and directly related to accepting or retaining employment and are not provided beyond the job retention period.

Work-related expenses include:

- uniforms;
- equipment;
- clothing;
- union dues;
- relocation expenses; and
- tools.

Boards must be aware that work-related expenses must be paid for based on methods and amounts established in the Board’s local policies and procedures.

B-204: Housing Assistance

Boards must be aware that housing assistance such as rent, or utility payments can be provided if the assistance is:

- reasonable, necessary, and directly related to participation in SNAP E&T activities or retaining employment;
- paid for based on methods and amounts established in the Board’s local policies and procedures;
- provided for no more than two months in a calendar year for SNAP recipients participating in regular SNAP E&T activities; and
- provided for no more than two occurrences in a 90-day period after a SNAP recipient has entered full-time employment.

B-205: Child Care

Boards must ensure that child care services are provided to the SNAP E&T General Population (mandatory or exempt), if needed.

Workforce Solutions Office staff determines the need for child care and helps the SNAP recipient participating in SNAP E&T explore resources. The Board’s child care contractor administers the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) allotment, which is used for needed child care. Boards must ensure that only CCDF funds—not SNAP E&T funds—are used to provide child care services to SNAP recipients. The contractor is responsible for a wide range of activities related to providing child care services to eligible SNAP recipients. Workforce Solutions Office staff determines the SNAP recipient’s eligibility for child care to support participation in SNAP E&T.

Before the child care contractor is permitted to enroll the child of a SNAP recipient in care, Boards must ensure that appropriate Workforce Solutions Office staff authorizes child care for a SNAP recipient who is participating in SNAP E&T activities.

Boards must ensure that:

- Workforce Solutions Office staff completes Form 2510 (Notification of Child Care Eligibility) or a locally developed form and transmit it to the child care contractor. If the SNAP recipient needs child care for SNAP E&T activities of brief duration, Workforce Solutions Office staff can use Form 2510 both to authorize and to discontinue child care on a set date.
- Workforce Solutions Office staff verifies eligibility before authorizing SNAP E&T child care and writes the date(s) care is needed in the comments section of Form 2510.

Before authorizing child care, refer to the following table.

Authorizing Child Care

| IF... | THEN... |
|--|---|
| A parent is participating in SNAP E&T activities and needs child care. | Send Form 2510 to the child care contractor, authorizing SNAP E&T child care and noting the effective date. |
| The parent's SNAP benefits are denied. | Send a new Form 2510 to notify the child care contractor of the program closure. Note in comments whether the parent is engaged in any work, training, or educational activity. |
| The parent's employment ends, but he or she still has an open SNAP E&T case. | No action is needed. Child care services will continue. |
| A child has been added to or removed from the home. | Send a new Form 2510 or locally developed form to notify the child care contractor of the date of the change, the effected child's information, and note in comments what action is being taken and the reason for the action |
| Child care is no longer needed due to the family moving out of state or voluntarily withdrawing from child care. | Send a new Form 2510 to the child care contractor with the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discontinue date • Reason for discontinuing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Moved out of state ➤ Voluntary withdrawal from child care |

B-206: Training or Education-Related Expenses

Boards may provide payments for training or education-related items, including but not limited to:

- uniforms;
- personal safety items; or
- other necessary equipment, including books or training manuals.

Note: These training or education expenses do not include the cost of meals away from home.

B-206.a: General Educational Development Test Payments

The SNAP E&T General Population and ABAWDs can study for a high school equivalency (HSE) credential while in an education or training component. If they identify themselves as ready to begin the test series for an HSE credential, the HSE testing facilitator can offer assistance in paying for testing. This will remove one more obstacle to the SNAP recipient's progress and enhance the benefits of participation in SNAP E&T.

B-207: Discontinuing Support Services

Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff discontinues all support services (except child care) if a mandatory work registrant fails to comply with SNAP E&T requirements, or if an exempt recipient decides not to participate in SNAP E&T services.

B-208: Lack of Support Services

Boards must ensure that mandatory work registrants are not sanctioned for failure to participate in SNAP E&T services if such failure is due to lack of receipt of support services.

B-209: Monthly Support Services Expenses

Boards must ensure that:

- if monthly expenses directly related to participation by a mandatory work registrant exceed available funds, the mandatory work registrant is:
 - exempted from further participation in an assigned SNAP E&T activity; or
 - reassigned to a SNAP E&T activity that will not require the provision of support service; and
- if monthly expenses directly related to participation for an exempt recipient who voluntarily participates in SNAP E&T services exceed available funds, the exempt recipient is:
 - informed that assigned activities will be discontinued; or
 - reassigned to a SNAP E&T activity that will not require the provision of support services.

B-300: Case Management Services

B-301: Case Management Services

Case management is the organization and coordination of a network of formal and informal activities, services, and support designed to help SNAP recipients participating in SNAP E&T become employed and self-supporting through participation in work programs and education and/or training activities.

Case management is an ongoing process that will occur throughout the SNAP recipient's participation in E&T and includes, but is not limited to:

- performing intake assessments and reassessments;
- analyzing and gathering information;
- identifying a SNAP recipient's strengths and weaknesses;
- assisting with the removal of barriers;
- developing and updating the employment plan;
- documenting all events impacting SNAP E&T services, face-to-face meetings, and participation hours; and
- identifying employment opportunities that can help the SNAP recipient's progress toward independence from public assistance.

Case management involves:

- outreach;
- initial and ongoing assessment (including planning and setting goals);
- coordination with HHSC or other entities;
- referrals; and
- documentation, including:
 - eligibility;
 - assessment;
 - monitoring participation;
 - closure; and
 - records retention.

Boards must be aware that time spent in case management must count toward time engaged in E&T.

The time a participant spent involved in case management activities with a skilled staff member is tracked in WorkInTexas.com because that time is considered a job search activity.

It is a Board's decision whether to set a specific amount of time for appointments.

B-302: Outreach

Outreach is the method of informing mandatory work registrants of a scheduled appointment. Outreach for ABAWDs must occur within 10 days from the date the ABAWD appears in the WorkInTexas.com outreach pool. The process requires Workforce Solutions Office staff to schedule an appointment within 15 days of the date of outreach to prevent jeopardizing the ABAWD's SNAP benefits. Boards must ensure that there is no delay in scheduling an

ABAWD's appointment. A delay in scheduling an appointment within this time frame could result in ABAWDs losing their SNAP benefits. The outreach must include the following:

- Time, date, and place to which the mandatory work registrant must report to begin SNAP E&T activities
- Name and telephone number of a contact at the Workforce Solutions Office
- An opportunity to provide a good cause reason on or before the scheduled appointment date, if the recipient is not able to attend
- Consequences for failure to respond and comply with SNAP E&T requirements
- A statement explaining that the date of the assigned SNAP E&T activity counts as the ABAWD's first day of job search

Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff use WorkInTexas.com to generate outreach letters.

B-303: Initial and Ongoing Assessment

Assessment is an in-depth evaluation of a SNAP recipient's employability skills. Assessment includes:

- gathering and analyzing information to identify the SNAP recipient's strengths and weaknesses; and
- determining the steps necessary to enable the SNAP recipient to achieve employment and self-sufficiency goals.

Discussing assessment information with the SNAP recipient provides an opportunity for Workforce Solutions Office staff to begin a cooperative working relationship and enables Workforce Solutions Office staff to understand the factors affecting the SNAP recipient's employability.

As part of the assessment process, Workforce Solutions Office staff and the SNAP recipient develop an employment plan, based on the SNAP recipient's initial assessment.

The SNAP recipient and Workforce Solutions Office staff share responsibility to establish goals, assess service needs, develop a course of action, and document both the Workforce Solutions Office staff and the SNAP recipient's agreement to the plan. When Workforce Solutions Office staff and the SNAP recipient agree on a plan, the SNAP recipient is expected to complete all activities unless he or she is reassessed or is no longer a SNAP recipient (for example, SNAP case is denied).

B-304: Coordination with HHSC

TWC's SNAP E&T rules include requirements for coordination with HHSC to help Boards provide consistent and streamlined SNAP E&T services. Regularly scheduled coordination activities will also help Boards improve the transition of SNAP recipients between local HHSC offices and Workforce Solutions Offices.

B-305: Referrals for Community-based Services

After the assessment process, Workforce Solutions Office staff can make referrals for community-based services, including:

- housing assistance;
- substance abuse counseling;
- family violence; and
- clothes closets.

Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff documents information on each referral in WorkInTexas.com.

B-306: Documentation

Documentation of SNAP E&T activities and services serves the following four purposes:

1. Identifies customer services provided.
2. Explains case decisions.
3. Justifies expenditures.
4. Allows Workforce Solutions Office staff to record data in TWIST that is used to gather statistical information, is the basis of the monthly and yearly reports, and makes service information accessible to others in the service delivery network.

The primary method of documentation is WorkInTexas.com. It is recommended that Workforce Solutions Office staff uses the SNAP recipient’s individual case file or a paper record for maintaining copies of documents that require a signature. Documents verifying and supporting mandatory work registrant activities that WorkInTexas.com cannot identify through data entry, such as job search worksheets, can also be included.

B-306.a: Eligibility Verification

Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff verifies that the individual is eligible for SNAP benefits each month.

Documentation in WorkInTexas.com must indicate:

- whether the individual is eligible for SNAP benefits; and
- the date Workforce Solutions Office staff verified eligibility.

B-306.b: Assessment

Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff:

- documents initial assessment information and continuing assessments throughout the SNAP recipient’s participation in SNAP E&T services; and
- maintains a signed copy of the employment plan in the SNAP recipient’s file.

B-306.c: Monitoring Participation

Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff:

- enters daily hours of participation into WorkInTexas.com—all entries in WorkInTexas.com must support actual participation in allowable SNAP E&T services; and
- uses WorkInTexas.com to document any discrepancies between the employment plan and the entries in WorkInTexas.com.

For services that are open longer than one day, Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff actively works with participants throughout the entire period of service.

Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff is in direct, two-way contact with participants at least monthly. For this purpose, the following applies:

- Monthly means approximately 30 days.
- To qualify as a direct contact, a response (for example, e-mail, text, phone call, or fax) must be received from the participant indicating his or her continued engagement with the workforce system through the provided services. Automated responses, such as an outgoing voice mail message or out-of-office notification, do not qualify.
- To verify attendance and progress in training and education, documentation received from the school or training provider, including by e-mail or fax, is acceptable and constitutes a direct contact with the participant.

Documentation in WorkInTexas.com

Boards must ensure that the combination of services and detailed narrative information entered into WorkInTexas.com reflects a comprehensive picture of Workforce Solutions Office staff interactions with participants.

Documenting Services

Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff:

- only documents services in WorkInTexas.com when actively working with a participant;
- only documents services provided to a participant;
- accurately records service dates in WorkInTexas.com; and
- closes service activities when no longer actively working with a participant.
- Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff documents only those job search activities performed by participants:
 - at a Workforce Solutions Office or in WorkInTexas.com; or
 - in accordance with an employment plan developed by Workforce Solutions Office staff and the participant.

Boards also must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff only documents participants' self-reporting of job search activities as a *Job Search Assistance* service in WorkInTexas.com if there is evidence that such job search was performed using WorkInTexas.com or Workforce Solutions Offices resources.

Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff documents the following information in WorkInTexas.com:

- details of all services provided;
- all contact with participants and other entities concerning the participants; and
- participants' progress, including supporting documentation and status.

Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff enters into WorkInTexas.com a comprehensive, detailed, self-explanatory narrative on participants' cases that enables other staff members to work the cases with minimal background information required from participants.

Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff includes the following types of information in the narrative, as applicable:

- Title (a descriptive subject entry accurately reflecting the contents)
- Who (customer's name, employer's name)
- What (activity being reported)
- When (the date the activity was reported)
- Where (customer's work/school location)
- Why (to verify or document service activities)
- How (customer called, case manager called)

Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff enters comprehensive information into WorkInTexas.com within one week of the service provision or contact.

B-307: Closing SNAP E&T Services

Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff closes all SNAP E&T services and support services in the following situations:

1. An ABAWD becomes employed at least 20 hours per week and does not wish to continue participating in SNAP E&T services.
2. A SNAP E&T General Population or ABAWD's SNAP benefits are denied.
3. Workforce Solutions Office staff initiates a penalty.
4. A SNAP E&T General Population or ABAWD meets federal exemption criteria and does not wish to continue participating in SNAP E&T on a voluntary basis. (A request for reconsideration is then sent to HHSC. See A-204.a Federal Exemptions.)
5. A SNAP recipient's job retention period has expired.

Boards must be aware that, if a SNAP recipient's job is not scheduled to begin immediately, but will begin within the next 30 days, the recipient can voluntarily continue participating in SNAP E&T services. However, the recipient is not required to voluntarily continue participation; therefore, Boards must ensure that a penalty is not initiated if the recipient does not voluntarily continue participation.

B-308: Records Retention

Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff maintains:

- SNAP E&T records for three years; and
- property records for property purchased with SNAP E&T funds for three years following the disposition of the property.

B-400: SNAP E&T in WorkInTexas.com

B-401: Outreach for SNAP E&T Services

Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff outreaches all ABAWDs for SNAP E&T services within 10 days of an ABAWD's appearance in a Board's outreach pool. This includes mandatory Work Codes 2 and 3.

B-401.b: Outreach

Boards must outreach mandatory work registrants to schedule a SNAP E&T appointment.

Boards must use the standardized letter in WorkInTexas.com.

Only one attempt is required for SNAP E&T outreach. This attempt serves as the first and final notice and must include the consequences of failing to attend the appointment and the Workforce Solutions Office staff contact information. This attempt must be documented in WorkInTexas.com. Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff does not initiate a request for penalty until an outreach attempt is made and the SNAP recipient fails to respond.

B-401.c: Procedures for SNAP Recipients Who Claim Federal SNAP E&T Exemptions

Mandatory work registrants who claim federal SNAP E&T exemptions at the employment planning meeting or after they begin participation in SNAP E&T are referred back to HHSC using Form H1817 so that HHSC can reconsider the SNAP recipient's work registration status. In addition to sending a request for reconsideration, Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff:

- records the reconsideration in WorkInTexas.com;
- enters in WorkInTexas.com the date Form H1817 was sent to HHSC and whether a copy of Form H1817 is on file at the Workforce Solutions Office; and
- closes the SNAP E&T application unless the individual enters full-time employment.

If the individual enters full-time employment, the SNAP E&T application must remain open for the job retention period. If HHSC does not change the SNAP recipient's work code from mandatory to exempt within 61 days of entering the reconsideration into WorkInTexas.com, the SNAP recipient will recycle into the SNAP E&T outreach pool.

B-402: Serving Volunteers

The outreach function is not available for the following SNAP recipients:

- Exempt SNAP recipients who reside in any county
- ABAWDs employed to work at least 20 hours per week (SIG Code D) who reside in any county
- Mandatory work registrants who reside in a minimum-service county

If these SNAP recipients volunteer—and funding is available—Boards may serve them as walk-ins.

Boards must be aware that Workforce Solutions Office staff must serve exempt SNAP recipients who volunteer for E&T services using the following process:

1. Schedule the exempt SNAP recipient for orientation
2. Complete and send Form H1822 to HHSC within two weeks of the exempt SNAP recipient's initial participation*
3. Enter into WorkInTexas.com a statement that Form H1822 was sent to HHSC, including the date that the form was sent to HHSC
4. Keep a copy of Form H1822 on file and fax confirmation of the copy to the Workforce Solutions Office
5. Schedule an initial employment planning meeting in accordance with Section B-106 of this guide
6. Place the exempt SNAP recipient in one of the activities listed in Section B-108 of this guide
7. Provide case management services for the exempt SNAP recipient in accordance with Section B-301 of this guide

*Initial participation begins at orientation. If the volunteer decides not to participate in SNAP E&T services, Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff does not initiate a sanction request.

B-403: SNAP Eligibility Verification and Documentation

Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff verifies SNAP eligibility monthly for all SNAP recipients who:

- participate in SNAP E&T services; and
- request and receive job retention services, support services, or both.

WorkInTexas.com is the primary system used to verify SNAP eligibility. Because WorkInTexas.com may not receive all SNAP denial transactions through the interface, there can be instances in which Workforce Solutions Office staff will need to check TIERS (if applicable) to verify that an individual is still eligible. If the individual does not appear to be eligible in TIERS but is eligible in WorkInTexas.com, it is important for Workforce Solutions Office staff to notify the local and regional HHSC offices as soon as possible. See B-105 for additional information.

After Workforce Solutions Office staff verifies that an individual is eligible for SNAP benefits, the date and information verified must be documented in WorkInTexas.com.

B-404: SNAP E&T Good Cause Actions in WorkInTexas.com

Good cause can be entered into WorkInTexas.com *before* or *after* a penalty has been initiated.

If a SNAP recipient indicates—before or after a penalty is initiated—that he or she has a good cause claim, Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff enters the good cause action into WorkInTexas.com.

Boards must ensure that the date used to process a good cause recommendation is the date that the customer contacted staff with the good cause claim. This date is the date entered into WorkInTexas.com for the good cause decision date and the good cause recommendation non-cooperate date.

Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff does not close the SNAP E&T application while the SNAP recipient is in good cause status.

B-404.c: Follow-up after the Initiation of Penalty

Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff follows up after the initiation of a penalty by:

- maintaining a log of penalties to ensure that action is taken by HHSC; and
- checking initiated penalties frequently to determine if action has been taken by HHSC.

Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff does the following if action has not been taken on the penalty within ten days after the TWC notification date, or if a reject code is received:

- Review the appropriate HHSC system to determine the status of the penalty
- Contact appropriate local HHSC staff to determine the status of the penalty
- If the local office is not able to assist with processing the penalty, contact the HHSC regional contact person

If HHSC has not received the penalty, Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff initiates a new penalty by:

- sending a new penalty using the original noncooperation date; and
- documenting in WorkInTexas.com to show the date that the penalty was originally sent and the date that the reject code was received.

B-405: SNAP E&T Activities in Service Tracking

All SNAP E&T activities must be entered into WorkInTexas.com. The daily hours of participation for each SNAP E&T activity must also be entered into WorkInTexas.com. Only actual hours of participation can be reported.

Within two weeks of an ABAWD's initial participation, Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff notifies HHSC indicating the ABAWD is participating in SNAP E&T services. Once HHSC receives the notice, HHSC will change the ABAWD's Secondary SIG Code C to a SIG Code D.

B-406: Job Retention Services and Support Services in WorkInTexas.com

Boards must be aware that:

- allowable SNAP E&T activities listed in B-406.b must be provided for a minimum of 30 and not more than 90 days to assist SNAP recipients employed full time with retaining employment—if a determination is made, based on the Decision Table in B-115.d, that job retention services, support services, or both can be provided; and
- support services listed in B-406.c must be provided for a minimum of 30 and not more than 90 days to assist SNAP recipients employed full time or part time with retaining employment—if a determination is made, based on the Decision Table in B-115.d, that job retention services, support services, or both can be provided.

B-406.a: Point of Entry into Job Retention

Boards must be aware that Unsubsidized Employment always serves as the gateway, the first point of entry into job retention services, support services, or both. This ensures that all job retention services, or support services provided during the job retention period are associated with, or connected to, the SNAP recipient's employment entry.

Boards must ensure that Workforce Solutions Office staff:

- notifies HHSC of the recipient's full- or part-time employment entry;
- enters a reconsideration in the SNAP History tab; and
- proceeds with the provision of job retention services and support services as outlined in B-406.b and B-406.c.

B-406.b: Allowable Activities for SNAP Recipients Employed Full Time

| | SNAP E&T Services Allowable for Job Retention |
|--|--|
| | Occupational Training |
| | Basic Educational Skills/ABE |
| | Job Search |
| | Job Readiness |
| | English as a Second Language |
| | GED |

B-406.c: Support Services for SNAP Recipients Employed Full Time or Part Time

| | SNAP E&T Support Services Allowable for Job Retention |
|--|--|
| | Family/Child Care |
| | Transportation |
| | Housing/Rental Assistance |
| | Other (such as tools, relocation expenses, union dues, licensing and bonding fees) |

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| | GED Test Payment* |
| | Work-Related Expense |

*Because SNAP recipients employed part time are still required to participate in regular SNAP E&T services, GED Test Payment is not an allowable job retention support service for SNAP recipients employed part time.

Boards must ensure that the job retention services request date is entered in WorkInTexas.com along with one of the allowable job retention services or support services.

B-500: Requests for TIERS Access

Texas Integrated Eligibility Redesign System (TIERS) users must be authorized by Local Workforce Development Board (Board) or Workforce Solutions Office staff before TIERS access can be granted. Board or Workforce Solutions Office staff is required to confirm that it is appropriate for the requested individual to have TIERS access before submitting request forms.

To request new, update, reset, or delete existing TIERS access, forms must be completed and submitted for Workforce Solutions Office staff by the local WorkInTexas.com system administrator.

B-501: Forms Required for Access to TIERS

Forms required for TIERS access are the following:

- Tiers-HR0314—HHS Acceptable Use Agreement (PDF)
- Tiers—HHSC Systems Access Request (PDF)

The required forms are available on the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Intranet in the [Forms Library](#) .

Once the access request is confirmed as appropriate, forms submitted by Workforce Solutions Office staff are e-mailed to TIERSAccess@twc.texas.gov by one of the following:

- WorkInTexas.com system administrator
- Board network administrator
- Board executive director

Board or appropriate Workforce Solutions Office staff is required to review, on an annual basis, individuals with TIERS access to determine if access is still appropriate given current job duties.

Appendix

Forms for SNAP E&T Services


The following forms used to provide services to SNAP E&T participants are available on TWC's Intranet at [Employment Services Forms](#).






| | |
|---------|---|
| E-2510 | Notification of Child Care Eligibility |
| E-2706 | Referral for Services |
| E-2735 | Education Service Provided Referral and GED Testing Authorization |
| E-2736 | Weekly Attendance and Progress Verification |
| E-2738 | TANF/SNAP/WIOA Referral and Eligibility Verification |
| E-2776 | Job Search Worksheet |
| E-2776s | Job Search Worksheet Spanish |
| E-2778 | Employability Plan |
| FL-67 | School Participation Form |
| FL-68 | GED Retest Authorization |
| FL-69 | Attendance Verification and GED Testing Authorization |
| FL-137 | SNAP E&T Program Participant Requirements |

HHSC Forms

HHSC Form H1816—SNAP E&T Noncompliance Report

This form is available online at [HHSC Form H1816](#).

| | | |
|--|------------|-------------------------------------|
|  | | Form H1816 October 2017-E |
| SNAP E & T Noncompliance Report | | |
| To: (Eligibility Staff) | | |
| Eligibility Staff Address (Street, City, State, Zip Code) | | |
| From: (Employment Contractor) | | |
| Employment Contractor Address (Street, City, State, Zip Code) | | |
| Client Name | Client No. | |
| Case Name | | |
| PART I – MESSAGE FROM TWC STAFF TO TEXAS WORKS STAFF – Sanction Client for: | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Client failed to participate. <input type="checkbox"/> Client failed to respond to outreach. | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> We explored good cause with the client. Good cause recommended. | | |
| Date of good cause claim | | |
| Comments | | |
| Signature — TWC Staff | | Date |
| PART II – MESSAGE FROM ELIGIBILITY STAFF TO TWC | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Client has served their penalty period and agrees to participate in the Employment Service Program. | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Client has good cause for noncompliance..... | | Date |
| Comments | | |
| Signature — Eligibility staff | | Date |

| | | | |
|--|-----------|--|------------|
|  | | Form H1817 August 2018-E | |
| SNAP Information Transmittal | | | |
| To: (HHSC) | | From: (Employment Contractor) | |
| Address | Mail Code | Address | Mail Code |
| Case Name | | Case No. | |
| Client Name | | Client SSN | Client No. |
| Part I – Message from Employment Contractor to HHSC Staff | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Please reconsider this client's registration (see Comments). <input type="checkbox"/> Client to receive _____ UI each _____ weeks(s), beginning _____ Date <input type="checkbox"/> Please provide the dates for which the client is certified to receive Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.* <input type="checkbox"/> Client wishes to comply. An eligibility determination needs to be made. <input type="checkbox"/> Case inquiry or other request (see Comments). | | | |
| Comments: <div style="background-color: #e0e0ff; height: 80px; width: 100%;"></div> | | | |
|  Signature — Employment Contractor | |  Date | |
| Part II – Message from HHSC Staff to Employment Contractor | | | |
| *This client is certified to receive SNAP from (month/year) _____ through(month/year) _____ | | | |
| Comments: <div style="background-color: #e0e0ff; height: 80px; width: 100%;"></div> | | | |
|  Signature — Eligibility Staff | |  Date | |



ABAWD E&T Work Requirement Verification

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------|-------|
| Case Name: | Case No.: | Date: |
| Name of Person: | | |

PART I (to be completed by local workforce staff after initial outreach at application):

The person named above is participating in a satisfactory manner in the E&T program.

PART II (to be completed by local workforce staff to verify participation during the recertification process):

- WIOA Program; Start Date []
- Trade Adjustment Act Program; Start Date []
- Veterans Affairs; Start Date []

Average Weekly Participation:

- 20 or More Hours per Week
- Less than 20 Hours per Week; client participates an average of [] hours per week
- SNAP E&T Program; Start Date []
 - Workfare
 - Education or Training 20 or More Hours per Week
- The person named above is not participating in any Workforce Program

| | |
|---|--------|
| Name of Representative (please type or print) | Agency |
|---|--------|

| | | |
|-----------|------|-----------|
| Signature | Date | Phone No. |
|-----------|------|-----------|

| | |
|--------------|---------|
| HHSC Address | Fax No. |
|--------------|---------|

Workfare Agreement Template

NONFINANCIAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN WORKFARE PROVIDER AND SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATOR AUTHORITY

The parties are authorized to enter into this nonfinancial agreement by, and all performance under this agreement is subject to, 7 USC §2029 (workfare) and 7 CFR §273.7. The parties entering into this contract are the local workfare provider and the Local Workforce Development Board (Board) or its designee.

Board/Designee:

Workfare Provider:

Workfare provider is a public or private nonprofit.

PERIOD OF AGREEMENT

This agreement becomes effective on the last signature date of the parties and will continue in effect for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) _____, which runs from October 1, _____ to September 30, _____ or until terminated by mutual written agreement of both parties or by one party giving 30 days' written notice to the other party.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this agreement is to establish policies and procedures for workfare experience for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs) who receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits at various sites with the workfare provider.

GOALS

- 1.1 The goal of this agreement is to establish workfare jobsites for ABAWDs.
- 1.2 The primary goal of workfare is to improve employability and enable individuals to move into regular employment [7 CFR §273.7(m)].
- 1.3 The Board or its designee will develop local work plans for each participant in this project. The work plans must include the type of work to be performed, hours, and the contact at the employer site.

MEETINGS AND COORDINATION

- 2.1 The workfare provider and the Board or its designee will meet as needed to assess the activities conducted under this agreement and to make necessary adjustments to improve the results of the project.
- 2.2 The workfare provider and the Board or its designee will establish a process for the workfare provider to report hours of participation, nonparticipation, and/or any other relevant participant information.
- 2.3 The contacts for this agreement are:

Workfare Provider/Workfare Site:

Name:

Title:

Address:

Phone Number:

Board/Designee Name:

Title:

Address:

Phone Number:

MUTUAL AGREEMENTS

3.1 Performing the workfare activity on a regular basis must be within the participant's capability, including physical capacity, skills, experience, family responsibilities, and place of residence.

3.2 The total hours of participation will be based on the individual's SNAP benefits and will not exceed 30 hours per week. The maximum total number of hours of work required of a SNAP household each month is determined by dividing the household's benefit allotment by the Federal or State minimum wage, whichever is higher. Fractions of hours of obligation may be rounded down. The household's hours of obligation for any given month may not be carried over into another month. The Board/Designee will provide information to the Workfare Provider about the required hours of participation.

3.3 All participants have the rights available under federal, state, and local law prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, sex, national origin, religion, age, or disability. Individuals alleging discrimination may choose to have their complaints processed as a SNAP Employment and Training dispute, or as a violation of other applicable state and local laws prohibiting discrimination in employment.

WORKFARE PROVIDER AGREEMENTS

4.1 No participant will be required, with or without consent, to remain away from home overnight.

4.2 No participant will be required to work more than eight hours on any given day without his or her consent.

4.3 All participants in workfare receive job-related benefits at the same levels and to the same extent as similar non-workfare employees. These are benefits related to the actual work being performed, such as workers' compensation, and not benefits related to the employment, such as health insurance. Of those benefits required to be offered, any elective benefit that requires a cash contribution by the participant will be optional at the discretion of the participant.

4.4 Workfare participants are subject to the same health and safety standards established under state and federal law that apply to non-ABAWDs in similar activities.

4.5 Operating agencies must not provide work to a workfare participant that has the effect of replacing or preventing employment of an individual not participating in the workfare program.

Workfare jobs shall in no way infringe upon the promotional opportunities otherwise available to regular employees.

4.6 Workfare jobs must not be related in any way to political or partisan activities.

4.7 The workfare provider shall comply with the local work plan developed for each participant.

4.8 The workfare provider agrees to provide _____ job slots to workfare participants each month. A slot is one workfare opening that may be filled by one individual.

TWC AGREEMENTS

5.1 The conditions of participation must be reasonable, taking the proficiency of the participant into account in each case.

5.2 Complaints related to workfare services must be filed in accordance with Board policies as outlined in the Texas Workforce Commission’s Integrated Complaints, Hearings, and Appeals rules at 40 Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Chapter 823.

Agreed to:

Name:

Name:

Title:

Title:

Workfare Provider:

Board/Designee:

Date:

Date:

Workfare Agreements Checklist

| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Boards must complete each item on the checklist below. | |
| The workfare agreement was made using the Workfare Agreement Template located in the Appendix of this Guide. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The Workfare Agreement is labeled with the correct federal fiscal year. Note: The federal fiscal year is from October to the following September. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The number of workfare slots listed across all of the Board’s workfare agreements equals or exceeds the number of workfare slots that TWC assigned to the Board for the federal fiscal year. Do not include a range of slots such as “15-20 slots.” | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Each electronic workfare agreement file contains only one agreement. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The workfare agreement electronic file is named using the following convention: <i>Board Name_Workfare Agreement for [insert provider name] for FFY XXXX</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The file is in PDF format. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

List of Revisions

The tables below include a comprehensive list of the substantive changes made to this guide, including the revision date, the section revised, and a brief explanation of the specific revision.

Note: Guide updates often contain minor, non-substantive editorial changes that are not included in the List of Revisions.

March 2024

| Section | Revisions |
|---------|---|
| A-101.d | Case management system update |
| A-102 | Revised definitions to reflect case management system update and add definition for “close of business” |
| A-103.c | Case management system update |
| A-103.d | Case management system update |
| A-103.e | Case management system update |
| A-202 | Case management system update |
| A-203.a | Case management system update |
| A-203.c | Case management system update |
| A-203.d | Revised to reflect changes to the ABAWD time-limit exceptions in accordance with the FRA |
| A-205 | Case management system update |
| A-301 | Case management system update. Added additional guidance on good cause and penalties. |
| A-301.a | Case management system update. Added additional guidance on good cause and penalties. |
| A-301.b | Case management system update |
| A-302 | Case management system update |
| A-303 | Case management system update |
| B-102 | Case management system update |

| | |
|------------|--|
| B-102.a | Removed outdated SNAP E&T Flowchart |
| B-103 | Case management system update |
| B-104 | Case management system update. Added additional guidance on penalties. |
| B-105 | Case management system update |
| B-106.d | Added additional guidance on penalties |
| B-106.e | Case management system update |
| B-107 | Case management system update |
| B-108 | Case management system update |
| B-108.a(1) | Case management system update |
| B-108.f | Case management system update |
| B-108.g | Case management system update |
| B-108.h | Case management system update |
| B-109 | Case management system update |
| B-112 | Case management system update |
| B-113 | Case management system update |
| B-115 | Case management system update |
| B-115.b | Case management system update |
| B-115.c | Case management system update |
| B-115.d | Case management system update |
| B-115.e | Case management system update |
| B-115.g(1) | Case management system update |
| B-115.k | Case management system update |
| B-301 | Case management system update |
| B-302 | Case management system update |
| B-302.a | Deleted Sample Outreach Letter |

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| B-305 | Case management system update |
| B-306 | Case management system update |
| B-306(a) | Case management system update |
| B-306(c) | Case management system update |
| B-400 (all sections) | Case management system update |
| B-500 | Case management system update |

January 2024

| Section | Revisions |
|------------------|---|
| Goal of SNAP E&T | Revised to reflect SNAP E&T programmatic change made by the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 (FRA) |
| A-101.a | Added section describing FRA impacts to SNAP E&T |
| A-102 | Revised definitions to make programmatic changes regarding ABAWDs and to remove the Work Experience/Work-Based Learning activities of internship, pre-apprenticeship, apprenticeship, and on-the-job training. Added guidance on participants who are not eligible to work in the United States |
| A-103.e | Added that Boards must use the Individual Employment Plan/Service Strategy in WorkInTexas.com |
| A-106 | Added a list of full- and minimum-service counties for better accessibility |
| A-203.d | Revised to reflect changes to the ABAWD time-limit exceptions in accordance with the FRA which added homeless, veterans, and former foster youth to the list of individuals excepted from the ABAWD time limit |
| B-108.e | Revised to update Work Experience references and policy to reflect the removal of all Work-Based Learning activities from the list of allowable SNAP E&T activities |
| B-108.f | Revised to adjust Workfare Agreement timeline and provide additional information on annual Workfare Agreement guidance |

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| Workfare Agreements Checklist | Updated with additional guidance |
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February 2023

| Section | Revisions |
|---------|---|
| A-101.a | Added information about 2021 FNS Final Rule |
| A-102 | Clarified definitions of job retention, volunteer, and workfare. Removed temporary interruptions |
| A-103.d | Removed temporary interruption guidance |
| A-103.e | Removed temporary interruption guidance |
| A-204.a | Clarification on exempt recipients |
| A-303 | Clarification on accrual of countable months for ABAWDs who have been granted good cause |
| A-401 | Removed temporary interruptions guidance |
| B-106 | Added clarification on employment planning and assessment guidance |
| B-106.b | Added a checklist of assessment topics for Workforce Solutions Office staff to use during employment planning |
| B-108 | Added clarifications on available activities |
| B-108.a | Added clarification on case-managed job search |
| B-108.f | Updated guidance on Workfare slots and agreements |
| B-113.a | Removed references to temporary interruptions |
| B-115.i | Added clarifications on Job Retention |
| B-201 | Added clarification on providing support services to volunteers |
| B-207 | Removed references to temporary interruptions |
| B-301 | Added clarifications on case management |
| B-402 | Updated guidance on serving volunteers |
| B-404 | Removed references to temporary interruptions |

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| B-404.a | Removed references to temporary interruptions |
| Appendix | Replaced “Nonfinancial Cooperation Agreement” with updated version. Added a Workfare Agreement Checklist |

March 2022

| Section | Revisions |
|-------------------|---|
| Overview of Guide | Revised for clarity |
| A-103.d | Revised to reflect the new service-delivery model and clarify requirements for workfare slots |
| A-103.e | Updated to reflect the new service-delivery model |
| A-205 | Revised the reconsideration process for clarity |
| B-102.a | Added clarification about submission of Form H1822 |
| B-108.d | Updated to add guidance on federal requirements regarding supplanting and cost parity |
| B-108.e | Updated for clarity |
| B-108.f | Updated guidance on workfare requirements, including workfare placements and agreements |
| B-113.a | Revised compliance period information for clarity |

October 2021

| Section | Revisions |
|------------|--|
| A-102 | Updated definitions of SNAP E&T terms |
| A-103.d | Revised to specify Board responsibilities regarding workfare |
| A-105.a | Added new section to address guidance on complaints, hearings, and appeals |
| A-204.a(1) | Updated guidance for Work Code P |
| A-205 | Updated to address implementation of the provider determination provision of 2021 final rule |

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| B-106.b | Updated to add additional guidance regarding the development of employment plans |
| B-108 | Updated guidance regarding WIOA and good cause |
| B-108.a | Updated the requirements for case-managed job search |
| B-108.c | Updated to provide guidance regarding costs charged to E&T |
| B-108.d | Updated to add to description of nonvocational education and provide guidance regarding costs charged to E&T |
| B-108.e | Added guidance regarding the new Work Experience provisions from the 2021 final rule |
| B-108.f | Updated requirements for Workfare Assignment letter |
| B-112 | Updated to address the impacts of SNAP benefit increase |
| B-113 | Updated to provide additional guidance on participants who notify Workforce Solutions Office staff that they do not wish to participate |
| B-113.a | Updated to add clarification on the compliance period |
| B-115.k | Updated to provide additional guidance on the provision of job retention services |
| B-202 | Updated in accordance with federal regulations |
| B-301 | Updated to provide clarification on the duration of case management services and engagement in E&T |
| B-402 | Updated to provide clarification on voluntary participation hours in work programs or workfare |
| Nonfinancial Cooperative Agreement | Updated to add additional requirement for workfare agreement |

October 2020

| Section | Revisions |
|---------|---|
| A-102 | Added definition of “Compliance Period” |
| A-106 | Added updated map |
| A-301.a | Clarified good cause actions |

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| A-301.b | Clarified good cause actions |
| A-302 | Added a good cause reason |
| B-102.a | Updated chart for clarity |
| B-103 | Updated chart for clarity |
| B-104 | Minor edits to clarify outreach requirements |
| B-106.c | Clarified requirements for Gen Pop noncooperation |
| B-106.d | Clarified actions when ABAWD does not meet work requirement |
| B-107 | Clarified hourly participation requirement |
| B-108 | Updated chart for clarity |
| B-113 | Updated requirements for noncooperation with SNAP E&T |
| B-113.a | Updated requirements during and after the compliance period |
| B-302 | Clarified ABAWD outreach requirements |
| B-401.b | Clarified requirements for outreach attempts |
| Form 1822 | Updated to the most recent version |

February 2020

| Section | Revisions |
|---------|--|
| A-101.c | Revised in accordance with the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 |
| A-102 | Updated job retention and SNAP E&T activities definitions |
| A-103.e | Updated in accordance with the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 |
| A-203.a | Updated documentation requirements |
| A-205 | Updated documentation requirements |
| B-103 | Updated outreach letter requirements |
| B-104 | Added new policy regarding the provision of outreach letters |

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| B-106.a | Updated in accordance with the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 |
| B-106.f | Updated in accordance with the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 |
| B-107 | Updated the 120-hour monthly limitation to align with federal requirement |
| B-108 | Updated in accordance with the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 |
| B-108.a | Updated in accordance with the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 |
| B-108.a(1) | Updated in accordance with the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 |
| B-108.f | Updated documentation requirements |
| B-113 | Updated documentation requirements |
| B-113.a | Added new section: Timely and Reasonable Attempt |
| B-115 | Updated in accordance with the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 |
| B-115.b-d | Updated in accordance with the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 |
| B-115.e | Revised for clarity |
| B-115.g | Updated in accordance with the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 |
| B-115.g(1) | Revised for clarity and updated in accordance with the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 |
| B-115.i | Revised for clarity and updated in accordance with the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 |
| B-115.k | Updated in accordance with the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 |
| B-115.l | Updated in accordance with the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 |
| B-201 | Updated policy on support service payments/reimbursement to align with federal requirements |

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| B-202 | Updated in accordance with the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 |
| B-203 | Updated in accordance with the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 |
| B-301 | Revised for clarity |
| B-306.c | Revised for clarity |
| B-307 | Updated in accordance with the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 |
| B-406 | Updated in accordance with the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 |
| B-406.a | Updated in accordance with the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 |
| B-406.b | Added new service code |
| B-406.f | Updated in accordance with the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 |
| B-406.g | Updated in accordance with the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 |

June 2019

| Section | Revisions |
|----------------|---|
| A-102 | Revised the definition of reconsideration |
| A-203.a | Revised and added information about the H1822 at SNAP recertification |
| A-203.c | Clarification on how to calculate employment hours |
| A-204.a(1) | Added refugees to Work Code S recipients |
| A-302 | Revised the Reasons for Good Cause |

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| B-108.b | Clarification that training does not have to be done by an Eligible Training Provider. |
| B-108.f | Clarification about part-time employment |
| B-113 | Clarifications about the consequences of noncompliance and the opportunity to provide good cause |
| B-115.d | Revised the Decision Table for clarity |
| B-501 | Revised to reflect updated TIERS forms |
| Appendix | Updated Forms H1816, H1817, and H1822 |

June 2018

| Section | Revisions |
|---------|--|
| A-102 | Updated and added “temporary interruption” to definitions |
| A-103.c | Clarifications regarding HHSC responsibility for good cause determination |
| A-103.d | Revised and updated to include temporary interruption for compliant SNAP E&T participants |
| A-103.e | Clarifications of the responsibilities of Workforce Solutions Office staff regarding good cause and the addition of temporary interruption |
| A-301 | Clarifications to the process of good cause notification to HHSC |
| A-301.a | Clarifications to the good cause process <i>before</i> a penalty is initiated |
| A-301.b | Clarifications to the good cause process <i>after</i> a penalty is initiated, and the process if HHSC denies a good cause recommendation |
| A-301.c | Deleted because exempt SNAP recipients don’t require good cause |
| A-302 | Clarifications regarding good cause reasons that might require reconsideration by HHSC |
| A-303 | Clarifies that HHSC determines good cause, not the Boards |

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| A-400 | New section to describe temporary interruption |
| A-401.a | Describes temporary interruption and its application |
| A-401.b | Describes when participation may resume after a temporary interruption |
| A-402 | Describes Workforce Solutions Office and Board responsibilities regarding temporary interruption |
| B-404 | Revised to include temporary interruption |
| B-404.a | Revised to describe only temporary interruption actions in TWIST |
| B-404.b(1) | Revised to reflect good cause actions in TWIST before a penalty is initiated |
| B-404.b(2) | Revised to reflect good cause actions in TWIST after a penalty is initiated |

June 2017

| Section | Revisions |
|----------------|--|
| A-204 | Updated Federal Exemptions to indicate HHSC staff is responsible for determining exemption status of SNAP recipients. |
| A-204.a(1) | Updated various Federal Exemption Criteria and Corresponding Work Codes. |
| A-204.a(2) | Update Texas Works Bulletin information and link. Revised Scenario 1 and 2. |
| A-204.a(3) | Deleted Screening for Federal Exemptions at employment planning meetings. No longer required. Renumbered. |
| A-204.a(4) | Renumbered to A-204.a(3). Requests for Reconsideration revised to include Workforce Solutions Office staff must not conduct redeterminations of all SNAP recipients who attend employment planning meetings. |
| A-204.a(5) | Renumbered to A-204.a(4). Revised to remove pregnant (verification required), “verification required” removed from exempt from SNAP E&T work requirements, and “lives in waiver area” removed. No longer required. |

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| | SNAP recipients age revised from 50 to 49. |
| A-204.a(6) | Deleted. ABAWD Waiver Counties. No longer valid. |
| Appendix | Forms FL-139 and FL-139S, SNAP E&T Exemption Worksheet. No longer required. |

October 2011

| Section | Revisions |
|--------------|---|
| All Sections | Updated terminology: changed Texas Workforce Center to Workforce Solutions Office |
| A-106 | FY'12 SNAP E&T Map |
| A-300 | Revised <i>Good Cause</i> to specify actions that should be taken if good cause is initiated prior to a request to sanction, or after a sanction has been initiated |
| B-108.a(1) | Removed verification procedures for SNAP recipients participating in job search |
| B-108.f | Revised <i>Unsubsidized Employment</i> to include the second part of the federal definition for full-time employment, and to provide information on actions Boards must ensure Workforce Solutions Office staff take when the recipient enters full-time employment prior to and during participation |
| B-113 | Revised <i>Noncooperation with SNAP E&T Requirements</i> to emphasize that the timely and reasonable attempt policy does not apply to SNAP E&T |
| B-115h | Modified <i>Job Retention Decision Table</i> to include language on the time frame in which a person may receive job retention services |
| B-115.s | Added new subsection regarding provision of job retention services when a recipient enters new employment during the 90-day job retention period |
| B-203 | Revised <i>Transportation Assistance</i> to indicate that FNS prohibits use of SNAP E&T funds for automobile repairs for exempt recipients |
| B-205 | Revised <i>Housing Assistance</i> based on guidance from FNS limiting housing assistance to two months in a 12-month period |

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| B-206 | Added new child care policy reiterating that Boards must use CCDF funds—not SNAP E&T funds—for recipients participating in SNAP E&T |
| B-306.c | Removed Verification and Documentation Requirements |
| B-307 | Added note indicating that SNAP recipients meet the full-time employment exemption criteria if they accept a job offer of at least 30 hours per week, and the job is scheduled to begin immediately or within the next 30 days |
| B-401 | Added requirement for Boards to outreach SNAP recipients with Work Code 5 |
| Part C/ Appendix | Removed Part C, Guide Review; added new Part C Appendix |
| RESCISSIONS | WD Letter 11-10 |

September 2009

| Section | Revisions |
|------------|--|
| A-101.c | Revised in accordance with WD Letter 35-09 |
| A-101.c(1) | Revised in accordance with WD Letter 35-09 |
| A-106 | Revised in accordance with WD Letter 35-09 |
| B-106.a | Revised in accordance with WD Letter 35-09 |
| B-106.a–f | Revised in accordance with WD Letter 35-09 |
| B-106.f | Revised in accordance with WD Letter 35-09 |
| B-115 | New section added in accordance with WD Letter 35-09 |
| B-201 | Revised in accordance with WD Letter 35-09 |
| B-202 | Revised in accordance with WD Letter 35-09 |
| B-203 | Revised in accordance with WD Letter 35-09 |
| B-204 | Revised in accordance with WD Letter 35-09 |
| B-205 | Revised in accordance with WD Letter 35-09 |

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| B-207–209 | Revised in accordance with WD Letter 35-09 |
| B-406 | Revised in accordance with WD Letter 35-09 |

April 2009

| Section | Revisions |
|----------------|--|
| All Sections | Revised in accordance with WD Letter 09-09 |
| A-101.c | Updated SNAP E&T map |
| B-108.a(1) | Revised in accordance with WD Letter 41-07, Change 2 |
| B-114 | Corrected language |
| A-204.a(2) | New section added in accordance with WD Letter 15-08 |
| B-306.c | Revised in accordance with WD Letter 62-07, Change 2 |
| B-405 | Revised in accordance with TA Bulletin 190 |