



News Release

Timothy Jeffries, Director

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Arizona Selected to Participate in First-of-its-kind Employment and Training Project *Focus: Adults Participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program*

PHOENIX – Director Timothy Jeffries announced today that DES has been selected to participate in a first-of-its-kind, peer-to-peer effort to help state agencies improve employment and training programs for adults participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps, in order to assist in obtaining employment, and ultimately move off of SNAP.

“There is a strong sense of pride in employment and striving to be the best for yourself and your family,” said Director Timothy Jeffries. “By equipping individuals with job skills, we are moving them that much closer to sustainability to eliminate the need for assistance. The Arizona Department of Economic was chosen because of its well-established, job-driven workforce development programs to help those in need.”

“Our participation in SNAP to Skills reflects our commitment to supporting SNAP recipients, including Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD), to achieve self-sufficiency,” said Molly Bright, Deputy Assistant Director for the Division of Employment and Rehabilitation Services.

Other states selected for SNAP to Skills include: Arkansas, California, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina and Tennessee. SNAP (Employment and Training) E&T is a critical tool in each state’s workforce development system. SNAP to Skills will work with states to identify areas for growth in their E&T programs, including the opportunity to expand their program with federal support, which will match their funding on a 50-50 basis. Match funding for the federal support will come from community partners and other organizations with no impact to Arizona’s General Fund.

In October 2015, USDA announced that the Seattle Jobs Initiative would create an intensive technical assistance program to help states to build better, stronger E&T programs. These 10 states were chosen to participate based on their existing level of commitment and interest in expanding the SNAP E&T program, their ability to build effective partnerships with local training providers, and the availability of strong, job-driven workforce development programs in the state. The project will last two years, ending in September 2017.

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