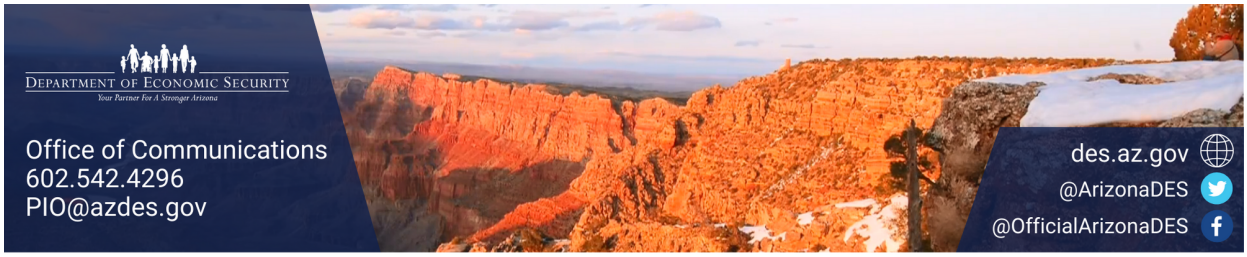

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DES Partners with Head Start to Connect SNAP CAN Participants with Child Care

PHOENIX - (May 22, 2023) The Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) and the Arizona Head Start Association (AZHSA) announced today a new partnership to connect individuals participating in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Career Advancement Network (SNAP CAN) employment and training programs to Head Start programs that provide a variety of services for prenatal mothers and children birth through age 5, including quality child care.

"Individuals receiving SNAP should be given the opportunity to engage employment services and improve their career prospects without having to worry about care for their children," said DES Director Angie Rodgers. "I'm grateful for Head Start's commitment to helping these individuals access quality child care so they can achieve success for themselves and their families."

While all SNAP recipients are eligible to participate in Head Start programs, this pilot will provide individuals receiving SNAP CAN services with direct referrals from SNAP CAN providers to local Head Start programs, and offer information and assistance regarding the application process. In turn, Head Start programs can also refer SNAP recipients to local SNAP CAN providers so they can take advantage of the employment and training services available to them. Both organizations are strongly committed to the shared goal of increasing participation, program completion, and promoting the overall success for Arizona families.

"When we strategically partner with programs like SNAP CAN, families have targeted opportunities to use the resources to further their own futures and strengthen Arizona," said AZHSA Director Jessica Rivera-Garcia. "We are happy that our most disadvantaged families have programs like this available to support them in their journey to be successful."

SNAP CAN

SNAP CAN is Arizona's federally funded SNAP Employment & Training (E&T) program and leverages existing employment and training expertise by partnering with contracted community-based organizations to deliver these services to SNAP recipients. SNAP CAN

providers meet participants where they are and provide meaningful, intentional opportunities toward career pathways to achieve economic independence with living-wage employment. Learn more about SNAP CAN and the 21 providers across Arizona.

Head Start

Head Start programs promote the school readiness of infants, toddlers, and preschool-aged children from at-risk families. Services are provided in a variety of settings including centers, family childcare, and children's own home. Head Start programs for children ages 3-5 support children's growth in a positive learning environment, while Early Head Start programs provide similar services tailored to the unique needs of infants and toddlers. All Head Start programs promote the physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development of infants, toddlers, and preschool age children through safe and developmentally enriching caregiving, as well as providing resources for the entire family. Learn more about Head Start and their 500+ locations in Arizona.

Find a Head Start Program Near You

If you are a SNAP CAN participant interested in finding child care through Head Start, please reach out to your provider to be connected with a Head Start agency. If you are a SNAP recipient in need of employment and training services, visit our website to connect with a provider.

If you are a SNAP recipient not receiving employment services, care through Head Start is still available to you! Find out more, including locations and application instructions.

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