

Integrating TANF & SNAP Employment Services

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Employment and Training (E&T) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) have a shared goal of helping individuals/families achieve economic independence through employment. These programs have separate funding sources and eligibility requirements but often provide similar services to overlapping populations. Coordinating SNAP E&T and TANF programs can enhance service delivery and improve employment outcomes for families with low incomes.¹ Exhibit 1 summarizes these potential coordination efforts and benefits.

Generally, States cannot provide TANF cash assistance and SNAP E&T services to families simultaneously.² However, four state agencies—Colorado, Utah, Vermont, and Wisconsin—are authorized under 7 CFR 273.7(d)(1)(ii)(H) to use SNAP E&T funds to support individuals who receive TANF cash assistance.³ This unique authorization allows for shared resources and services to better support participants in obtaining gainful employment.

Exhibit 1. Potential Coordination Efforts between TANF and SNAP E&T and Benefits



State Spotlights

Several states have implemented coordinated approaches to streamline service delivery between SNAP E&T and TANF work programs. The following examples from Utah and Washington highlight how integration of program administration, funding, and service delivery can enhance efficiency and may improve outcomes for participants.

Utah

Utah's Department of Workforce Services (DWS) administers all employment and training programs, including SNAP E&T and TANF (referred to as the Family Employment Program).⁴ This centralized approach enhances case management efficiency and optimizes resource allocation.

- **One-stop employment centers** serve families receiving benefits, including SNAP and TANF, improving service coordination.

- Utah utilizes an **integrated eligibility system** for human services including SNAP and TANF, streamlining program access.
- DWS **consolidates funding streams**, including TANF and SNAP E&T, to support unified case management and service delivery.
- **Case managers provide consistent guidance and support**, ensuring seamless access to employment services, regardless of program affiliation.

Washington

In Washington, SNAP E&T (known as Basic Food Employment and Training Program [BFET]) and TANF are coordinated to promote economic security. BFET funds are used at community colleges to support students with low incomes (e.g., by covering tuition) through SNAP E&T 50-50 funding.¹

- **Shared case management** promotes continuity of services if an individual transitions from TANF to SNAP E&T. It also allows shared information about clients between contractors, case managers, community-based organizations, and community colleges.
- TANF case managers in Washington are **trained in both TANF and SNAP E&T**. Similarly, some community colleges have on-campus coordinators who help students navigate both SNAP E&T and TANF.
- **SNAP E&T and TANF services are also co-located** at some locations where Washington Department for Social and Human Services provides integrated services.

Notes and References

¹ Administration for Children & Families, Office of Family Assistance. (2016). *Issue Brief: Improving Services for Families through Increased TANF Coordination with SNAP Employment and Training Programs*. https://acf.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ofa/tanf_snap_issue_brief_final.pdf

² Exceptions are states who provide non-recurrent short-term benefits through TANF and states authorized under (7 CFR 273.7(d)(1)(ii)(H)).

³ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Services. (2007). *Use of Federal E&T Funds to Serve Individuals in State Programs Funded With TANF MOE Funds*. <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/use-federal-et-funds-serve-individuals-state-programs-funded-tanf-moe-funds>

⁴ Utah's State Plan for TANF is available here: <https://jobs.utah.gov/edo/stateplans/tanfstateplan.pdf>

⁵ Colorado's WIOA Plan is available here: <https://wioaplans.ed.gov/node/451916>

⁶ Strawn, Julie. (2018). *SNAP to Skills Policy Brief 8*. https://snaptoskills.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2018-06/Brief_June2018_508comp.pdf

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