

SNAP FOOD INITIATIVES

COLLECTIVE ACTION TO ADDRESS
FOOD INSECURITY

FOOD INSECURITY IN THE U.S.



More than 47
million people in the
US face hunger,
including
1 in 5 children.



Hunger is more
common in rural
areas due to lack of
transportation and
other resources.



In 2023 alone, more
than 50 million
people turned to
food assistance for
extra help.

FOOD INSECURITY IN KENTUCKY



Highest rate in the nation among older adults 50 -59, at 17.3%. The national average is 10.6%.



In 2022, SNAP helped feed 12% of KY's population, 1 in 8 people.



In 2023 alone, more than 50 million people turned to food assistance for extra help.

SNAP OUTREACH

...raises awareness about SNAP and helps eligible individuals and families apply for and access SNAP benefits. This includes locally grown and culturally relevant food.

Every 5% increase in the number of families receiving SNAP benefits was associated with an 8% to 14% reduction in CPS & foster care caseloads (Chapin Hall)



SNAP FACT

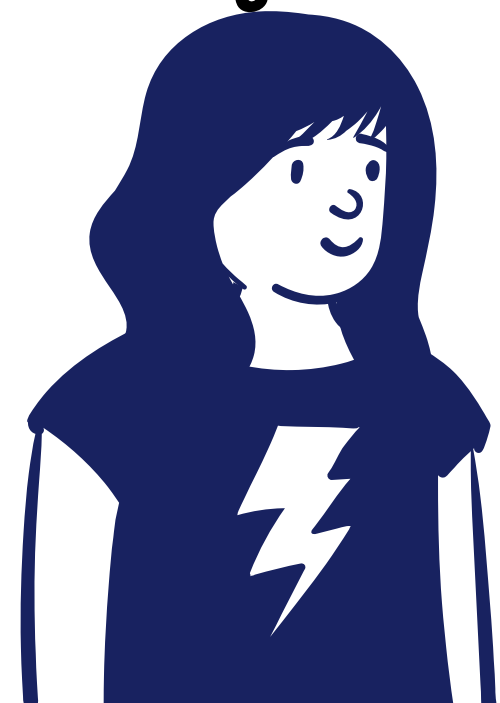
Your neighbors are hungry.
Kentucky faces significant hunger challenges.
10 of the nation's 25 most food-insecure counties are in
Central and Eastern Kentucky.

SNAP OUTREACH

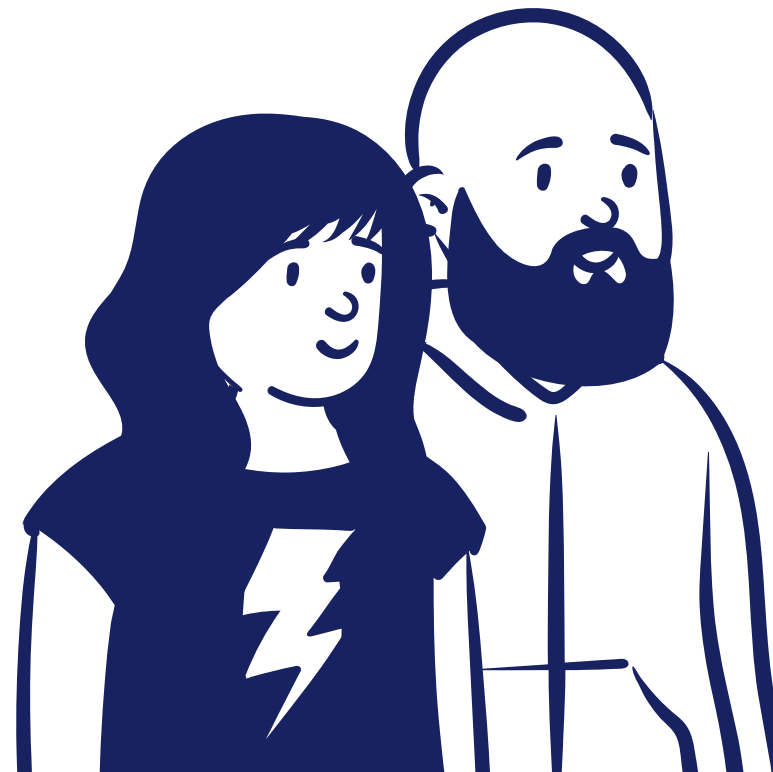
works to reduce food
insecurity

I'm worried
my food
won't last until my
next paycheck.

I'm not sure
where my
next meal
is coming from.



Hi,
I 'm a SNAP Outreach
Coordinator and
I'm here to help.



SNAP OUTREACH

service delivery

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	EXAMPLES
Eligibility Processing	Use of a tool to inform potential applicants of eligibility.
Application Assistance	Assistance completing and delivering the application.
Information Dissemination	Distribute approved program information.
Outreach Workshops	SNAP Outreach fair at a Senior Center.

SNAP OUTREACH service delivery

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	EXAMPLES
Training/train -the -trainer for SNAP outreach workers	Training of local community partners to run outreach seminars.
Translation of materials to convey eligibility requirements	Translation of outreach envelope into a predominant non -English language.
Develop printed educational or informational materials	Develop and print a brochure providing information about SNAP.
Contingent activities related to Disaster SNAP (D -SNAP) operations	Informational activities and On -Site Assistance at D -SNAP sites.

SNAP OUTREACH Partners

- Brighton Center
- Catholic Charities
- God's Pantry
- Feeding Kentucky - America's Heartland



SNAP OUTREACH is for everyone...

However, we focus on populations that are often underserved.

- **Students**
 - Focus on Institutes of Higher Learning (IHE)
- **Veterans**
 - More likely to experience food insecurity; states can collaborate with local Veterans Health Administration (VHA) to connect them to SNAP.
- **Older Adults/Seniors**
 - Historically lower SNAP participation: outreach can reduce barriers such as technology, mobility, stigma, and misconceptions about eligibility, including support for kinship caregivers.
- **Immigrant and Mixed Status Households**
 - Address language barriers, transportation issues, unfamiliarity with organizations, or need for specialized services.

SIMPLIFIED ASSISTANCE FOR THE ELDERLY

otherwise known as “SAFE”

Simplified Assistance for the Elderly caters to KY residents that are single (1 person household) or married (2 -person household) that are **60 and older who must receive SSI** . This program does not contribute to anyone in the home that is not a spouse, does not receive SSI and below the age of 60.



ELDERLY SIMPLIFIED APPLICATION PROGRAM

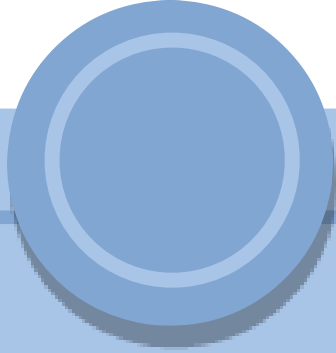
otherwise known as “ESAP”

Elderly Simplified Application Project, provides assistance to households in which all adult members **are 60 years or older and/or disabled with no earned income.** ESAP is aimed for those individuals who primarily receive RSDI income only and can have dependents in the household.

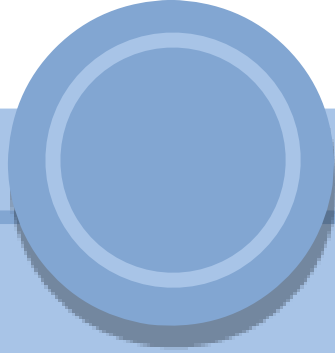
Senior participation in SNAP is low, with only 4.8 million older adults enrolled. This represents less than half of eligible seniors. Approximately 3 out of 5 eligible seniors, or about 5 million seniors, do not apply for the program.



SNAP OUTREACH IMPACT



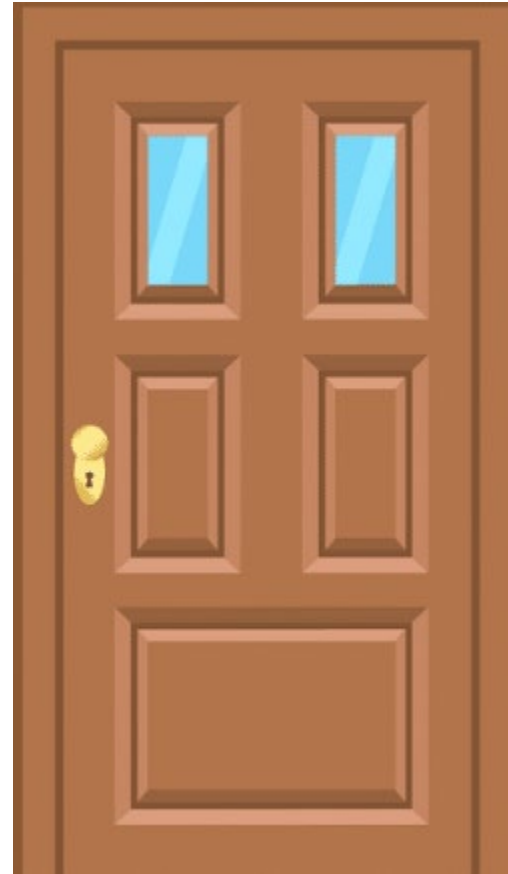
This money is supposed to supplement my food budget but it is really all of my food budget because my income barely covers my rent. Because of SNAP, we are not starving.



We needed the proverbial leg up. We used it, and today my brothers and I are all fully employed taxpayers who support ourselves and our families.

SNAP OUTREACH

Opens doors



To SNAP Education and
SNAP Employment and Training

In addition to an individual or families' monthly
SNAP Allotment .

SNAP EDUCATION IS...



A program offered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) that helps people make healthier food choices and live more active lives.

Designed for individuals and all family members who receive SNAP, the program offers free cooking classes, resources, and education on how to shop for and cook nutritious foods safely on a budget as well as ways to be more physically active.

SNAP Education also works with communities to make food more accessible.

SNAP EDUCATION GOALS

- Encourage healthy eating behaviors
- Promote budget -friendly meal planning
- Support physical activity for overall wellness
- Address food insecurity through education



TARGET AUDIENCE

SNAP eligible individuals and families:

- Children & Adolescents
- Adults
- Seniors

SNAP EDUCATION IMPLEMENTING AGENCY



The Kentucky Nutrition Education Program (KYNEP) operates the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Education Program (SNAP -Ed).

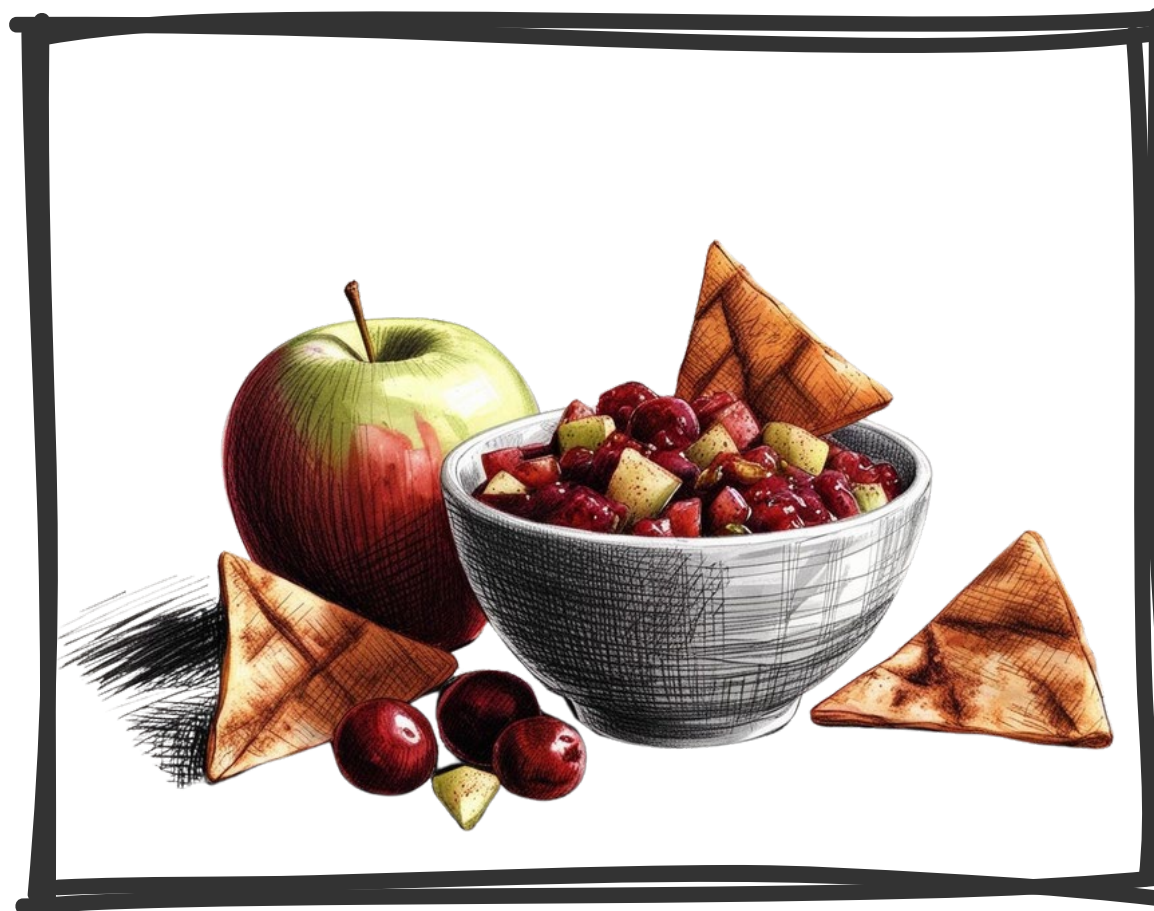
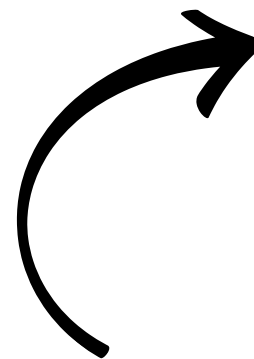
The program is administered by the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service.



**WELCOME TO KYNEP | KENTUCKY NUTRITION
EDUCATION PROGRAM**

PlanEatMove

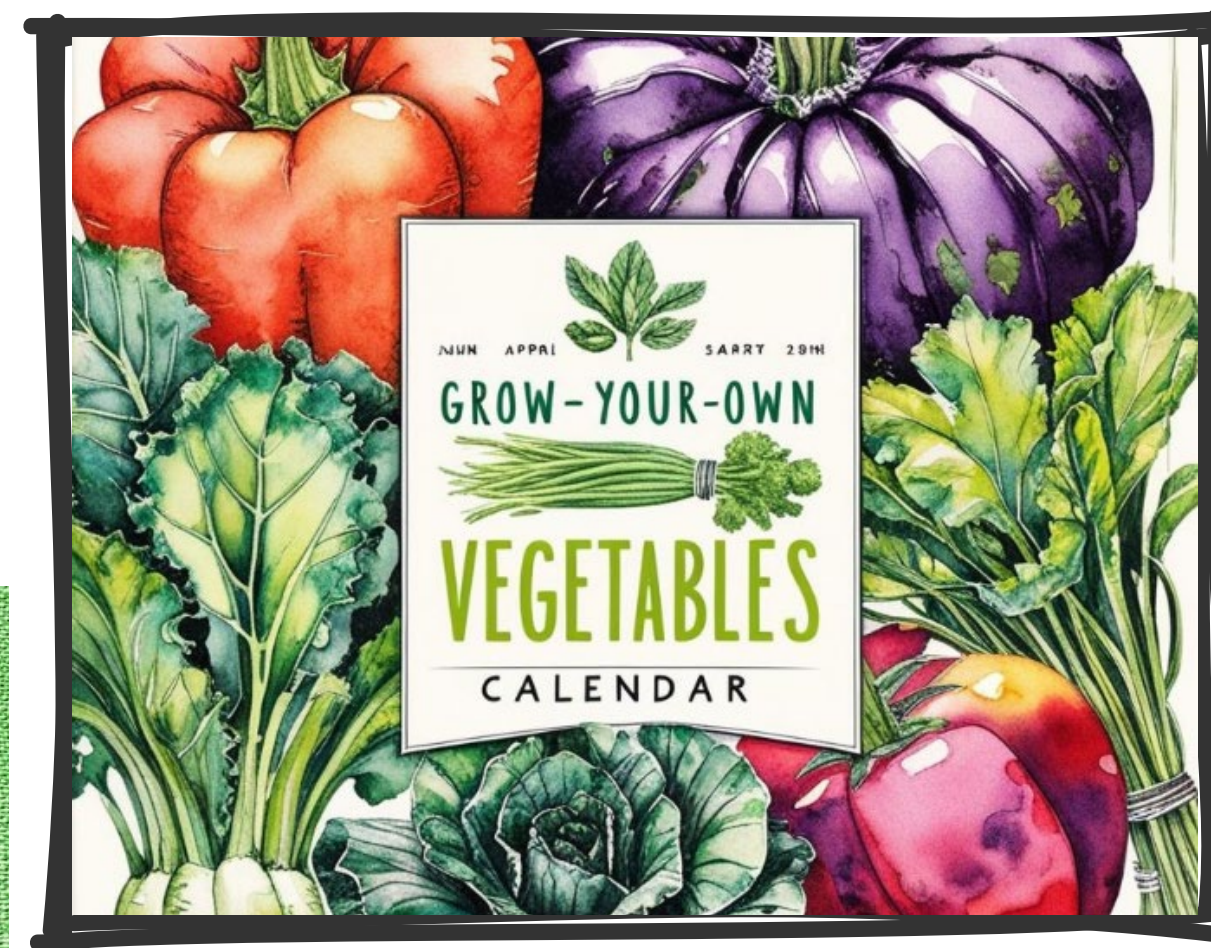
[The Eatable Alphabet Teaches Food Literacy](#)



[Apple Berry Salsa
with Cinnamon Chips](#)

SNAP FACT

40% of SNAP Ed
participants eat more
fruits and vegetables
and reduce their intake
of sugary drinks.



[Grow Your Own Garden](#)

SNAP EDUCATION

Planning Ahead



Recipe



Meal Planning Tips, Coupon Basics, Tips to use at the Grocery
Eating on a healthy budget, Storing Leftovers

SNAP EDUCATION

Eat Well



Cooking and Food Safety Basics, Understanding Portion Sizes, Cooking with Kids, Nutrition Basics, Food Fact Sheets, Farmer's Markets, MyPlate

Get Moving



How to Get Started, Adding Activity in Daily Life, Calorie Burning by the Numbers, Growing Your Own Garden

SNAP EDUCATION

Community Partners




- Bluegrass Farm to Table
- Community Farm Alliance
- Feeding Kentucky
- KY. Department of Agriculture
- [Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources](#)
- [Kentucky Hunters for the Hungry](#)
- [Kentucky Proud](#)
- [University of Kentucky Department of Dietetic & Human Nutrition](#)
- [University of Kentucky School of Human Environmental Sciences Family and Consumer Sciences Extension](#)
- [USDA Food and Nutrition Service](#)
- [The Dinner Table Project](#)



STATE NUTRITION ACTION COUNCIL (SNAC)

In 2017, the USDA required states to establish State Nutrition Action Councils (SNAC) to unify nutrition and obesity prevention efforts. SNACs improve nutrition education and promote collaboration among SNAP-Education agencies, FNS nutrition programs, public health organizations, and community partners. Their initiatives focus on teamwork and integrated strategies to optimize resources and reduce redundancy.



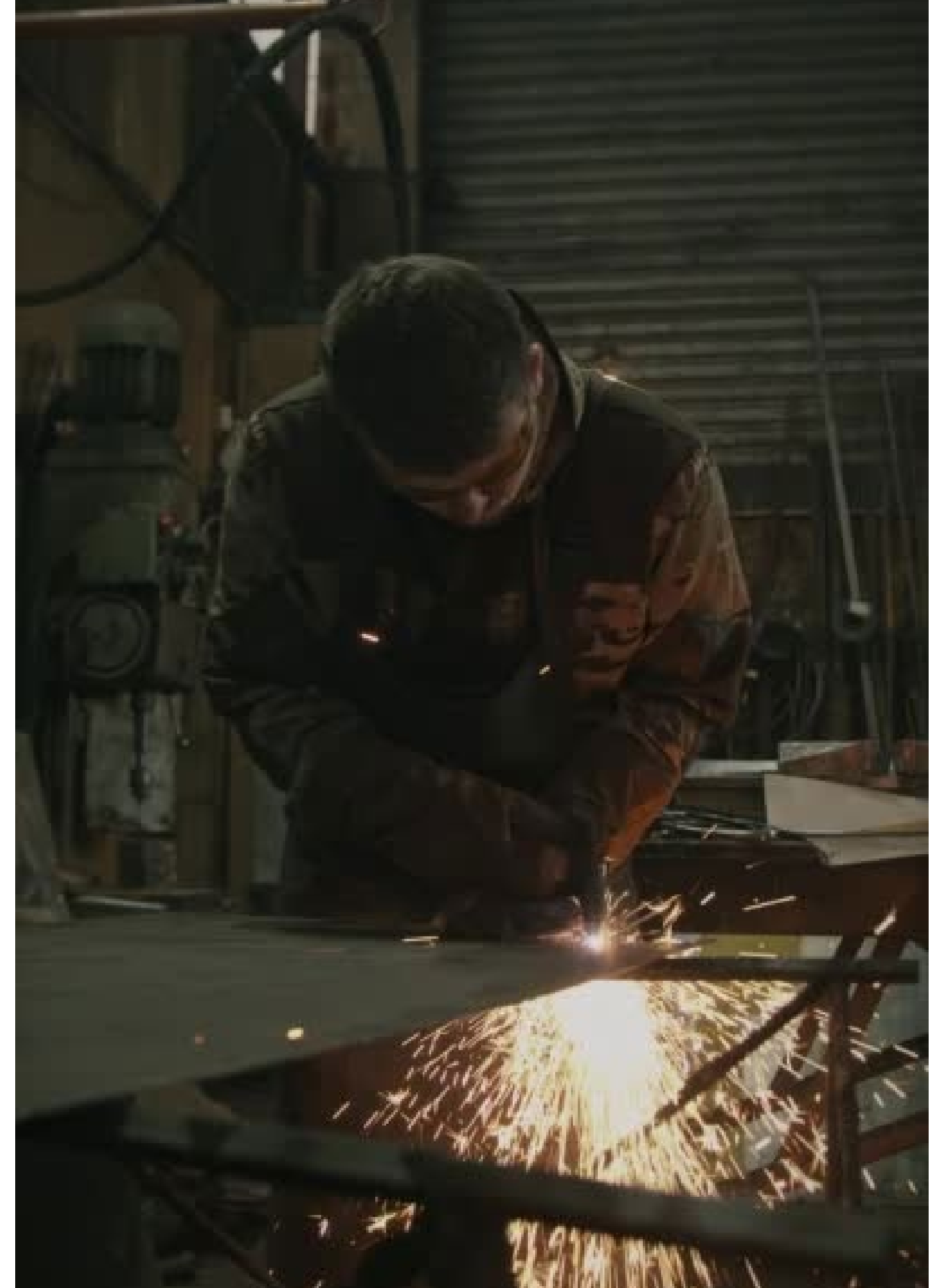
SNAP EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

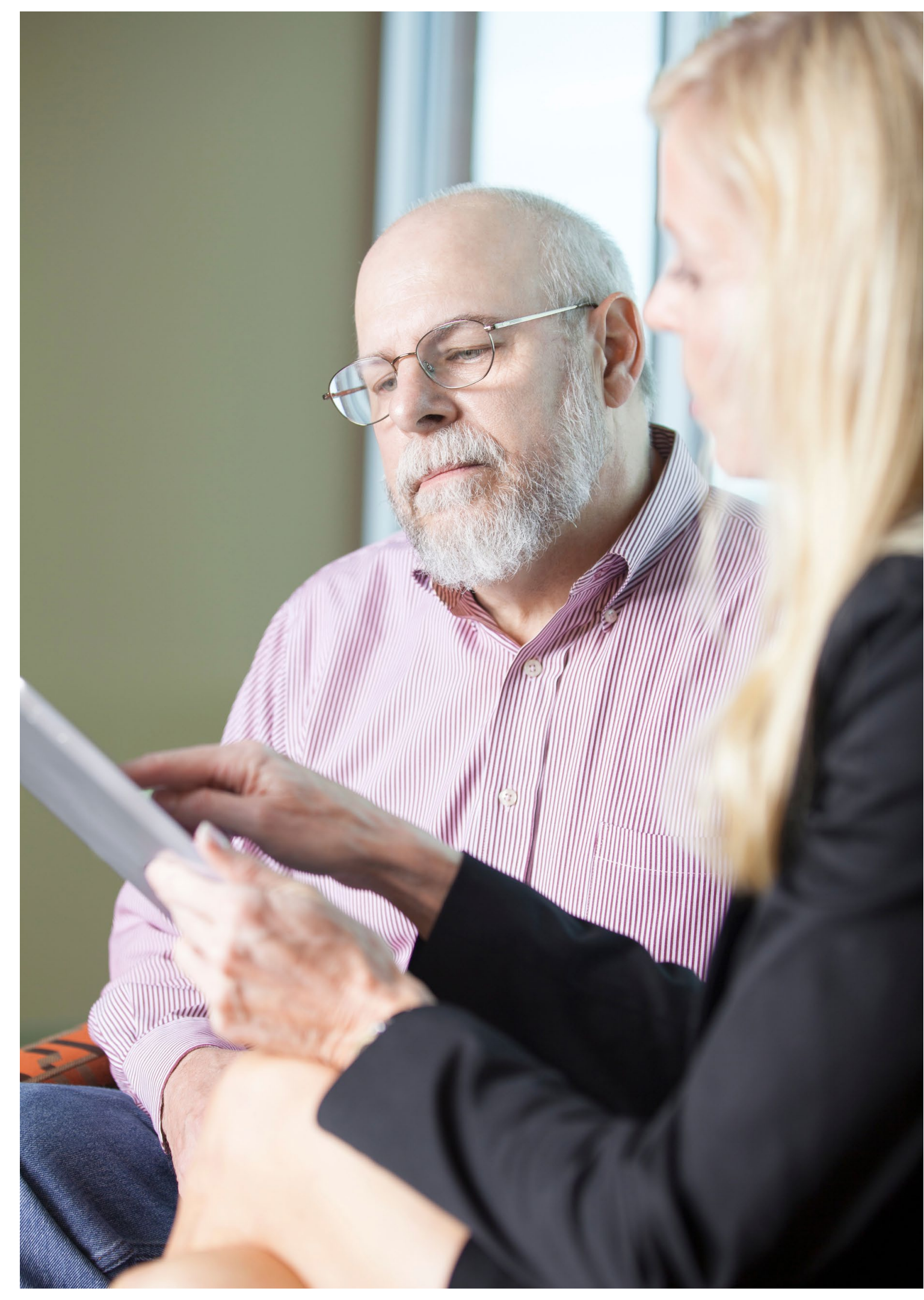
EMPOWERING PEOPLE
PURSUING PATHWAYS

What is...

SNAP EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING (E&T)

A program offered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) that assists individuals participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). This initiative aims to empower people by providing them with skills, education, training, and support to obtain meaningful, long term employment and reach self sufficiency.



A photograph of an older man with a white beard and glasses, wearing a pink and white striped shirt, looking at a tablet computer. A woman with blonde hair, wearing a dark blue jacket, is holding the tablet. They are in a brightly lit room with a window in the background.

SNAP EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING (E&T) BASICS

ELIGIBILITY

- Participating in the SNAP program
- Between 16 and 59 years of age .
- Willing to participate in the program . *Voluntary
- Eligible to work - meets state/federal requirements .
- Meet general eligibility screening criteria .

The program is designed for individuals whose needs and goals are aligned with services offered .

SNAP E&T COMPONENTS

Building Blocks toward Successful Outcomes

- Supervised Job Search
- Basic Foundational Skills Instruction (including high school equivalency programs)
- Career/Technical Education Programs or other Vocational Training
- Integrated Education & Training/Bridge Programs
- Work Readiness Training
- Transitional Jobs/ time -limited & unsubsidized
- Work Activity/ paid Work Experience
- Workfare/ unpaid Work Experience
- Job Retention Services



SNAP E&T INCENTIVES

for the journey ahead.

- Case Management Services
 - Comprehensive intake assessments
 - Individualized Service Plans
 - Progress monitoring
 - Coordination with service providers
 - Reassessment
- Coach/ Employment Specialist
- \$25 Transportation Reimbursement monthly
- Child Care Assistance Program support
- SNAP Education classes & resources



SNAP EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

...assists SNAP participants in acquiring skills and discovering meaningful job opportunities that lead them toward self-sufficiency. With SNAP E&T, participants have access to training, education, and support services designed to help them enter or advance in the workforce. SNAP E&T aims to eliminate obstacles by offering support services, such as transportation.

Case Management &
Support

Education

Skills Training

Career
Sustainability





E&T PROVIDERS

- Audubon Area Community Services
- Big Sandy ADD -(BSADD)
- Central Kentucky Community Action Council (CKCAC)
- Goodwill Power of Work
- Northern Kentucky ADD



E&T PARTNERS

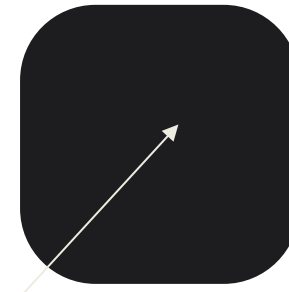
- Brighton Center
- Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO)
- Family Scholar House
- Goodwill
- KCTCS Colleges and Campuses
- Northern Kentucky Community Action Commission



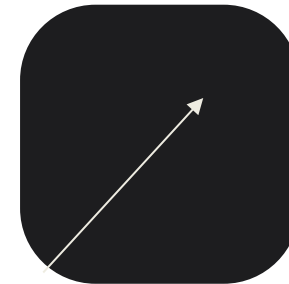
LIFECYCLE OF A PARTICIPANT IN SNAP E&T



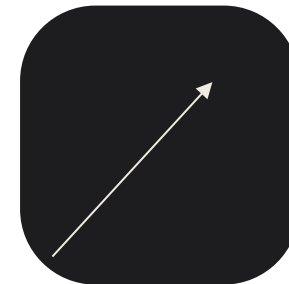
Participant is referred to an E&T Provider.



E&T Provider sets up appointment
with participant.



SNAP participant completes assessment with
E&T provider. Initial transportation request initiated.

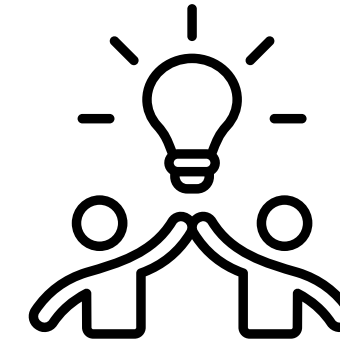


SNAP participant is enrolled in a component
with E&T Provider or E&T partner, based on the
needs of the participant.



SNAP participant is fully enrolled in SNAP E&T.

SNAP E&T COLLABORATION



SNAP E&T coordinates and consults with local workforce agencies, educational institutions, and community-based organizations, to establish a stronger support network tailored to individuals' needs. This collaborative approach provides greater access to skills training, career counseling, and job placement services, while addressing barriers, such as childcare and transportation. By aligning resources and expertise, SNAP E&T participants become empowered and equipped to obtain meaningful employment, promoting economic independence.

SNAP E&T offers a pathway toward opportunity.

SNAP EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING CAN UNLOCK A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES

The USDA and advocacy groups have highlighted how SNAP E&T has the potential to break cycles of poverty by equipping people with the skills and resources needed to secure long-term employment, which reduces food insecurity and promotes economic stability.

Research has shown that stable parental employment leads to a reduction in child maltreatment (Schneider, 2024).



DCBS SNAP KYNECTORS

...are trained citizens that work through an approved organization and aid individuals who are applying for benefits.



What do SNAP KYNECTORS do ?

Initiate SNAP Applications

Assist Kentuckians in kynect

Provide Guidance

As applicants navigate the process of applying for SNAP.

Review Verification Documents

...and upload them for processing by DCBS regional staff.

Distribute Messaging

Creating awareness to support the SNAP program



FOOD SECURITY IS A PREVENTION PATHWAY

In FY 2023, SNAP served an average of 42.1 million participants per month. Federal SNAP spending totaled \$112.8 billion and benefits averaged \$211.93 per participant per month.

- In 2022, SNAP benefits and emergency allotments raised 30% of SNAP households above poverty level.
- 10% decrease in food insecurity (2022)
- 98% of children on SNAP qualified for direct certification for the National free and reduced lunch program (2022).

How Libraries Can Help

Information & Application Assistance

- **Workshops & Info Sessions:** Host events where people can learn about SNAP, eligibility, and how to apply.
- **One-on-One Help:** Partner with DCBS in filling out SNAP applications online or on paper.
- **Multilingual Support:** Provide forms and help in multiple languages common in your community.

Nutrition & Food Education

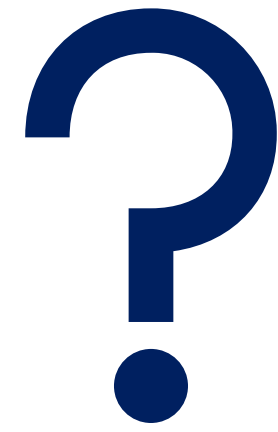
- **Cooking Classes:** Collaborate with local chefs, SNAP-Ed educators, or health departments to host cooking demos focused on using EBT-friendly ingredients.
- **Meal Planning Resources:** Provide books, handouts, and online tools for healthy meal prep on a SNAP budget.
- Encourage library card usage for meal planning, cookbooks.

Farmers' Market Partnerships

- Promote and partner with farmers' markets that accept EBT/SNAP.
- Set up mini farmers' markets at or near the library if space and partnerships allow.

Outreach & Partnerships

- Partner with local food banks, SNAP-Ed educators, WIC programs, or nonprofits for co-hosted events/services.
- Provide outreach – maximize mobile libraries.



- What can DCBS do to support your endeavors to reach SNAP eligible populations?
- How can we work together?
- What other questions can we answer?



THANK YOU

Amy Smith, Executive Advisor, DCBS