

ASSEMBLY, No. 5127

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 10, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

SYNOPSIS

Designates each community college in State as provider of allowable services under SNAP employment and training program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** concerning the New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition
2 Assistance Program Employment and Training Program,
3 supplementing Title 44 of the Revised Statutes, and amending
4 P.L. 2013, c.45.

5
6 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
7 *of New Jersey:*

8
9 1. (New section) a. The Department of Labor and Workforce
10 Development, in collaboration with the Department of Human
11 Services, shall designate each community college in the State a
12 provider of allowable services under the New Jersey Supplemental
13 Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training Program
14 and the New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
15 Employment and Training Program Provider 50/50 Match Project.

16 b. As used in this section:

17 “Allowable service” means services reimbursable under the
18 federal "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.110-246 (7 U.S.C.
19 s.2011 et seq.) that help Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
20 Program recipients acquire the skills, training, work, or experience
21 necessary to obtain regular employment

22 “New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
23 Employment and Training Program” means the federal program
24 administered by the Food and Nutrition Service in the United States
25 Department of Agriculture and established pursuant to the federal
26 "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.110-246 (7 U.S.C. s.2011
27 et seq.) and any regulations adopted pursuant thereto.

28 “New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
29 Employment and Training Program Provider 50/50 Match Project”
30 means the project established pursuant to P.L.2013, c.45 (C.44:10-
31 95 et seq.).

32 c. The departments shall submit any necessary revisions
33 regarding the State Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
34 Employment and Training Plan to the Food and Nutrition Service in
35 the United States Department of Agriculture in order to provide for the
36 provisions of this section.

37
38 2. Section 4 of P.L.2013, c.45 (C.44:10-98) is amended to read
39 as follows:

40 4. a. The commissioner shall issue a request for proposals from
41 qualifying agencies to participate in the project no later than 60
42 days following the effective date of P.L.2013, c.45 (C.44:10-95 et
43 seq.).

44 b. (1) The department shall select no fewer than three partnering
45 providers, from among qualifying agencies submitting proposals, to

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 participate in the project. Partnering providers shall provide
2 services under NJ SNAP ETP to eligible participants and be eligible
3 to receive federal reimbursements for those services pursuant to the
4 conditions of P.L.2013, c.45 (C.44:10-95 et seq.).

5 (2) The Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development
6 shall extend the program beyond the initial four-year period. The
7 Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development shall, subject
8 to the availability of federal funds, annually issue a new request for
9 proposals and maintain the participation of no fewer than three
10 partnering providers, from among qualifying agencies submitting
11 proposals, to participate in the project for each subsequent year.

12 c. Each qualifying agency shall be evaluated for participation
13 as a partnering provider in the project based on the agency's
14 capacity to: serve eligible participants under NJ SNAP ETP;
15 identify and utilize non-federal resources qualifying for federal
16 SNAP ETP reimbursements pursuant to the federal "Food and
17 Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.110-246 (7 U.S.C. s.2011 et seq.);
18 present and implement a coherent program plan for NJ SNAP ETP
19 activities, as described in subsection d. of this section; and perform
20 effectively each of the functions specified in section 6 of P.L.2013,
21 c.45 (C.44:10-100).

22 d. Each qualifying agency's proposal shall include a program
23 plan describing how the agency's activities under the project would
24 fulfill the purposes of NJ SNAP ETP. The program plan shall
25 include, but not be limited to, the following information:

26 (1) the program goals and objectives, including the agency's
27 priorities for serving eligible participants in the State;

28 (2) the program design, including: strategies for targeting and
29 recruiting eligible participants; educational skills and training
30 activities; work-related activities; job preparation, placement, and
31 retention activities; strategies for coordinating with the county
32 welfare agencies and the Department of Labor and Workforce
33 Development; and strategies for providing support services,
34 including case management, early intervention, career counseling,
35 and referrals to additional programs and services;

36 (3) the program budget, including the overall resources to be
37 used to support the agency's NJ SNAP ETP activities, the specific
38 non-federal resources to be used to generate federal SNAP ETP
39 reimbursements, and the intended utilization of anticipated federal
40 SNAP ETP reimbursements;

41 (4) the extent to which community partners, including
42 subcontractors, will be involved in the agency's activities; and

43 (5) the agency's plans for performing each of the functions
44 specified in section 6 of P.L.2013, c.45 (C.44:10-100).

45 e. In selecting partnering providers for participation in the
46 project, the Department of Labor and Workforce Development shall
47 prioritize partnering providers that would:

1 (1) serve SNAP recipients with significant barriers to
2 employment, including, but not limited to: able-bodied adults
3 without dependents required to participate in employment and
4 training programs as a condition of receiving SNAP benefits;
5 individuals with a history of substance abuse or other work
6 limitations; ex-offenders; individuals with low literacy or limited
7 English proficiency; veterans who are not eligible for other
8 employment and training programs; and persons who are 16 through
9 24 years of age;

10 (2) serve unemployed or underemployed parents, including non-
11 custodial parents and parents who have exceeded their Work First
12 New Jersey TANF 60-month lifetime limit on cash assistance;

13 (3) provide training in both vocational and technical skills, as
14 well as "soft skills," including, but not limited to: workplace
15 preparation training, teamwork, problem solving, time management,
16 and conflict resolution;

17 (4) provide training that results in marketable credentials and
18 that prepares participants for employment or reemployment in
19 industries with projections of growth;

20 (5) conduct job development activities and identify how job
21 opportunities will be secured to maximize SNAP recipients'
22 permanent placement in employment providing compensation at the
23 level of a living wage and opportunities for wage progression; and

24 (6) demonstrate a proven history of successful job placement
25 and retention.

26 f. The Department of Labor and Workforce Development may
27 select partnering providers that would provide NJ SNAP ETP
28 services within any service area including, but not limited to: the
29 entire State; one or more regions encompassing several counties; or
30 a single county.

31 g. Upon selection of a partnering provider, the Department of
32 Labor and Workforce Development shall negotiate and execute a
33 memorandum of understanding with the partnering provider, the
34 department, and county welfare agencies, as applicable. The
35 memorandum of understanding shall define the extent and degree of
36 assistance and delineate the respective expectations, duties, and
37 relations among the department, the Department of Labor and
38 Workforce Development, the county welfare agencies, and the
39 partnering provider.

40 h. The Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development
41 shall establish standards of performance for partnering providers
42 conducting project activities pursuant to P.L.2013, c.45 (C.44:10-95
43 et seq.), including, but not limited to, standards for performing the
44 programmatic functions and financial functions required pursuant to
45 section 6 of P.L.2013, c.45 (C.44:10-100). The memorandum of
46 understanding negotiated and executed pursuant to subsection g. of
47 this section shall include a performance-based system for
48 distributing federal SNAP ETP reimbursements to each partnering

1 provider based upon the partnering provider's achievement of the
2 standards of performance.

3 i. Upon finding that a partnering provider has not conducted its
4 project activities in accordance with the standards of performance
5 established in subsection h. of this section or that a partnering
6 provider has otherwise failed to comply with the requirements of
7 P.L.2013, c.45 (C.44:10-95 et seq.), the Commissioner of Labor and
8 Workforce Development may: take such action as is necessary to
9 correct the deficiencies of the provider; and terminate the partnering
10 provider's participation in the project if the provider fails to take
11 remedial action.

12 j. Upon the effective date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
13 before the Legislature as this bill), the Commissioner of Labor and
14 Workforce Development shall designate each community college in
15 the State a partnering provider under the project.

16 (cf: P.L.2019, c.253, s.4)

17
18 3 The Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development,
19 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedures Act," P.L.1968, c.410
20 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), and in consultation with the Commissioner of
21 Human Services, shall adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the
22 purposes of this act.

23
24 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

25 26 27 STATEMENT

28
29 This bill requires the Department of Labor and Workforce
30 Development, in collaboration with the Department of Human
31 Services, to designate each community college in the State a
32 provider of allowable services under the New Jersey Supplemental
33 Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training Program
34 (NJ SNAP ETP) and the NJ SNAP ETP Provider 50/50 Match
35 Project. As defined under the bill, "allowable service" means
36 services reimbursable under the federal "Food and Nutrition Act of
37 2008," Pub.L.110-246 (7 U.S.C. s.2011 et seq.) that help SNAP
38 recipients acquire the skills, training, work, or experience necessary
39 to obtain regular employment. Allowable services may include:
40 basic education or foundational skills; English language acquisition;
41 job retention; job search training; vocational or technical training;
42 and work readiness training.

43 Under federal guidance, the State is required to operate a SNAP
44 ETP, and receives federal support through a capped formula-based
45 grant to plan, implement, and operate that program and through
46 uncapped 50/50 reimbursement funds for those SNAP ETP costs
47 that exceed the formula-based grant. Depending on the funding
48 stream utilized, SNAP ETP can cover a variety of program costs,

1 including administrative costs, direct program costs, and certain
2 supportive services for participants, which can include childcare,
3 transportation, supplies, and books.

4 Under this bill, all community colleges in the State would have
5 access to these funds for allowable SNAP ETP services provided to
6 SNAP recipients. The bill also requires the departments to submit
7 any necessary revisions regarding the State SNAP Employment and
8 Training Plan to the Food and Nutrition Service in the United States
9 Department of Agriculture in order to provide for the provisions of this
10 section.