



New Employment and Training Programs Available to Help SNAP Recipients Meet Federal Guidelines, Keep Food on the Table

By Senator Lisa Boscola

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY - Changes to federal law require certain SNAP applicants and recipients to participate in work, education, training, and/or volunteering to continue receiving benefits.

A new PA DHS certification process is increasing the number of work and education programs to help SNAP recipients meet these requirements.

New Employment and Training Programs This week, the Shapiro Administration met with students and representatives from local SNAP employment and training (E&T) partners to discuss how SNAP E&T programs help students learn and prepare for careers while putting food on the table for themselves and their families.

Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (PA DHS) Executive Deputy Secretary Andrew Barnes and Office of Income Maintenance Deputy Secretary Hoa Pham toured Trade Institute of Pittsburgh and talked about how SNAP employment and training programs help students meet new federal work and community engagement requirements, enabling them to keep SNAP benefits.

PA DHS administers several SNAP Employment & Training (E&T) Programs, which provide access to the education and training SNAP recipients need to pursue their goals, succeed in the workforce, and find family-sustaining careers. In addition, PA DHS recently announced a new initiative which created a process to certify work and education programs. These programs help SNAP recipients meet federal work and reporting requirements, thereby helping them maintain their ability to feed themselves and their families.

This new process allows education and work programs that are not currently part of the DHS SNAP E&T program — but may be providing similar services to SNAP recipients — to apply for certification through PA DHS. Certified programs will be recognized as a program available to SNAP recipients to help them meet federal work and education reporting requirements signed into law by President Trump in July 2025.

Program eligibility criteria and the application form for certification is available at www.dhs.pa.gov/workprograms.

How to Meet SNAP Work Requirements

SNAP recipients with questions about work and reporting requirements should talk with a caseworker at a PA DHS' County Assistance Office or call the Customer Service Center at 877-395-8930 (or 215-560-7226 for people living in Philadelphia). Caseworkers can also assist with enrollment in SNAP E&T programs.

For more information on SNAP work and reporting requirements, including videos and a communications toolkit, visit dhs.pa.gov/work.



America250PA Scholarship Awarded

By Senator Lisa Boscola

Senator Boscola is so excited to share that a student from the 18th District has received an America250PA semiquincentennial scholarship!

Talia Kwatkoski, a senior at Nazareth Area High School, was awarded a \$10,000 semiquin scholarship for Dickinson College. With more than 1,800 applicants for the 25 scholarships, it goes without saying that this was a highly competitive award, in which a panel reviewed each 500-word essay on the evolution of citizenship over the past 250 years.



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