

**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF
HUMAN SERVICES**

DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

**SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM (SNAP)**

**Report on
Employment and Training Provider
Demonstration Project**

JANUARY 2016 – DECEMBER 2016

New Jersey Department of Human Services
2016 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Employment and Training Provider Demonstration Project Report

This initial report is prepared pursuant to P.L.2013, Chapter 45, which requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) Commissioner to submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature annually regarding: (1) a summary of the request for proposals; (2) the identities of the partnering providers selected; and (3) a summary of demonstration project participant demographics, activities, and outcomes for each partnering provider.

Background

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) helps put healthy food on the table for millions of low income Americans every month. The program supplements the budgets of low-income people by providing benefits via an electronic benefit card which is used like a debit card at most food retailers. Through nutrition education partners, the program helps clients learn to make healthy eating and active lifestyle choices.

On April 15, 2013, Governor Christie signed legislation, P.L. 2013, Chapter 45, establishing a NJ SNAP Employment and Training Provider (NJ SNAP ETP) Project in an effort to assist eligible SNAP participants obtain job training and develop the necessary skills to find and keep regular employment.

The overall goal of the NJ SNAP ETP Project is for DHS to establish partnerships with qualifying agencies that will provide the necessary services, such as job skills and job training, to lead eligible NJ SNAP recipients to regular employment and self-sufficiency, eliminating their dependence on SNAP. The targeted population includes, but is not limited to, SNAP recipients that are either unemployed youth, aged 16 to 24 years of age or individuals with substance abuse barriers.

1. Summary of the Request for Proposals

The Department published a Request for Proposals (RFP) on April 7, 2014 and held a bidders conference on April 24, 2014. The Department received only two complete bids in response to the RFP; however, the Act requires the Department to select no fewer than three providers. Since this RFP failed to provide enough bids, the process was deemed unsuccessful, and the Department decided to publish another RFP in the hopes of securing at least three complete bids. On June 16, 2014, the Department published another RFP and held a bidders conference on June 23, 2014. Again, the Department received only two complete bids; however, despite having an insufficient number of bids, the Department decided to proceed with the two vendors.

2. Partnering Providers

Proposals submitted by Blessed Ministries, Inc. and YouthBuild Newark, Inc. were selected from RFP submissions. DFD then entered in a contract with Blessed Ministries, Inc. and with YouthBuild Newark, Inc. on January 1, 2016. Each year, the Division of Family Development (DFD) must submit an E&T Plan to the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) for approval of the work activities and budgets. Expenditures for any services cannot be used to draw down federal matching dollars until that service is incorporated into the E&T Plan. The services provided by the selected vendors were included in the E&T Plan, and transmitted to the FNS of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) on August 14, 2015. The providers were approved as part of the State E&T Plan on December 31, 2015.

3. Summary of Participant and Outcome Data for Each Partnering Provider

Blessed Ministries, Inc.
303 Washington Street, Suite 330
Newark, New Jersey 07102

Contract Period: 1/1/2016 through 12/31/2016

Program Activity Period: 2/29/16 through 12/31/16

Class Name	Number Enrolled	90% Attendance	Number Completing Program	Number Placed into Employment and Retained 90 Days	Comments
Work Readiness Training Class Track I (Job Readiness)	230	238	238		
Work Readiness Training Class Track II (Job Search)	56	56	56	43	**Clients enrolled in Track II are a subset of Track I. Six (6) pending 90 day retention, Seven (7) did not meet 90 day retention)
Totals	230	238	238	43	
Contracted Number to Train	250				

YouthBuild Newark, Inc.
571 Central Avenue, Second Floor
Newark, New Jersey 07107

Contract Period 1/1/2016 through 12/31/2016

Program Activity Period: 3/28/16 through 12/31/16

Class Name	Number Enrolled	90% Attendance	Number Completing Program	Number Placed into Employment and Retained 90 Days	Comments
Academic Instruction/Vocational Instruction and Service-Learning	8	8	4	4	
Job Readiness/Job Search	83	79	72	13	
Totals	91	87	76	17	
Contracted Number to Train	150				

4. Conclusion

The Federal SNAP Employment and Training Program was created to help SNAP recipients gain skills, training, or experience they need to obtain employment in the current job market. The NJ SNAP ETP contracted vendors are providing case management, work readiness training, and job placement and retention. This project has the flexibility to combine these areas under one umbrella to address barriers and build skills without recipients being subjected to the involvement of multiple agencies. After several months of implementation, the project has shown some promising outcomes. As the pilot continues, the reported information will lead to expansion strategies on how to increase the number of registrants obtaining employment in order to decrease their dependence on public assistance.