

# The Food Stamp Employment and Training 50% Reimbursement Program

Council of Presidents of the Connecticut  
Community College System

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# FS E&T Reimbursement Program Background

- Food Stamp Employment and Training Program created by 1985 Food Security Act
- Purpose is to help FS recipients not receiving TANF to gain work skills and become employed
- Allowable activities include job search/job readiness, training, education and work experience

# FS E&T Reimbursement Program

## Background

- Two Types of Funding under FS E&T in Connecticut
- 100% Federal Funding – Each state allocated a portion based on number of Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs) in state's program
- Connecticut receiving \$557,000 in 100% funds for FFY 09
- CT has operated program for years – has four contactors serving Hartford, New Haven, Bridgeport and Stamford-Norwalk areas

# FS E&T Reimbursement Program

## Background

- 50% Reimbursement Program
- State reimbursed 50% of non-federal, non-matching funds expended on eligible employment and training activities for FS recipients who do not receive TFA
- Connecticut expended a small amount from FS Training Expense line item of approximately \$25,000 for work expenses not eligible under 100% rules

# FS E&T Reimbursement Program Expanded Use in Connecticut

- In late 2006 representatives of Casey Foundation began promoting expanded use of 50% reimbursement program using existing funding streams supporting E&T for FS recipients besides DSS appropriation
- DSS began discussions with Capital Community College regarding a pilot program
- Community College expenditures on workforce training programs would be used to qualify for 50% reimbursement

# FS E&T Reimbursement Program Expanded Use in Connecticut

- Types of workforce training programs include:
  - Certified Nurse Aid
  - Patient Care Technician
  - Customer Service/Retail
  - Hospitality Management
  - Manufacturing Basic Training
  - Medical Office Management
  - Small Business Management

# FS E&T Reimbursement Program Expanded Use in Connecticut

- Computer Match of current students identified about 200 FS recipients participating in these programs
- CCC identified total annual expenditures on these students of approximately \$870,000
- This upfront expenditure by the college qualifies for \$435,000 in FS E&T reimbursement

# FS E&T Reimbursement Program

## Expanded Use in Connecticut

- In July 2008 DSS entered in Memorandum of Agreement to provide up to \$435,000 in FS E&T reimbursement annually to Capital Community College
- In addition to training CCC providing support programs, including Work Readiness Training, Workplace ESOL, Life Skills/Financial Literacy, Career Planning, Pre and Post academic and workplace readiness skills assessments, Career Interest assessments, academic counseling, group and individual tutoring, career development center

# FS E&T Reimbursement Program

## Expanded Use in Connecticut

- Capital Community College will use 50% reimbursement funds to provide scholarships to reduce cost of tuition for FS recipients
- Not only will this make workforce training more accessible for FS recipients, it creates an incentive for students to enroll in FS to receive scholarship funds
- DSS is retaining 5% of reimbursements funds for our administrative costs
- FERPA requires release from student – affects data match process to identify who are FS recipients

# FS E&T Reimbursement Program

## Public Act 08-161 Program

- Public Act 08-161 enacted during the 2008 session of the General Assembly provides for further expansion of FS E&T in Connecticut effective 10/1/08
- Authorizes in state statute the operation of the FS E&T Program
- Links the program's future expansion to "Poverty Reduction Strategies" based on the recommendations of the Connecticut Child Poverty and Prevention Council

# FS E&T Reimbursement Program

## Public Act 08-161 Program

- Poverty Reduction Strategies listed in Act:
  - Job Search and Work Experience
  - Education and Training; including adult basic education, high School equivalency preparation, adult literacy classes, vocational training and post-secondary education, payment of tuition
  - Case Management and related services that improve employability
  - Income safety net services

# FS E&T Reimbursement Program

## Public Act 08-161 Program

- Poverty Reduction Strategies listed in Act:
  - Quality child care during work and training
  - Family Support
  - Reentry Programs
  - Services are to be based on best practices and aimed at reducing poverty or the risk of poverty for individuals and families living in high poverty census tracts and with income at or below 200% of FPL
  - Target populations: Adolescent parents, older adolescents and young adults, low-income working families

# FS E&T Reimbursement Program

## Public Act 08-161 Program

- The Act provides for the establishment of Food Stamp Employment and Training Community Collaboratives to implement the poverty reduction strategies
- A FS E&T Community Collaborative is "a consortium of public and private providers, ..., to implement poverty reduction strategies."
- The collaborative must establish a governance structure, determine membership and establish a fiscal agent

# FS E&T Reimbursement Program

## Public Act 08-161 Program

- Community collaborative shall consist of at least five member entities representing institutions of higher education, regional workforce investment boards, social service nonprofit agencies, business associations, philanthropic organizations, municipalities, community action agencies or other community partners
- Majority of members must be E&T providers

# FS E&T Reimbursement Program

## Public Act 08-161 Program

- DSS must give priority to Community Collaboratives when selecting providers to receive FS E&T reimbursement funds
- Community Collaborative must identify its priorities for reducing child poverty in its municipality or region, how funds will be utilized, the community partners and resources to support poverty reduction, and its capacity to collect relevant data and measure outcomes

# FS E&T Reimbursement Program

## Public Act 08-161 Program

- E&T Providers in a Community Collaborative will receive 75% of the FS E&T reimbursement funds (about 37.5% of initial expenditure)
- The Community Collaborative will receive the other 25% of the FS E&T reimbursement for its poverty reduction strategies (approximately 12.5% of initial expenditure)
- DSS is allowed to take a portion of reimbursed funds to fund one position to administer the program

# FS E&T Reimbursement Program

## Public Act 08-161 Program

- DSS intends to issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) by mid-December 2008
- Approximately three-month application window
- Community Collaboratives will have priority as provided in the Act
- Non-Community Collaborative applicants must wait until end of application period and will be funded after any Community Collaborative applicants
- Only one Community Collaborative per community

# FS E&T Reimbursement Program

## Public Act 08-161 Program

- DSS has received approval to use \$1.5 million in 50% reimbursement funding from USDA/FNS for FFY 09.
- Intend to increase request in subsequent years as program grows.
- Additional opportunities to apply for funds will be offered after contracts are in place for earlier application periods
- Effective 10/1/08 Food Stamp Program renamed Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- FS E&T is now SNAP-ET

# FS E&T Reimbursement Program

- Questions?