



State of Connecticut
GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Commission on Children

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Commission on Children to hold June 8 briefing on new funding for employment in hard times

9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in Room 1-E of the Legislative Office Building in Hartford

Job-training providers across Connecticut – including municipalities and community colleges – may be entitled to new funding under a federal match program, and on Monday, June 8, the Connecticut Commission on Children will host a briefing on how they can participate.

The funding is offered under a federal program called SNAP-ET, and Connecticut recently began participating under enabling legislation approved by the 2008 General Assembly (Public Act 08-161). Thanks to this legislation, job-training providers may be eligible to receive a 50-cent federal match for every dollar they spend on services that help food stamp recipients find regular employment. A wide range of services qualify, including:

- helping food-stamp recipients secure high-school-equivalency diplomas;
- providing English-as-a-second-language classes;
- providing child care and transportation for parents in school.

The briefing will be held from **9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in Room 1-E of the Legislative Office Building in Hartford**. Joining the Commission on Children in organizing the event are Senator Jonathan Harris of West Hartford, Representative Toni Walker of New Haven, the Department of Social Services (DSS), and philanthropic foundations.

“With so many people needing new skills in this stormy economy and so few resources available to them, this is a great opportunity to not just stabilize our hardest-hit families but give them a better chance for long-term prosperity,” Commission on Children Executive Director Elaine Zimmerman said. She noted that Connecticut joins other states receiving SNAP-ET match funds, including New York, which receives more than \$100 million annually in federal reimbursements.

For more information on SNAP-ET (which stands for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – Employment and Training Reimbursement Program) visit the Commission on Children website, at www.cga.ct.gov/coc/poverty.htm.