

2013 Program Report Card: SNAP Employment & Training, The Department of Social Services

Quality of Life Result: All Connecticut working age residents have jobs that provide financial self-sufficiency

Contribution to the Result: The SNAP Employment & Training Program (E&T) is designed to increase the employability of SNAP participants by providing work related activities, employability skills training and short term vocational programs.

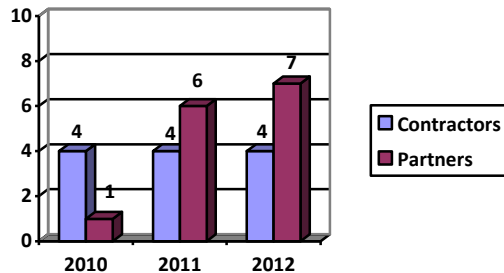
Program Expenditures	State Funding	Federal Funding	Other Funding	Total Funding
Actual SFY 12	\$3,519	\$1,116,841	\$554,535	\$1,674,895
Estimated SFY 13	\$11,400	\$1,879,808	\$1,160,510	\$3,051,718

Partners: Traditional E&T; City of Bridgeport, City of New Haven, Community Renewal team (CRT), and Norwalk Economic Opportunity Now (NEON).

50% Reimbursement E&T; Capital Community College (CCC), Gateway Community College (GCC), and a five provider collaborative called Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC)

How Much Did We Do?

Number of community partners providing training opportunities.



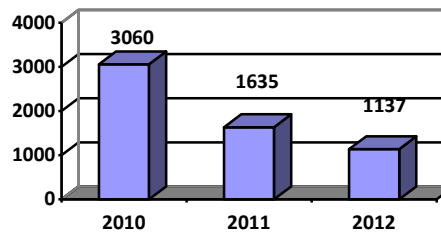
Story behind the baseline:

Connecticut's E&T program is broken out into two components, traditional and 50% reimbursement. The E&T program is funded through a combination of State, Federal, and private funds. The SNAP E&T plan of operations must be submitted to and approved by Food and Nutrition Services each year. Any new partners must also be approved.

Trend: ▲

How Well Did We Do It?

Number of participants in our traditional E&T program.



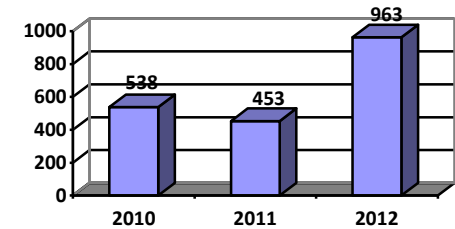
Story behind the baseline:

Our traditional E&T contractors assess participants, provide structured job search training, and refer participants to vocational and educational programs. In 2012 these contractors reached out to 12,810 SNAP participants. Participants are monitored to ensure they are in good standing with the activity and in compliance with SNAP requirements. 1137 SNAP recipients participated in our traditional E&T program in 2012.

Trend: ▼

How Well Did We Do It?

Number of participants in our 50% reimbursement program.



Story behind the baseline:

Our 50% reimbursement partners assess participants, provide support services, and offer short term vocational training that prepares students for jobs that are available in Connecticut. Students are monitored to ensure that they are meeting academic standards and are in compliance with SNAP requirements. Our newest 50% reimbursement partner, GCC, will start offering programs in January 2013. 963 SNAP recipients participated in our 50% reimbursement program in 2012.

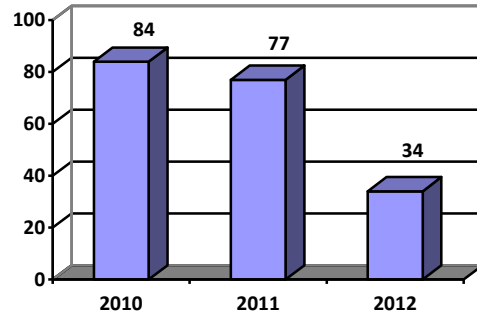
Trend: ▲

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Is Anyone Better Off?

Number of traditional E&T participants who started working.



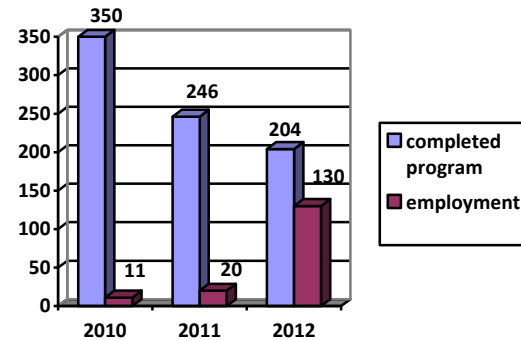
Story behind the baseline:

Connecticut's unemployment rate was estimated at 8.8% for November 2012. This is down two-tenths of a percentage point from October 2012 (9.0%), but five-tenths of a percentage point higher than November 2011 (8.3%). Connecticut's unemployment rate is currently 1.1% higher than the national average. A persistently high unemployment rate makes it difficult for the all workers to gain employment and makes it especially difficult for those with limited or out of date skills. SNAP participants who complete job search skills training will benefit as the economy improves.

Trend: ▼

Is Anyone Better Off?

Number of 50% reimbursement participants who completed training programs or started working.



Story behind the baseline:

SNAP participants who have completed certificate programs will be better positioned to gain employment as the economy improves. The most recent census data reported in the 2011 American Community Surveys show a direct correlation between education and employment rates. Students who complete programs will not only benefit from the increased skill level, but also have access to our partner's job placement and career counseling services. 204 SNAP participants completed a short term vocational program in 2012.

Trend: ▲

Proposed Actions to Turn the Curve:

DSS continues to seek additional partners for our 50% reimbursement component. Gateway Community College is our newest 50% reimbursement partner and hopes to serve 25 SNAP participants in 2013. Further expansion would provide more opportunities for SNAP participants in geographic areas that are currently underserved. Goodwin College in East Hartford and Asnuntuck Community College in Enfield have both expressed interest in the program.

A Request for Proposal (RFP) for the traditional E&T program is due in in 2013. We hope to leverage the funding for the traditional component as a means of supporting the 50% Reimbursement component.

The primary goal, of the combined components of our E&T program, is to increase the ability of SNAP participants to obtain employment that leads to self-sufficiency.

Data Development Agenda:

Because the goal of the SNAP E&T program is to increase the employability of SNAP participants, employment is an important gauge of the program's success. However, timely employment data is difficult to obtain. We currently rely on our partners and contractors to provide employment data. All future contracts will include a requirement that the partner conduct a post training employment survey. In addition to the surveys we are exploring the possibility of tracking employment by querying our SNAP database.