

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Questions and Answers

07/22/2013

Question 1: Can current SNAP Venture providers apply for the SNAP Opportunities Program?

Answer: Yes. However, an agency must use separate funding for the non-federal funding requirement. An agency cannot use the non-federal funds that they are using for the Venture Program.

Question 2: Can a non-public entity utilize the wages paid by employers to clients as part of the non-federal funding?

Answer: No. Wages paid by employers cannot be used as the non-federal funding as wages are not an allowable SNAP E&T expenditure.

Question 3: Where does training for the program take place?

Answer: OTDA does not dictate where the training for each program takes place. Agencies submitting an application will discuss the types of training and where those services will be provided as part of their proposal.

Question 4: Do you apply for the SNAP Opportunities Program using the Consolidated Funding Application?

Answer: Yes. You must use the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) to apply for funding. You may access the CFA at the following address: <https://apps.cio.ny.gov/apps/cfa/>

Question 5: Can conflict resolution be considered part of the training program in the SNAP Opportunities funding?

Answer: Yes, if it focuses on the workplace. Communication skills and how to deal with people in the workplace are examples of what could be considered job readiness training which is an allowable component.

Question 6: Is the SNAP Opportunities Program a matching funds program?

Answer: No. The SNAP Opportunities Program is a 50% reimbursement program. The 50% reimbursement means that agencies are reimbursed for 50% of the "Total" allowable

expenditures up to the grant award. For simplicity, if an agency has \$100,000 of non-federal funding for the program they could receive \$100,000 in reimbursement funding for a total of \$200,000 available to support program services.

Question 7: Is the SNAP Opportunities Program a one year program?

Answer: The initial contract period will run for a one-year period beginning January 1, 2014, with the option to extend for an additional two years. Depending on the outcome of this initial effort, OTDA may, at its discretion, determine that a new solicitation is necessary to most effectively meet the needs of the REDC Opportunity Agenda. OTDA may also decide to discontinue any funding it makes available through the REDC. Additionally, any further contract award may be limited based on program performance.

Question 8: If a client is in subsidized employment, would the employment be eligible once the individual transitions to unsubsidized employment?

Answer: Yes. However, the 90 days permitted for retention services will start from the day the individual transitions to unsubsidized employment.

Question 9: Must 16 or 17 year old clients not be enrolled in school to be eligible for the program?

Answer: Yes.

Question 10: Can transportation be provided to people for job search?

Answer: Yes, within reason. The amount, duration, etc. will be negotiated through contract development.

Question 11: Can this program provide funding for training to be job eligible and include transportation for rural recipients?

Answer: Yes, within reason. The, amount, duration, etc. will be negotiated through contract development.

Question 12: Is the 90 day job retention for the SNAP Opportunity grant part of training in our organization?

Answer: No. The 90 day job retention is related to unsubsidized employment. It is not part of the training.

Question 13: Since we bus our high school students to a regional BOCES facility for their first time career training, would the grant cover that even though transportation costs are in there?

Answer: If your intention is to serve clients who are in high school, please be advised that this is not the intention of the SNAP Opportunities Program. To be eligible for SNAP Opportunities, SNAP Applicants and Recipients must be at least 18 years old or 16-17 and not in school. While some high school students may be eligible for services because they are over 18, using the funds to provide the transportation as described would not be allowable because it would be considered supplanting funding for basic educational programs that are normally available to citizens of a state, county or local jurisdiction and are supported by funds from those entities.

Question 14: Does this program have anything to do with nutrition?

Answer: No, the funds used to support this program are SNAP Employment and Training funds. It is the employment and training component of the SNAP program.

Question 15: Can multiple agencies contribute toward the match?

Answer: Yes. Multiple agencies may contribute to the non-federal funding. Each agency would be required to submit the non-federal funding agreement attesting that the funds are not federal in nature or currently being used to draw down federal funds.

Question 16: Can a BOCES use OJT funds?

Answer: It depends on the source of those funds and whether those funds are used to draw other federal funding.

Question 17: Can an agency enroll someone who is working but receiving SNAP benefits?

Answer: Yes. However, in order to receive credit for the 90 job retention for an individual who is employed at enrollment, the client must obtain a new job as a result of their involvement in the program. The new job must also result in a 20% increase in monthly wages as compared to their original employment.

Question 18: Can a non-profit agency use "In-Kind" as the non-federal funding requirement?

Answer: No. Non-profit agencies may not use "In-Kind" funds as the non-federal share for the SNAP Opportunities program.