



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

*Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona*

Janice K. Brewer  
Governor

Clarence H. Carter  
Director

AUG 14 2012

Mr. Allen Ng  
Regional Administrator  
Food and Nutrition Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Western Region  
90 Seventh Street, Suite 10-100  
San Francisco, California 94103

Dear Mr. Ng:

Enclosed for your approval is Arizona's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Employment and Training State Plan for Federal fiscal year 2013.

If you have any questions, please contact Thomas Colombo, Administrator, Employment Administration, Division of Employment and Rehabilitation Services, at (602) 542-3667.

Sincerely,

Clarence H. Carter  
Director

Enclosures



# Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Employment & Training Program

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## STATE PLAN

### Federal Fiscal Year 2013

Division of Employment & Rehabilitation Services  
Employment Administration  
1789 West Jefferson Street – 910A  
Phoenix, AZ 85007  
Telephone: 602.542.3667

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**PART I: SUMMARY OF ARIZONA'S SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE  
EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING (SNA E&T) PROGRAM**

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**A. ABSTRACT OF ARIZONA'S SNA E&T PROGRAM**

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Arizona's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) employment program is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Employment & Training (SNA E&T) Program. The SNA E&T Program assists SNAP recipients in gaining skills, training, and work-related experience to increase their ability to obtain suitable employment and reduce SNAP dependency. The Employment Administration (EA), within the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES), administers the SNA E&T Program.

The Family Assistance Administration (FAA), within DES, determines eligibility for SNAP benefits and refers SNAP recipients to the SNA E&T Program. The referral exception is if recipients are exempt from the federal work provisions. Staff identifies and refers recipients using an automated interface between the computerized systems used by each administration. The two systems are FAA's Arizona Technical Eligibility Computer System (AZTECS) and EA's Jobs Automated System (JAS).

A new vision for the safety net has been developed by the Department:

There is a new societal compact for building the capacity of people to achieve their maximum potential. The Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) leads a coordinated, integrated and comprehensive public and private effort to grow the capacity of socially and economically challenged Arizonans to achieve their highest functioning self and thereby reduce their dependency on public supports.

The SNA E&T Program will participate fully in a demonstration of this vision. While retaining high expectations for its participants and emphasizing employment, the Demonstration will encourage consumers to pursue education and labor-market relevant skills training that will enable them to secure jobs with family-sustaining wages. SNA E&T Program participants in the Demonstration project will receive an individual assessment and interview that emphasizes employment planning. The Demonstration participants' plans will also identify barriers to self-sufficiency and identify non-SNAP E&T resources needed to overcome those barriers. Employment planning includes employment and training activities based on a work focus that will use in-depth assessment to determine if the individual is "Work Ready" for jobs that lift the individual out of public dependency. Participants in the planned Demonstration will be assessed with WorkKeys for the National Career Readiness Certificate Plus (NCRC+) (or similar assessment tools). Participants are required to actively engage in the creation of their Employment and Career Development Plan (ECDP) and take actions to complete each activity included within.

Participants may receive assistance through community and faith-based organizations for employment and additional services. The SNA E&T Program also uses interagency referrals to other DES programs including Employment Service (Wagner-Peyser) and required partners through the Workforce Investment Act (WIA).

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## 1. PROGRAM CHANGES

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Arizona plans to purchase clothing for participants in need of suitable attire to participate in components and/or to accept or maintain employment. Purchases are limited to \$100.00 per participant in a Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) for non-Demonstration participants. Allowable clothing items include attire normally needed for job interviews or employment. The clothing allowance will be paid to the client via an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card that the client will receive. The client will be responsible for purchasing the agreed upon clothing items and providing a receipt to the Program Specialist for review and tracking purposes.

The Demonstration project will also utilize the AZ I-BEST training model for participants to enhance their work readiness capabilities.

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## 2. ABAWD POPULATION

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During FFY 2013, Arizona qualifies for a 12-month statewide Able-Bodied Adult Without Dependents (ABAWD) waiver due to the Department of Labor (DOL) Unemployment Insurance (UI) determination that Arizona meets the criteria for extended benefits. Arizona's ABAWD population is not required to participate in qualifying activities to receive continued SNAP benefits; however individuals will be encouraged to volunteer for program participation. The DOL Extended Compensation (EC) Trigger Notice 2011-52, effective January 8, 2012, and the USDA/FNS administrative notice 12-17, identified this qualification. Arizona will continue suspending the time limits on the ABAWD population through September 30, 2013. The SNA E&T Program will report ABAWDs and non-ABAWDs under the same criteria.

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## 3. ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION FOR "PLEDGE" STATES

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Arizona is not requesting "Pledge" funding for the ABAWD population at this time.

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## 4. PROGRAM COMPONENTS

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The countable components/activities included in Arizona's SNA E&T Program Plan for FFY 2013 are: