



STATEHOUSE REPORT

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New SNAP program changes took effect on October 1

Two major Ohio Department of Job and Family Services changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) became effective on Tuesday.

The first change increases SNAP eligibility to 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL) to mitigate the benefits cliff. Previously, SNAP was only available to those earning 130% FPL. ODJFS added tiered eligibility for those with income above the 130% threshold. As recipients' income approaches 200% FPL, their monthly SNAP benefits gradually decrease, creating an offramp from benefits instead of a cliff. A press release detailing this change can be found [here](#).

Additionally, ODJFS launched the new SNAP Employment & Training (E&T) Program on Tuesday. The department convened a stakeholder group, including CCAO, to develop the redesign recommendations. The goals for redesigning the program were:

1. Meet local employer needs by providing employees with basic job readiness skills and work experience, and
2. Moving from a transactional to a transformational program by providing participants with case management, including coaching, goal setting, and barrier removal.

The recommendations for the redesign were:

1. Operate a voluntary program that gives priority of service to unemployed able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) who opt to enroll and need help finding and keeping a job.
2. Focus on helping people become work-ready and understand basic job etiquette, as employers have been reluctant to work with the SNAP E&T program as it is currently structured.

3. Make it possible for more than just ABAWDs to have the opportunity to participate through a voluntary program.

The SNAP program requires ABAWDs to work 20 hours per week (an average of 80 hours per month) to receive assistance. Under the redesign, the SNAP E&T Program remains an option for ABAWDs to complete that requirement.

ODJFS released a one-page [overview of the redesigned program](#). Additional information about the SNAP E&T program, including Q&As and a one-pager for SNAP participants, can be found on the [SNAP E&T Program webpage of ODJFS' website](#).

CCAO appreciates the hard work of our county job and family services agencies in training to implement these programmatic changes.

If you have questions, please contact Rachel Reedy at rreedy@ccao.org.

Governor DeWine declares State of Emergency in four southern Ohio counties

The following is a news release from Governor Mike DeWine's office, with the beginning changed from "Today," to "Earlier this week,".

Earlier this week, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine [declared a state of emergency](#) for Lawrence, Jackson, Pike, and Scioto counties following severe weather on Friday, September 27, that caused high winds, flooding, power outages, and downed trees impacting roadways and residences.

"This declaration of a state of emergency will give the State the ability to expedite assistance to these communities," said Governor DeWine. "We will continue to monitor needs and help communities in Southern Ohio recover from the damage and remove large amounts of debris from the recent storm event."

The Ohio Emergency Management Agency (Ohio EMA) has been engaged with the impacted counties to assess needs and provide assistance. Ohio EMA continues to be in contact with the County Emergency Management Agencies (county EMAs) and will monitor developments and offer assistance.

Local governments who need assistance should [contact](#) their County Emergency Management Agency Offices.