

Operations Bulletin 2015-9: Voluntary SNAP Employment and Training Program (Issued 9/17/2015)

The Department has petitioned the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) and been granted approval to move to a voluntary SNAP Employment and Training program (SNAP E&T) effective August 30, 2015. While DTA will continue to offer SNAP E&T services to eligible NPA SNAP clients who elect to participate, clients will not be sanctioned for failing to participate in the program. In anticipation of this change, effective immediately:

- do not give *SNAP/ET Job Search Declaration* forms to clients who do not meet any of the exemption reasons listed on the Work Requirements page in BEACON. This form will no longer be available on Online Forms;
- **do not sanction** clients who fail to return previously assigned or voluntarily assigned *SNAP/ET Job Search Declaration* forms; and
- offer all clients the opportunity to volunteer to participate in the SNAP E&T program and check the voluntary participant checkbox if they choose to participate. Be sure to clearly note the voluntary participation on the Narrative tab.

Until BEACON is updated to reflect the fact that participation in the SNAP E&T program is voluntary, clients who do not qualify for any of the listed exemptions from SNAP E&T requirements should be coded as SNAP E&T required.

Clients who are currently sanctioned for failure to comply with SNAP E&T sanctions may reapply for SNAP benefits once their sanction period ends. Unless the client becomes exempt from work requirements, current sanctions must not be ended prematurely.