



Welcome!

Chicago Jobs Council



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Work Requirements for Public Benefits:

New Threats and Ongoing Challenges

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What is SNAP?



- **1,879,000** Illinois residents, or **15%** of the state population (**1 in 7**)

ILLINOIS

more than

63%

of SNAP participants are in families with children

almost

30%

are in families with members who are elderly or have disabilities

more than

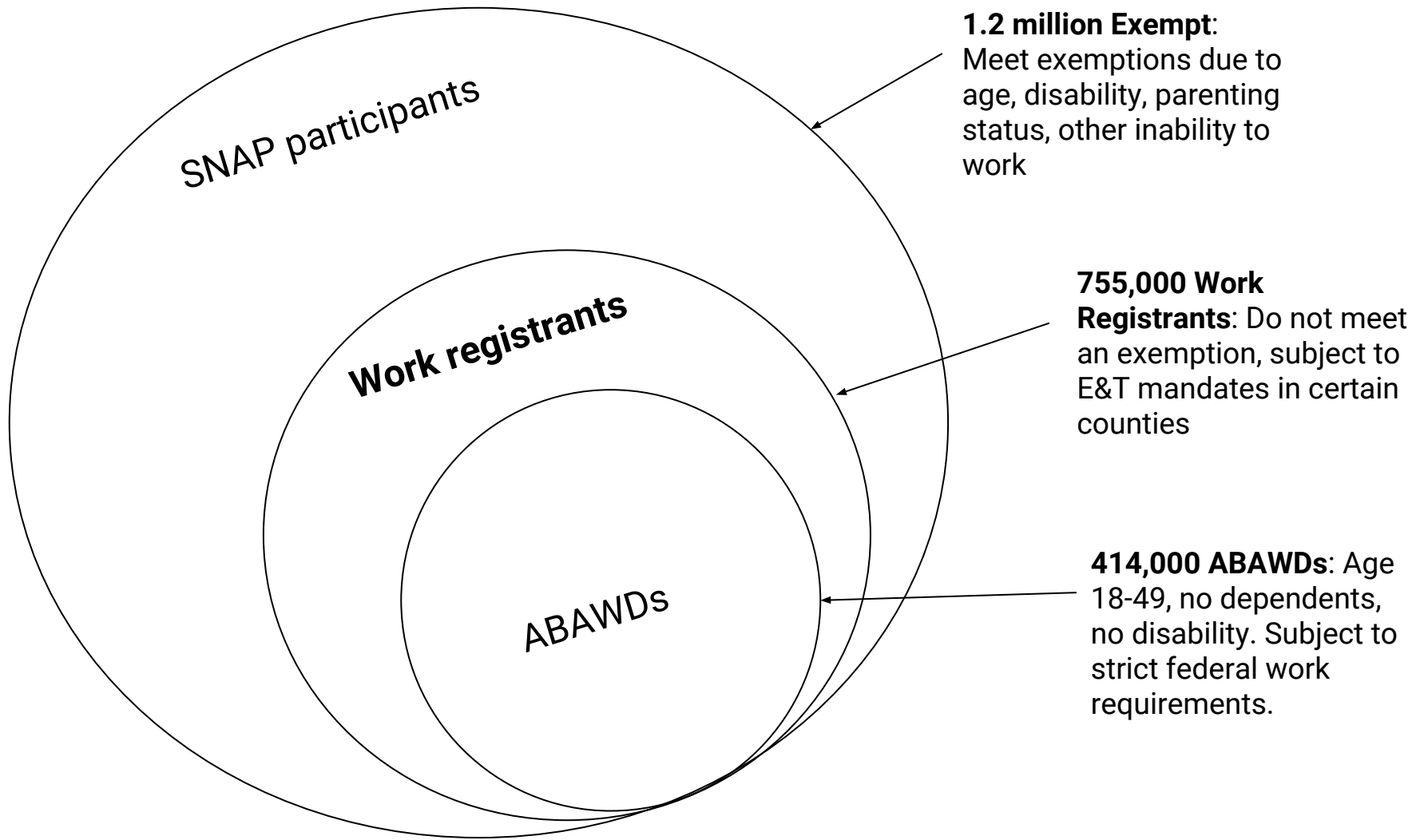
43%

are in working families

Key Takeaway



- We make people jump through many complicated hoops just to get food assistance.
 - ...and it may be about to get much worse.



1.2 million Exempt:
Meet exemptions due to age, disability, parenting status, other inability to work

755,000 Work Registrants: Do not meet an exemption, subject to E&T mandates in certain counties

414,000 ABAWDs: Age 18-49, no dependents, no disability. Subject to strict federal work requirements.

1.9 million total in IL

Work Requirements for SNAP

- Federal law requires certain people who receive SNAP to work or participate in workforce services for ~20 hours per week
 - Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs)
- ABAWDs who do not meet reqs face time limit for benefits: max of 3 months every 36 months
- SNAP E&T is a federally-funded program that provides workforce services to a small number of SNAP recipients

414,000 ABAWDs in IL
(in FY2019)

Proposed Federal Rule Change

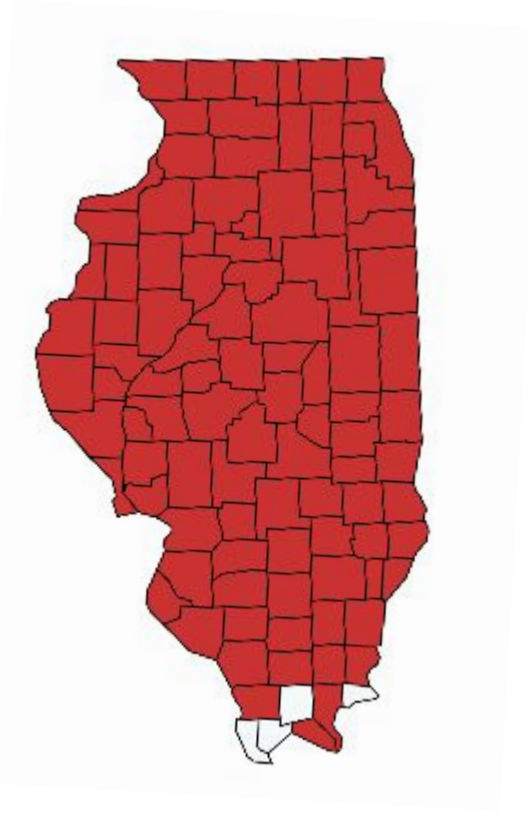
Currently:


Work requirements enforced in
1 out of 102 counties



Under proposed rule change:

Work requirements would be enforced
in 98 out of 102 counties






Meeting Work Requirements Through Workforce Programming

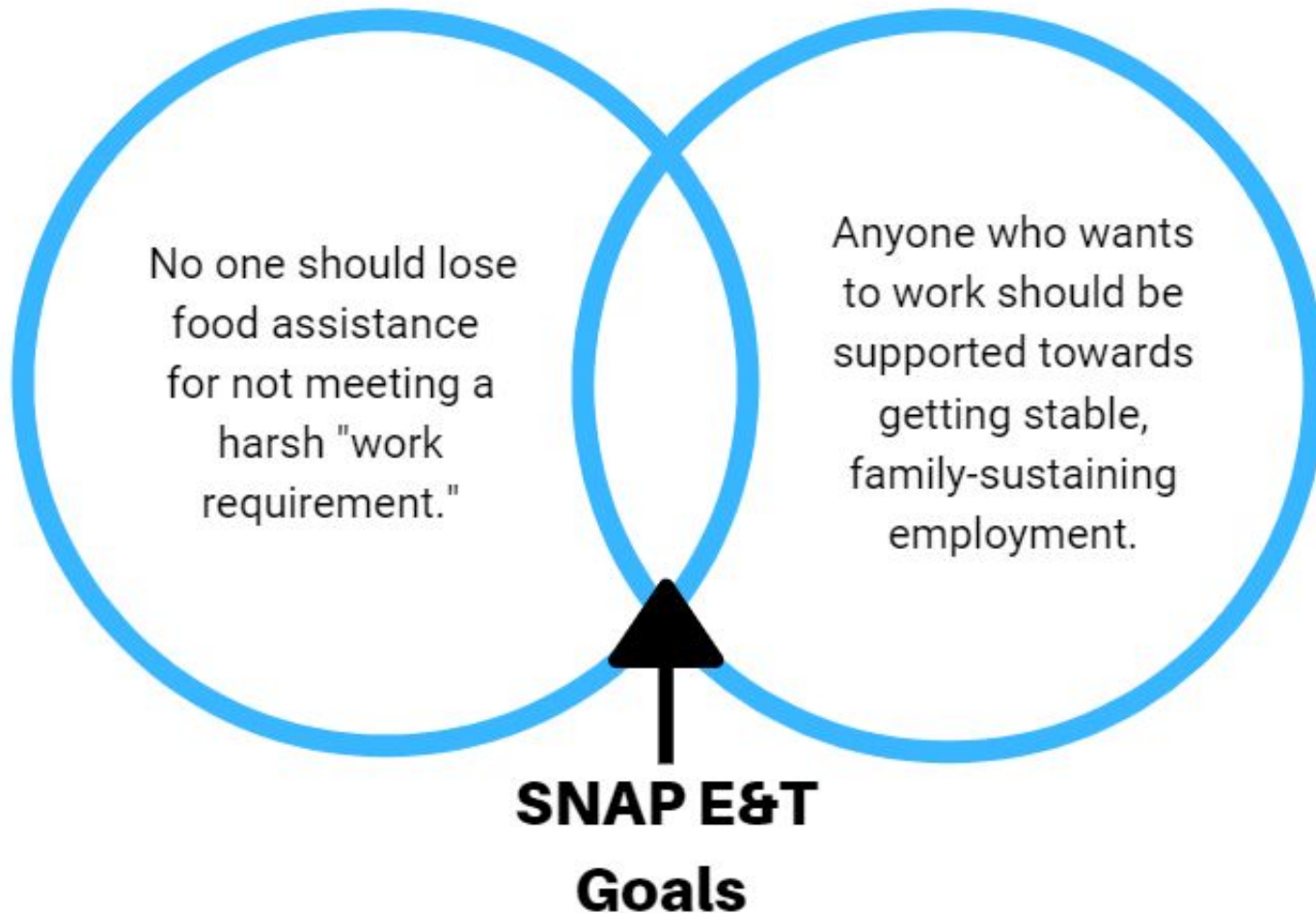
A person can meet work requirements through:

- Employment;
- Workforce development program;
- Earnfare;
- other approved activity.



**Meeting Work
Requirements
Through Workforce
Programming**

SNAP E&T is a program and a funding source designed to help states provide employment services for eligible SNAP recipients to gain skills, training, and/or work experience.



Program Components

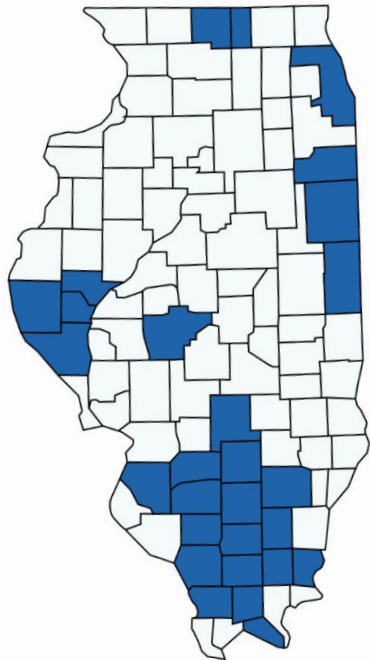


A graphic consisting of two concentric circles. The inner circle is blue and the outer circle is grey. The text "SNAP E&T Funding" is centered within the inner circle.

SNAP E&T Funding

- **State gets funds from feds to run a SNAP E&T program**
 - **“100% funds”**
 - **“50-50 funds”**: Any additional non-federal money spent (state, local, philanthropic) is reimbursed by feds with *no cap*
 - IL: \$13 million in FY 2018
- **States decide how to administer program**
 - Most states: Participation is voluntary
 - IL: Participation is *mandatory* wherever state contracts for services
- **Requirement to coordinate with workforce development system**

Mandatory vs. Voluntary



SNAP Employment & Training

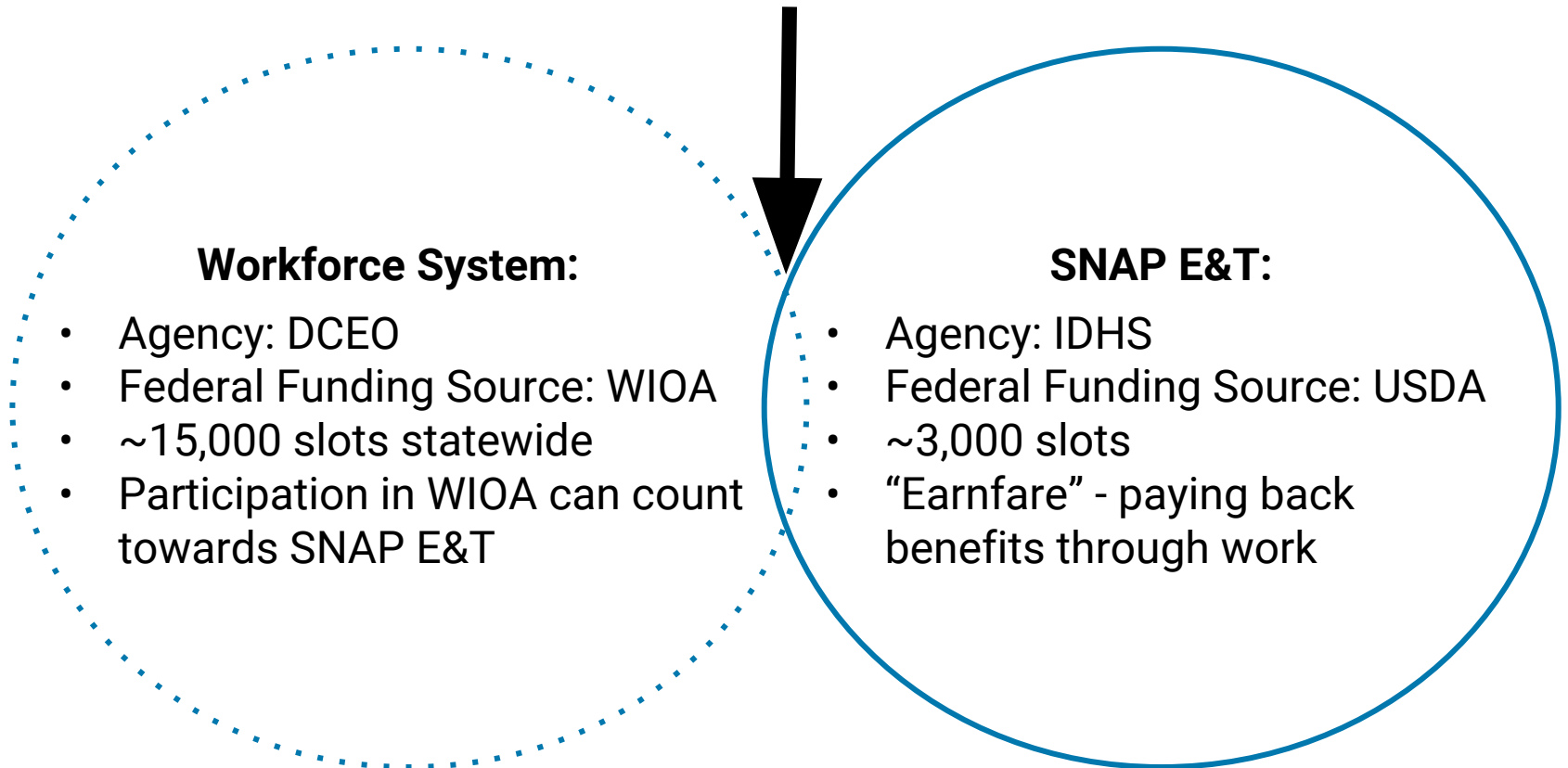
- Voluntary
- Mandatory

- The State contracts with service providers to deliver E&T services
- Any county where a contract exists, SNAP E&T participation is considered “mandatory”
- In a mandatory program:
 - Not complying with E&T plan = 3 months sanctions

Workforce System vs. SNAP E&T

Similarities:

- Deliver many of the same services:
 - Job readiness, skills training, wraparound services
- Very low-income participants



Numbers for Illinois (FY 2019)

Total ABAWDs (in FY2019)	414,000
Mandatory E&T Participants	336,000
Total unduplicated E&T participants	9,400
Average projected monthly E&T participants	3,200

Total E&T-related Sanctions since 1/1/17: 4,581

Policy Recommendations

- 1) Pushing state to work together (with IDHS and DCEO) to develop a plan for how to address loss of ABAWD waiver, which includes improving and expanding SNAP E&T;
- 2) Make SNAP E&T Voluntary in every county;
- 3) Increase state funding for SNAP E&T and IDHS staff (because state \$ can be federally reimbursed.)

ABAWD Waiver

- There is a federal waiver of work requirements for areas that are struggling economically.
 - more than 10% unemployment, OR
 - 20% higher than national average unemployment.
- Illinois has requested a waiver for 101 out of 102 counties.

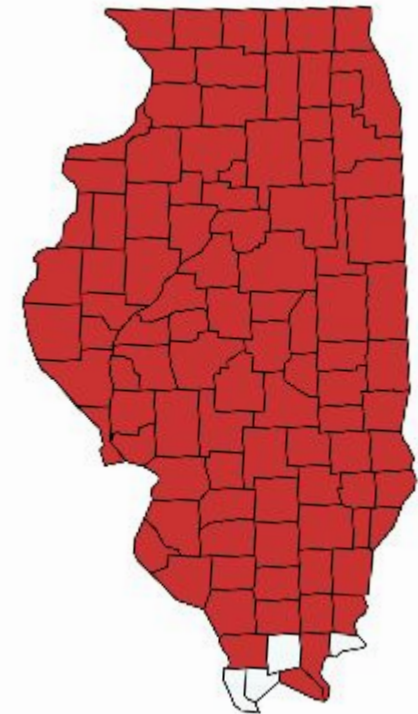


SNAP E&T Waiver Eligibility

- Eligible Counties
- Non-Eligible Counties

Proposed Federal Rule Change

- Trump admin proposing a change to ABAWD waiver, requiring.
 - more than 10% unemployment, OR
 - Both 20% higher than national average unemployment AND a minimum of 7% unemployment.
- Illinois would only qualify for 7 out of 102 counties.



SNAP E&T Waiver Eligibility

- Eligible Counties
- Non-Eligible Counties

Possible effects:

- Hundreds of thousands could be subject to work requirements, meaning they must:
 - immediately find work;
 - immediately enter workforce services, or;
 - risk losing food benefits.
- ABAWDs are people that tend to face multiple barriers to employment.



Next Steps

- Stay tuned!
- Submit a public comment.
- Try to take stock of how many of your participants may be subject to this rule.

Upcoming CJC Events

Community Announcements



Thank you!
Next meeting: April 10th

Chicago Jobs Council