



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
PO Box 700
TRENTON NJ 08625-0700

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

JENNIFER VELEZ
Commissioner

July 21, 2014

Honorable Stephen M. Sweeney
President, New Jersey Senate
Senate Majority Office, State House
P.O. Box 099
Trenton, NJ 08625-0099

Honorable Vincent Prieto,
Speaker, New Jersey General Assembly
Assembly Majority Office, State House
P.O. Box 098
Trenton, NJ 08625-0098

Dear Senate President Sweeney and Assembly Speaker Prieto:

On April 15, 2013, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training Provider Project Act (the Act), P.L. 2013, c. 45 was enacted to assist eligible Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participants obtain job training and develop the necessary skills to find and keep regular employment.

In accordance with the Act, the Department of Human Services (DHS) submits this initial report on progress made to date to comply with the requirements of the New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training Provider Project Act.

As directed by the Act, DHS issued a request for proposals (RFP), seeking participating providers for demonstration projects, on April 7, 2014.

The RFP was intended to solicit proposals under which DHS would form partnerships with qualifying agencies to provide employment and training services to eligible participants under the New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training Program (NJ SNAP ETP) and receive federal reimbursements for those services. The overall goal of the SNAP ETP RFP was for DHS to establish partnerships with qualifying agencies that will provide the necessary services, such as job skills and job training, to lead eligible SNAP recipients to regular employment and self-sufficiency, eliminating their dependence on SNAP. The targeted population includes, but is not limited to, SNAP recipients who are either unemployed youth aged 16 to 24 years of age, or individuals with substance abuse barriers.

Funding of up to 45 percent of the federal SNAP reimbursement was made available for Fiscal Year (FY) 2014, for three or more qualifying agencies to service New Jersey through DHS, the Division of Family Development (DFD). The DHS/DFD could select no

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fewer than three (3) partnering providers, from among qualifying agencies submitting proposals. The Department could select partnering providers that would provide NJ SNAP ETP services within any service area including, but not limited to, the entire State, one or more regions encompassing several counties, or a single county.

A mandatory Technical Assistance conference was held by the Division of Family Development, Office of Grants Management, on April 24, 2013, which was attended by representatives from nine (9) interested agencies. Proposals were due May 16, 2014, by 4pm. Only two proposals were received by the deadline.

In light of having received fewer bids than the statutorily required number of contracts to be awarded, DHS rescinded the RFP via a notice published on the DHS website on May 30, 2014.

DHS re-issued the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training Provider Project RFP on June 16, 2014. A mandatory Technical Assistance conference was held on June 23, 2014, and attended by representatives from seven interested agencies. Proposals are due on July 23, 2014.

Upon receipt of a number of proposals equaling or exceeding the statutorily required number of contracts to be awarded, DHS will review the proposals in accordance with its procedures for competitive bidding, and award contracts as appropriate.

In addition to meeting its requirement to issue an RFP, DHS also was charged with making changes to the State Plan for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) submitted to the federal Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). The following language is included in the FY 2014 State Plan, submitted to FNS in August, 2013:

Future Development. *As a result of a recent law passed in 2013, the Department of Human Services/Division of Family Development will establish the New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training Provider Demonstration Project. For the project, the Division shall form partnerships with qualifying agencies to provide services to eligible participants under the NJ SNAP E&T Plan and receive federal reimbursements for those services. Participation in the project by NJ SNAP E&T participants is voluntary. The project will be funded through a private donor which will constitute the state investment and thereby draw in the federal funds. The Division shall consult*

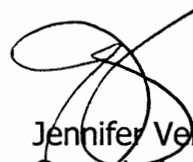
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with the Department of Labor and Workforce Development and the county welfare agencies with respect to the establishment and oversight of the demonstration project. Under the law, the state has to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) by November 2013. There will be an addendum to the E&T Plan once the awards are made as a result of the RFP.

As indicated in the above, DHS will update the State Plan as necessary as the project progresses and continue to submit reports on its status. We also work with FNS to ensure that federal reimbursement will be available for the project. Once awardees are selected and approved federally, DFD will post the information on the Department of Human Services website and provide your office with notification of same.

If you would like additional information, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Velez", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jennifer Velez
Commissioner

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c: Lori O'Mara-Van Driesen, OLS, OPI
Deborah Mercer, NJ State Library