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# Partnering to Provide Services to SNAP Employment and Training Program Participants

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## Why We Did This Report

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- SNAP is the nation's largest federally funded nutrition assistance program.
- To maintain eligibility for benefits, certain SNAP recipients must comply with the program's work requirements, which may include participating in a state's SNAP E&T program if required by the state.
- Congress and FNS have made changes to federal requirements for state SNAP E&T programs in recent years, including new reporting requirements

# Our Key Questions and Methods

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Our report examined:

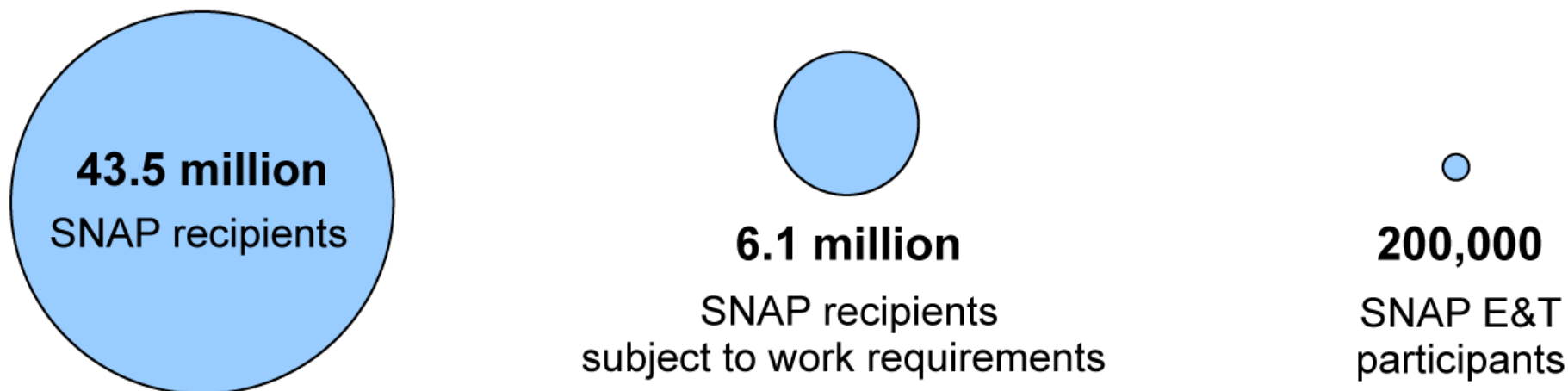
- (1) what is known about SNAP E&T program participants and outcomes over time; and
- (2) the extent to which state SNAP E&T programs have partnered with other programs offering similar services.

• Our methods included:

- Analyzing FNS data on participation, participant characteristics, outcomes, and partnerships
- Reviewing state SNAP E&T plans
- Interviewing FNS officials and officials in 5 states, selected to reflect a range of SNAP E&T program characteristics

# SNAP E&T Programs Have Served a Small Percentage of SNAP Recipients

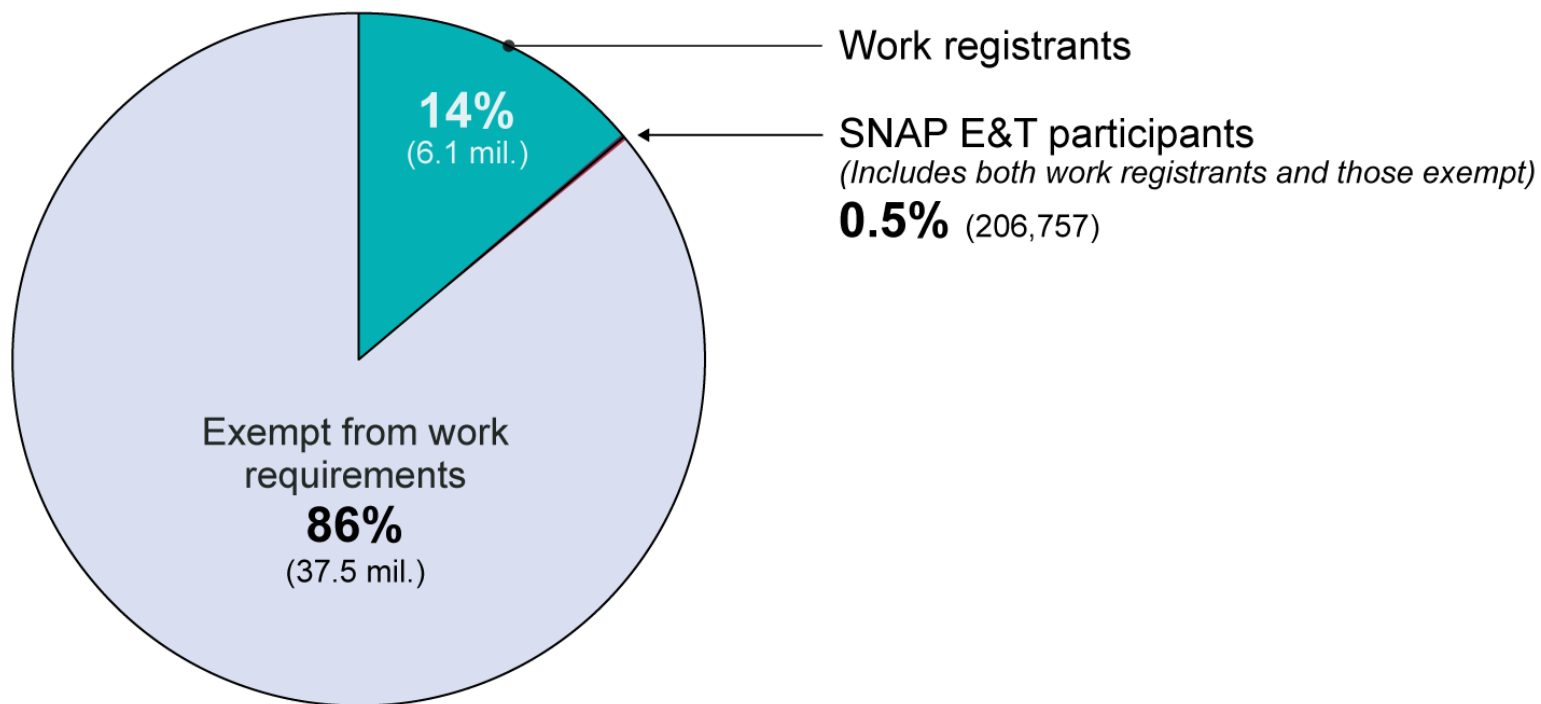
SNAP Recipients Subject to Work Requirements and Participating in SNAP E&T Programs in an Average Month of FY 2016



Source: GAO analysis of U.S. Department of Agriculture data. | GAO-19-56

# Most SNAP Recipients Were Exempt from Work Requirements

SNAP Recipients Subject to Work Requirements and Participating in SNAP E&T Programs, FY 2016



Source: GAO analysis of Food and Nutrition Service SNAP Quality Control and E&T participation data. | GAO-19-56

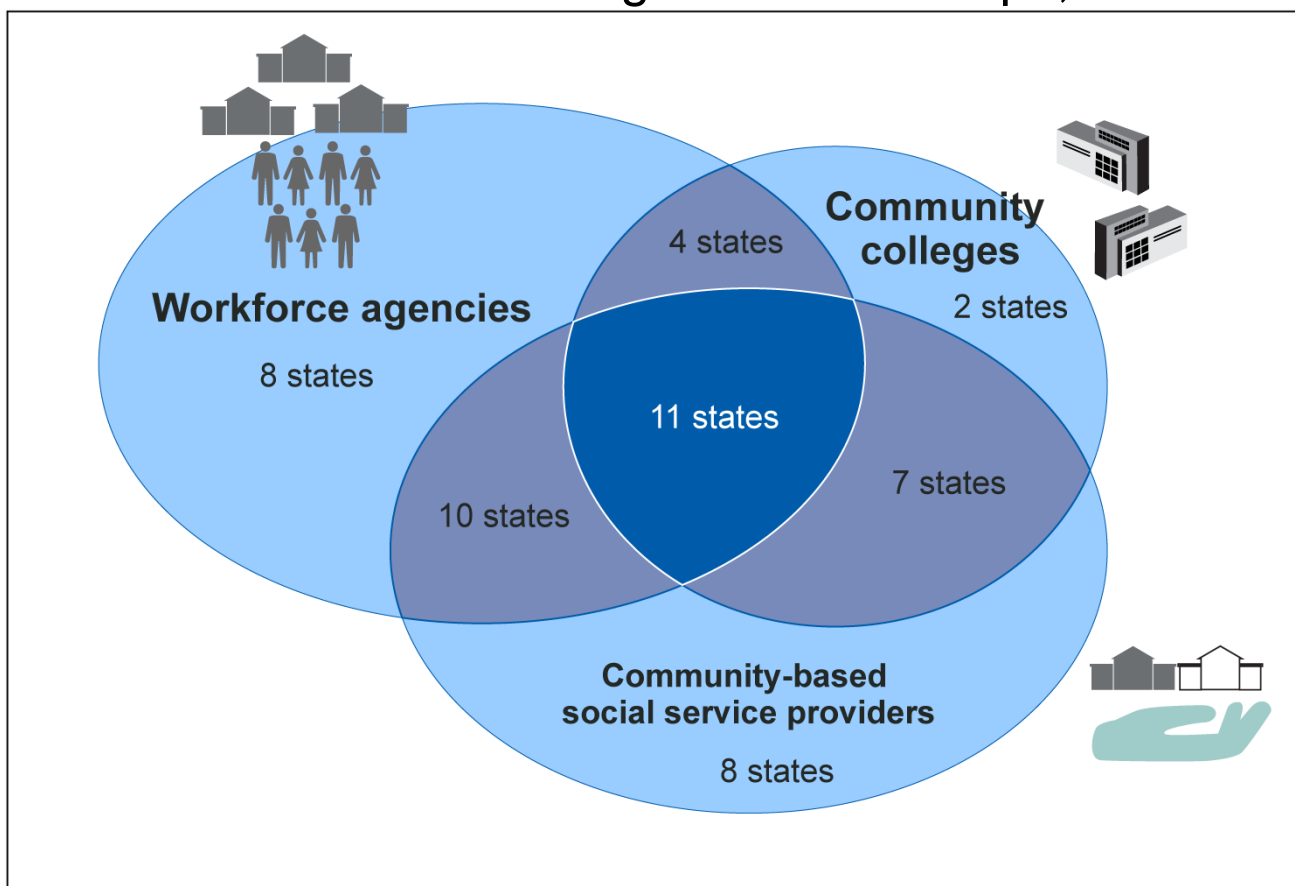
## Other Possible Reasons for Low Participation

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- SNAP recipients may participate in other activities to comply with work requirements.
- The majority of states have used ABAWD waivers in recent years
- States have increasingly moved from mandatory to voluntary SNAP E&T programs in recent years
- A limited number of those referred to state programs go on to participate in services, in part because of barriers to participation, such as a lack of transportation, childcare, or treatment for mental health issues

# States Have Increasingly Partnered with Other Organizations to Deliver SNAP E&T Services

State SNAP E&T Program Partnerships, FY 2018

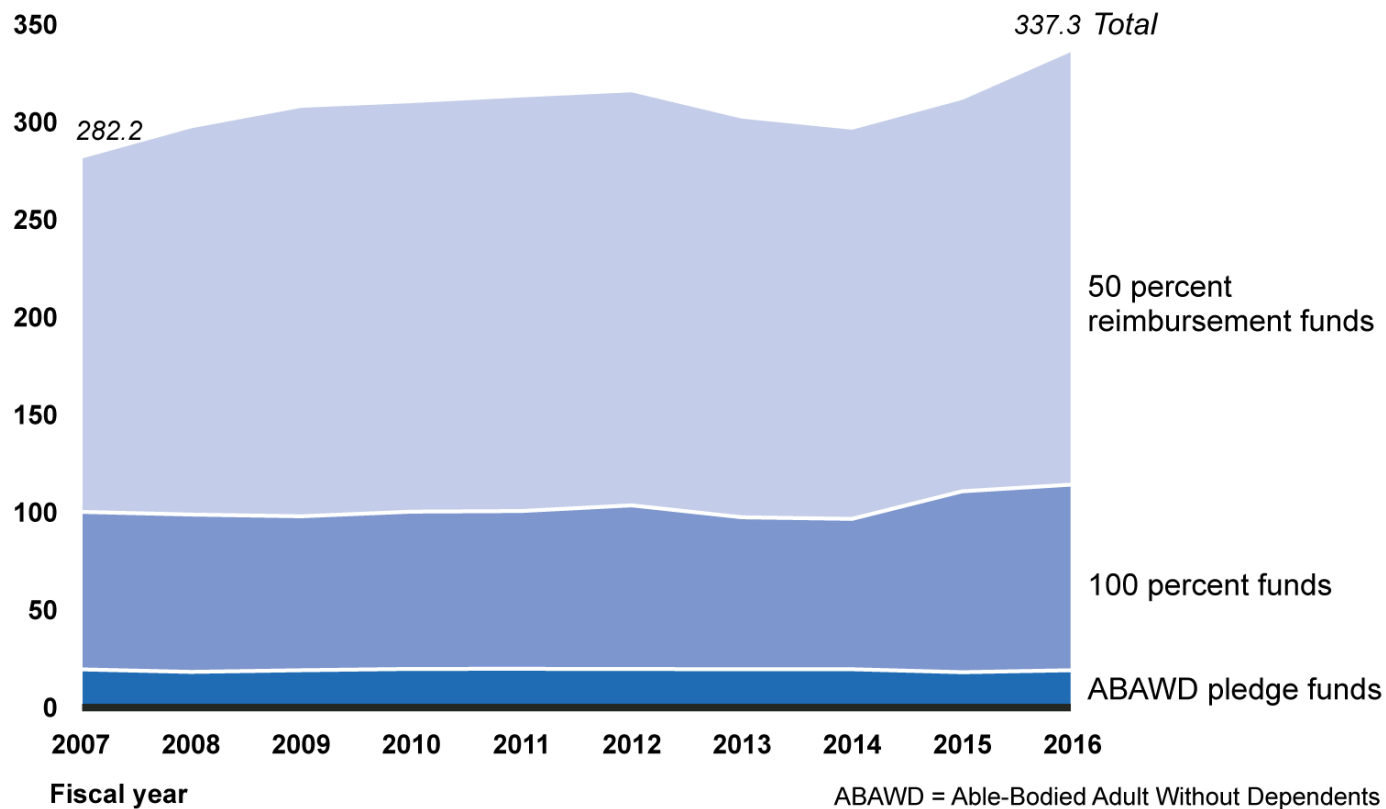


Source: GAO analysis of Food and Nutrition Service data on state workforce development system partnerships. | GAO-19-56

# States Have Increasingly Used Third Party Partnerships and 50% Reimbursement Funds

## SNAP E&T Expenditures, FY 2007 through 2016

Expenditures (in millions of dollars)

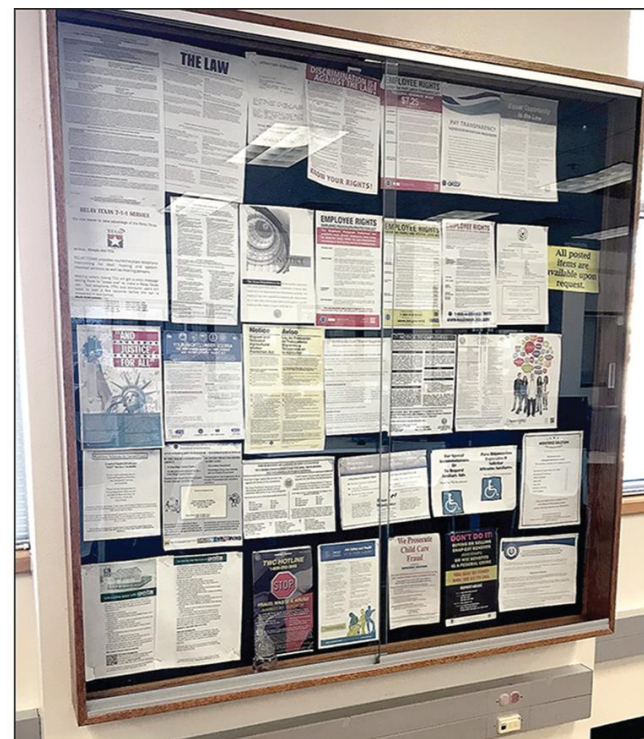


Source: GAO analysis of Food and Nutrition Service SNAP E&T expenditure data. | GAO-19-56



# Partnerships Provide SNAP E&T Programs Additional Capacity, Resources, and Expertise

Resource Room and Job Listings at an American Job Center That Serves SNAP E&T Participants



Source: GAO. | GAO-19-56

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## Partnerships Can Help to Improve Outcomes

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- Providers embedded in the communities that include SNAP recipients can tailor services based on their knowledge of these populations' unique barriers to employment
- Providers can provide additional supportive services, including transitional housing, clothing, financial advising, and mental and physical health services, to address a broader set of barriers to employment

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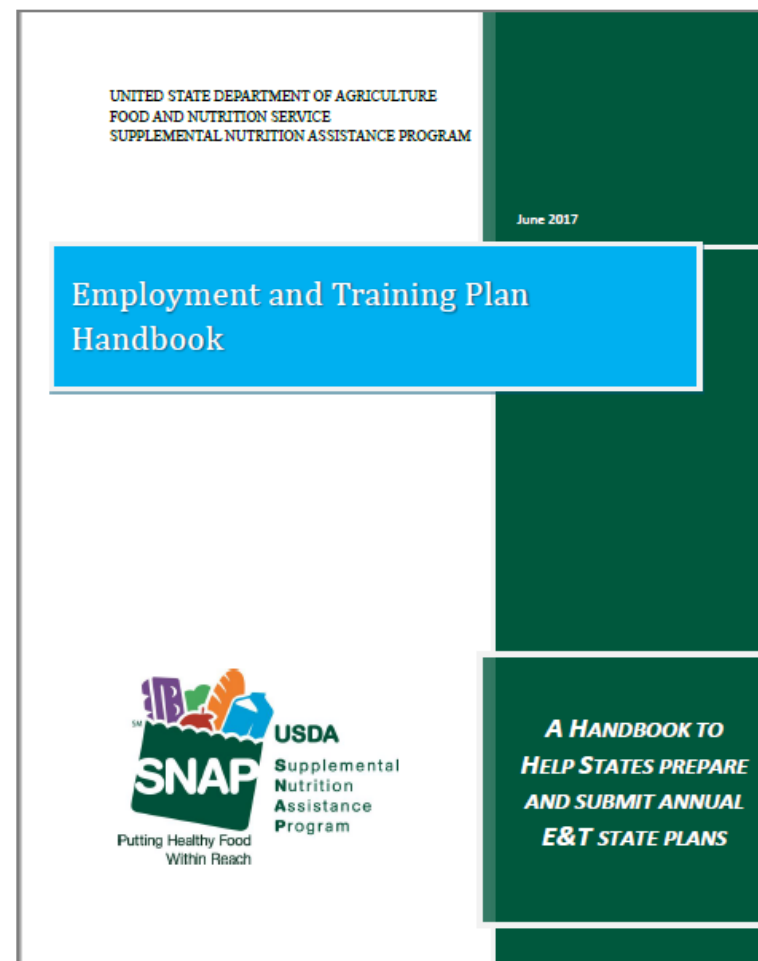
## **Some States Did Not Leverage Workforce Development System Resources for SNAP E&T**

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- 20 state SNAP agencies had not partnered with workforce agencies in FY 2018
- 12 state SNAP agencies directly provided job search or job search training for their SNAP E&T programs, according to FY 2017 plans
- 3 states' SNAP agencies operated their own SNAP E&T programs and did not involve existing workforce development system entities in the provision of these services in FY 2018

# State Plans Lacked Details on Available Partners

- States are required to deliver SNAP E&T services through their state workforce development systems and identify the E&T services that will be delivered through this system in their plans.
- 24 states did not provide information in their fiscal year 2017 SNAP E&T plans that would allow FNS to verify whether these states had assessed available workforce development system providers.
- GAO recommended FNS should take additional steps to assist states in leveraging available workforce development system resources.



You can download the full report from our website at [www.gao.gov](http://www.gao.gov), report number GAO-19-56.