

1 AN ACT relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment
2 and Training state plan.

3 WHEREAS, high workforce participation is directly tied to a healthy and nourished
4 populace; and

5 WHEREAS, maximizing the value of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
6 (SNAP) benefits spent on healthy and nourishing food options makes the preferred
7 healthy choice also the most economical choice and ultimately increases the overall
8 health of Kentuckians; and

9 WHEREAS, SNAP Employment and Training programs are available to eligible
10 SNAP beneficiaries in all 120 Kentucky counties; and

11 WHEREAS, the federal government provides 100 percent matching grants for
12 qualified private partner-funded SNAP Employment and Training programs; and

13 WHEREAS, the General Assembly recognizes an opportunity, through the
14 Commonwealth's SNAP Employment and Training state plan, for public-private
15 partnerships across the Commonwealth to provide both employment training and
16 nutrition incentives; and

17 WHEREAS, the General Assembly is committed to bringing potential partners to
18 the table through a working group of public and private entities across the
19 Commonwealth to explore all options for increasing workforce engagement as well as
20 healthy incentive programs under the SNAP Employment and Training state plan;

21 NOW, THEREFORE,

22 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

23 ➔Section 1. KRS 205.2003 is amended to read as follows:

24 (1) The secretary shall promulgate~~[by]~~ administrative regulations in accordance
25 with~~[subject to the provisions of]~~ KRS Chapter 13A to develop a work program for
26 recipients of public assistance under Title IV-A of the Federal Social Security Act
27 to provide for immediate employment or preparation for employment.

1 (2) The self-sufficiency of participants shall be the primary goal of the work program.†
2 † Participants shall bear the ultimate responsibility in pursuit of this goal.

3 (3) In partnership with participants, the cabinet shall assess their strengths and needs
4 and provide supportive services to assist in the pursuit of work and self-sufficiency.

5 (4) The cabinet shall:

6 (a) Develop and implement initiatives under Kentucky's Supplemental
7 Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training state plan,
8 established in accordance with 7 C.F.R. sec. 273.7, to promote improved
9 employment outcomes and workforce participation. The initiatives shall:

10 1. Be related to healthy workforce habits among eligible individuals;

11 2. Include establishing partnerships with public and private entities,
12 including but not limited to workforce boards, educational institutions,
13 employers, and community organizations;

14 3. Include partner-funded programs supporting household food security
15 and improved nutrition, including but not limited to an incentive
16 program for the purpose of increasing the purchase and consumption
17 of nutritious foods both at work and at home;

18 4. Include job readiness, occupational training, and work-based learning
19 opportunities;

20 5. Implement employment assessment and individualized employment
21 planning; and

22 6. Include case management and employment navigation services;

23 (b) To the extent allowable by federal law, utilize federal Supplemental
24 Nutrition Assistance Program matching grant funds as provided in 7 C.F.R.
25 sec. 273.7(d);

26 (c) On or before December 1, 2026, pursue any federal approvals necessary to
27 implement the initiatives, including a submission of a state plan amendment

1 to Kentucky's federally approved Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
2 Program Employment and Training state plan; and
3 (d) Submit a report to the Legislative Research Commission for referral to the
4 Interim Joint Committee on Health Services and appear before the Interim
5 Joint Committee on Health Services annually to update the members of the
6 committee regarding program participation levels, employment outcomes,
7 healthy workforce outcomes, federal fund draw downs, and program
8 impacts.