

**NEWS RELEASE** | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | June 6, 2019

## **Human Services hosts webinar on SNAP employment and training program, plans statewide expansion**

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services' Economic Assistance Division will host an educational webinar on the state's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program's (SNAP) employment and training initiative on Wednesday, June 12, from 1 to 2 p.m. Central Time. The employment and training program helps SNAP recipients gain skills, training, and work experience so they can obtain regular employment and become self-sufficient.

"We encourage representatives from public and private North Dakota colleges and technical schools, tribal colleges and organizations, nonprofits and other community-based entities to participate in the webinar to learn how they can partner with us to expand program participation," said Michele Gee, director of the department's Economic Assistance Division.

The hour-long webinar will give a brief overview of the SNAP employment and training program and highlight the benefits of partnerships with third-party entities that can expand and strengthen the program in North Dakota. Representatives from Seattle Jobs Initiative, who is contracted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service, will lead the webinar.

Individuals can join the webinar <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/410290229> or listen by phone at (646) 749-3112, access code 410-290-229.

Individuals who need accommodations to participate in the meeting can contact Deb Kramer, North Dakota Department of Human Services, 600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 325, Bismarck, N.D. 58505-0250, 701-328-3272, 711 (TTY), or [debkramer@nd.gov](mailto:debkramer@nd.gov).

Currently, there are two SNAP employment and training programs available in North Dakota. The department contracts with Job Service North Dakota to administer the Basic Employment Skills Training Program in Burleigh and Cass counties. In the past seven months, the program has served an average of 86 individuals each month. The department also contracts with Community Options, Inc. to administer the NDWorks employment and training program in Grand Forks and Ramsey counties. The program started in August 2018 and serves 110 SNAP recipients each month.

These programs provide education, training and related supportive services to eligible SNAP recipients, which creates a skilled workforce benefiting both the state and citizens of North Dakota.

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