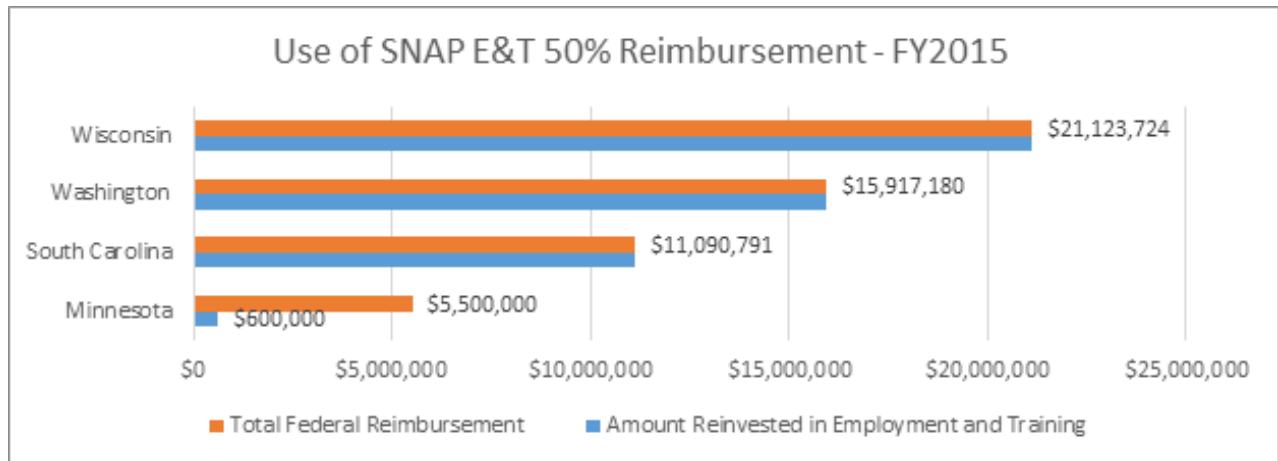


## Maximizing Minnesota's SNAP Investments – HF 3277 (Zerwas)

Minnesota is missing out on millions of federal dollars to help train low-income, low-skilled workers & shrink the skills gap. We must maximize existing state & local training investments to leverage uncapped federal reimbursement dollars.



- **SNAP Employment & Training (E&T) 50/50 funds is a flexible reimbursement option** that allows States to seek reimbursement on 50% of the local costs to serving food stamp recipients in quality employment and training programs and post-secondary education.
- **Minnesota employers increasingly report a shortage of skilled workers** and need for candidates with post-secondary training. The growing skills gap impacts Minnesota's competitiveness and economic stability, particularly in low-income communities.
- **Increased skill requirements leave many potential workers at the margins**, unable to secure the training they need to compete for jobs, increasing need for public subsidies to meet basic needs.
- **Minnesota is currently leaving millions of federal match dollars on the table that could benefit skill needs of both employers & job seekers alike.** Other states have taken advantage of this uncapped federal option and exponentially grown their investments – *Wisconsin received \$21 million in 2015, Minnesota only \$5.8 million*
- **NO NEW STATE MONEY would be required to leverage these dollars** – investments are already being made by counties, colleges, community organizations, adult basic education, foundations and other community partners in every corner of the state. Federal 50/50 reimbursement funds would largely go directly back into employment & training solutions at the local level.

## **SF 2684 Does Two Things:**

- 1. Stops the transfer of SNAP E&T dollars to the general fund (\$4.4 M) and requires these funds to be used for their intended purpose** - to supplement the state and its community partners' investments in education and training for SNAP participants. Sending this money to the general fund does not help participants or our local communities.
- 2. Instructs DHS to work to capture Minnesota's fair share of additional federal 50/50 reimbursement dollars.** We know significant investments are being made in every community in Minnesota to assist SNAP recipients attain skills needed to get good jobs. Minnesota is well positioned to improve our SNAP E&T program investments by capitalizing on the dollars already being spent. This, combined with Minnesota's recent selection by USDA Food Nutritional Services for SNAP E&T technical assistance, positions us for rapid expansion that requires NO new State money.

### **SUPPORTERS**

**Ameriprise Financial**

**CAPI**

**Citizen's League**

**CLUES (Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio)**

**CommonBond Communities**

**EMERGE**

**Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota**

**Greater Twin Cities United Way**

**Growth & Justice**

**Hennepin County**

**HIRED**

**Hmong American Partnership**

**International Institute**

**Jewish Family & Children's Service of Minneapolis**

**JPMorgan Chase**

**Latino Economic Development Corporation**

**Lifetrack**

**Literacy Action Network**

**The Minneapolis Foundation**

**Minnesota Council of Foundations**

**Minnesota Workforce Council Assn**

**MSPWin**

**Project for Pride in Living**

**RESOURCE, Inc.**

**Saint Paul Community Literacy Consortium**

**The Saint Paul Foundation**

**SOAR Career Solutions**

**Somali Education and Social Action Center**

**Summit Academy OIC**

**The Urban League of Minneapolis**

**Minnesota has underutilized this reimbursement option, and the little funds we do receive are not being fully used for their intended purpose – to help low-income Minnesotans secure sustainable employment.**

**This needs to change.**