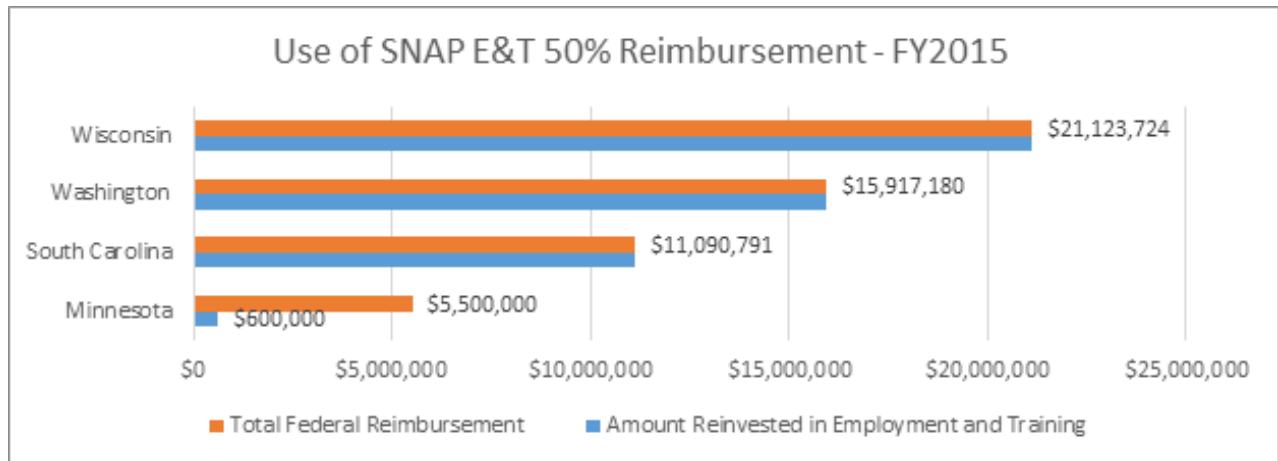


Maximizing Minnesota's SNAP Investments – HF 3277 (Zerwas)

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.

HF 3277 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.