

CalFresh Employment and Training Working Group Partnership Agreement January 2018

Participants:

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Partnership Overview:

The Labor and Workforce Development Agency (LWDA), California Workforce Development Board (CWDB) and Employment Development Department (EDD) oversee the local and regional workforce system and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) programs, which include regional planning units (RPU), local workforce boards, and American Job Centers of California (AJCCs). The local workforce system's training services are delivered by a variety of service providers which are listed on the Eligible Training Provider List.

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) provides statewide oversight for CalFresh and the CalFresh Employment and Training (E&T) Program, which is administered locally by county Human Service agencies. As of 2018, 36 county Human Service agencies offer CalFresh E&T to CalFresh recipients on a voluntary basis. Program services are delivered by county Human Service agencies and a variety of other service providers, including Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and community colleges, which are described in the CalFresh E&T State Plan.

These entities, along with additional partners, are actively working to expand access to CalFresh E&T, and to improve the quality and diversity of CalFresh E&T services offered. To this end, they are committed to building state and local partnerships to support program expansion and achieve quality outcomes. These efforts align well with the three policy objectives outlined in California's WIOA State Plan. These three objectives include:

- Fostering demand-driven skills attainment
Workforce and education programs need to align program content with the State's industry sector needs so as to provide employers and businesses with the skilled workforce they need to compete in the global economy, and the workforce a clear connection to good jobs, wages, and careers.
- Enabling upward mobility for all Californians
Workforce and education programs need to be accessible for all Californians, including diverse populations and those with barriers to employment. They also

need to ensure that all Californians have access to a marketable set of skills and are able to reach the level of education necessary to ensure economic security and increased opportunity.

- Aligning, coordinating, and integrating programs and services
Programs and services must economize limited resources, while providing services based on each client’s potentially unique needs so as to facilitate skills-attainment.

Note: the WIOA One-Stop system is a network of partners and service providers that coordinate and connect education, training, workforce development, and related services for job seekers and businesses.

General Principles of CalFresh E&T Partnership

1. This partnership agreement serves as a **general blueprint** for the building of local and/or regional partnerships focused on the goals of the CalFresh E&T Program:

a	Expanding access to the CalFresh E&T Program
b	Increasing the quality and diversity of CalFresh E&T services offered
c	Integrating CalFresh E&T with the public workforce system as much as possible
d	Achieving outcomes in jobs and wages for CalFresh E&T participants

2. WIOA designates priority of service to focus on **recipients of public assistance**. For this purpose, CalFresh recipients are considered recipients of public assistance. To ensure that CalFresh recipients generally and CalFresh E&T participants have access to all suitable workforce programs available, local practitioners should be well versed in the workforce and education services available in their geographic area.

3. WIOA State Plan CalFresh E&T **partners** include:

a	CDSS
b	CWDA
c	CWA
d	CWDB
e	LWDA
f	Any other State Plan Partners who wish to participate, such as, Community Colleges

4. WIOA State Plan CalFresh E&T **partners** agree that WIOA State Plan policy **strategies** will be utilized, as appropriate, to improve labor market outcomes for all CalFresh recipients and CalFresh E&T participants. These policy strategies include:

a	Sector Strategies
b	Career Pathways

c	Organizing Regionally
d	Earn and Learn
e	Supportive Services
f	Integrated Service Delivery and Braided Resources
g	Building Cross-System Data Capacity

5. WIOA State Plan CalFresh E&T **partners** will **collaborate** to implement each of the foregoing WIOA program strategies, as appropriate, through a value-added partnership in which each partner contributes on the basis of its programmatic expertise, as well as its statutory and operational duties.
6. WIOA State Plan CalFresh E&T **partners** recognize that not all WIOA program strategies are appropriate for all CalFresh E&T participants. State partners also recognize that workforce services and supportive services are customized and geared towards the needs of each client, in order to ensure a customer-centered approach to service delivery.
7. The nature of local partnerships, partner responsibilities, and the specific manner in which partners will braid resources and coordinate service delivery, will be determined **locally, as well as regionally**. This local and regional work depends on agreements established between county Human Service agencies, local workforce development boards, community colleges, adult education providers, CBOs, and other stakeholders.
8. WIOA State Plan CalFresh E&T **partners** recognize that **CBOs** with a history of serving and working with CalFresh recipients, such as vocational training providers and social enterprises, contribute a unique and critical role with respect to workforce development programs and employment. These CBOs offer basic skills and occupational training, job and career search assistance, and supportive services.
9. County Human Services agencies with successful **third-party partnerships** serve as one model for the development of additional CalFresh E&T providers, including social enterprises. No later than June 1, 2018, CDSS, in consultation with the County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA), will issue guidance specific to partnering with social enterprises in the development and implementation of CalFresh E&T.
10. Though local partnerships are voluntary, state partners will **communicate** both jointly and individually with their local counterparts (county Human Service agencies and workforce boards, respectively) on the need and opportunity to collectively implement WIOA program strategies, as appropriate. This communication may occur via email, policy guidance, technical assistance, telephone call, webinar, site visit, and/or training. State partners are committed to working together to provide both technical assistance and consistent messaging to local and regional programs on the implementation of this partnership agreement at the local and/or regional

level. State partners will also provide resources on best practices and model partnerships, using both policy research and information from the field.

11. The CWDB will issue a **policy brief** to local boards to identify and encourage the adoption of best practices and model partnerships for serving CalFresh E&T participants at the local and regional levels. This will help facilitate the implementation of WIOA program strategies.
12. The CWDB, with input and agreement from CDSS, California Workforce Association (CWA), CWDA, and other E&T stakeholders will draft local and regional **workforce planning guidance** in the summer of 2018. This guidance will establish new Local and/or Regional Plan requirements and recommendations to be submitted as part of the Local and Regional Plan revisions required under WIOA in the spring of 2019.
13. CDSS will lead the annual **USDA E&T Planning process** with county Human Services agencies and state contractors in spring and summer each year, with input and agreement from CWDA and other stakeholders.
14. CalFresh E&T's national **reporting measures**, which are due to the federal Food and Nutrition Service annually, now align more closely with WIOA performance measures. State partners will work together to identify methods for collecting, sharing, and evaluating CalFresh E&T data. A few examples of this work to date are the Cross-System Analytics and Assessment for Learning and Skills Attainment project, the Fresh Success program collection methods, and CDSS' development of a new online resource center for workforce partners.