

ASSEMBLY, No. 2361

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 7, 2022

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ANGELICA M. JIMENEZ

District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)

Assemblywoman SHAVONDA E. SUMTER

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman BRITNEE N. TIMBERLAKE

District 34 (Essex and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywomen Reynolds-Jackson, McKnight and Haider

SYNOPSIS

Requires DHS to develop and implement SNAP outreach plan; appropriates funds.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/2/2022)

1 AN ACT establishing a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
2 outreach plan, supplementing Title 44 of the Revised Statutes,
3 and making an appropriation.
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*
7

8 1. a. The department, working in consultation and cooperation
9 with community-based organizations and county welfare agencies,
10 shall develop and implement a comprehensive SNAP outreach plan
11 targeted at increasing potential beneficiaries' access to:

12 (1) information regarding the availability of SNAP, the criteria
13 for eligibility for SNAP benefits, and the various methods to apply
14 for SNAP benefits; and

15 (2) the technological means to apply for SNAP benefits.

16 b. At a minimum, the department's outreach plan developed
17 pursuant to subsection a. of this section shall include:

18 (1) establishing a SNAP Navigator Grant Program, the purpose
19 of which shall be to distribute grant funding, via a process and
20 method determined by the commissioner, to community-based
21 organizations to support the employment of SNAP application
22 navigators. In distributing grants under the program, the
23 commissioner shall give priority to community-based organizations
24 that assist underserved communities;

25 (2) providing training to the appropriate staff at community-
26 based organizations regarding the necessary steps to complete and
27 submit a SNAP application, through all available methods,
28 including online and by telephone. Staff trained pursuant to this
29 paragraph shall assist clients with the SNAP application process;

30 (3) partnering with community-based organizations to increase
31 client access to computers and the online SNAP application; and

32 (4) providing SNAP information and resources to beneficiaries
33 of public assistance programs who are served by the department and
34 county welfare agencies, and who are likely to be eligible for, but
35 are not currently receiving, SNAP benefits.

36 c. As used in this section:

37 "Commissioner" means Commissioner of Human Services.

38 "County welfare agency" means that agency of county
39 government, which is charged with the responsibility for
40 determining eligibility and issuing benefits for public assistance
41 programs. The term county welfare agency shall include, but not be
42 limited to, agencies that may be locally known as the Board of
43 Social Services; the Department of Citizen Services; the Division of
44 Welfare; the Division of Social Services; the Division of Temporary
45 Assistance and Social Services; or as the Department of Family and
46 Community Development.

47 "Department" means the Department of Human Services.

1 benefits; and 2) the technological means to apply for SNAP
2 benefits.

3 At a minimum, the plan is to include:

4 1) establishing a SNAP Navigator Grant Program, the purpose
5 of which will be to distribute grant funding, via a process and
6 method determined by the Commissioner of Human Services, to
7 community-based organizations to support the employment of
8 SNAP application navigators. In distributing grants under the
9 program, the commissioner will be required to give priority to
10 community-based organizations that assist underserved
11 communities. The bill directs that funds, the amount to be
12 determined by the commissioner, be appropriated from the General
13 Fund to the DHS for the purposes of establishing this grant
14 program;

15 2) providing training to the appropriate staff at community-
16 based organizations regarding the necessary steps to complete and
17 submit a SNAP application, through all available methods,
18 including online and by telephone. Trained staff are to assist clients
19 with the SNAP application process;

20 3) partnering with community-based organizations to increase
21 client access to computers and the online SNAP application; and

22 4) providing SNAP information and resources to beneficiaries of
23 public assistance programs who are served by the department and
24 by county welfare agencies, and who are likely to be eligible for,
25 but are not currently receiving, SNAP benefits.