CONGRESS:
Ensure SNAP Eligibility During SNAP Employment & Training

THE ISSUE: In 2018, Congress added a quality tool to E&T services by authorizing subsidized employment as an allowable SNAP E&T activity. However, earning an income during training can stop access to SNAP benefits and SNAP E&T.

Congress recognized the value of “earn and learn” training for SNAP recipients. Receiving daily pay at CEO allows an individual to be more secure while building their skills for a career.

To participate in an E&T training component, an individual must receive SNAP that month (except during retention post-unsubsidized job placement). If an individual is paid a reasonable wage during a transitional job or paid work-based learning, they will lose benefits and no longer be eligible for E&T, losing access to additional training and support.

HOW DOES THIS IMPACT INDIVIDUALS?

Some individuals may be caught in a cycle in which they are not able to fully leverage their paid work experience with an E&T provider to build their individual stability.

In 20 CEO locations, if individuals engage in 40-hours of paid work experience with a SNAP E&T partner receiving minimum wage, they may lose access to SNAP/E&T before training completion due to a gross income of more than 130% of the federal poverty line:

- New York City
- Albany
- Rochester
- Buffalo
- Detroit
- Cleveland
- Cincinnati
- Columbus
- Denver
- CO Springs
- San Diego
- San Bernardino
- Riverside
- Los Angeles
- Fresno
- Sacramento
- San Jose
- Oakland
- Solano
- Marin

THE SOLUTION: 600,000 individuals return home from prison each year and are excited to work and be successful. Congress should disregard temporary paid work experience income from SNAP countable income to ensure an individual completes training and receives the support they need for long-term employment success.

Learn more: CEOWorks.org
Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO) provides transitional jobs and vocational training to individuals returning home from incarceration who face high barriers to employment. CEO is a SNAP Employment & Training partner in our 31 sites across 12 states. Via SNAP E&T, participants access needed food security, paid training, and support services during reentry.

In CEO sites, generally 40-70% of participants are enrolled in voluntary SNAP E&T. CEO’s paid work-based learning program reduces recidivism and boosts job retention for participants:

**Immediate work and pay**

CEO engages people immediately upon release from incarceration with the opportunities to work on a supervised crew where they receive **daily pay 4 days a week**, and training on the 5th day. Immediate work and immediate pay - combined with wrap-around supports - provide the skills, resources, and confidence individuals need to obtain employment achieve mobility.

**Backed by Evidence**

CEO participants are 48% more likely to have a job three years after returning home from prison. A randomized control study also found that CEO participants are 22% less likely to have a new conviction three years following program completion.