SNAP E&T Data and Technical Assistance (DATA) Act

State Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) agencies are required to administer Employment and Training programs for beneficiaries. These programs help participants gain skills, education, training, and experience that lead to good stable jobs. Through SNAP E&T, states are able to provide additional support services – such as transportation and childcare – to help participants overcome barriers to joining or moving up in the workforce and, ultimately, economic self-sufficiency.

Since 2016, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has offered multiple rounds of competitive grants funded through the appropriations process. According to FNS, many states do not have a user-friendly way to collect data on SNAP E&T programs or conduct robust analyses to improve program performance.

The SNAP E&T Data and Technical Assistance (DATA) Act would codify and expand FNS Data and Technical Assistance Grants to improve performance of Employment and Training programs, giving workers the tools they need to succeed in the workforce. Specifically, the legislation would:

- Support state and local agencies in the development of E&T data collection systems and processes that enhance states' ability to review and analyze program services and outcomes for continuous program improvement.

- Provide additional funds for technical assistance, so that states can become more effective, data driven E&T providers.

- Encourage participation among states that have not yet received such grants.

- Encourage data improvements that 1) facilitate co-enrollment and coordination with other federally supported workforce development programs and 2) support interoperability between SNAP E&T data systems and other state longitudinal data infrastructure, such as that for K-12 education, postsecondary education, and existing workforce development programs.