



SNAP EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING FOR APPALACHIA

COHORT KICK-OFF

March 18 2026

TODAY'S AGENDA

Topic	Details
Welcoming Remarks	Special Guest, USDA FNS
About the Cohort & Project Team	Meet us & all about the cohort
TA Team Assignments	Your go-to E&T experts
About YOU!	Tell us about you and your org!
Up Next	What's To Come & Important Dates



Center for
Employment
Opportunities



GROUP AGREEMENTS FOR THE SESSION:

- 1. Be Present** – Listen actively & absorb the content- it moves quickly!
- 2. Please mute** yourself unless you're speaking or asking questions
- 3. Q&A** –Feel free to use the chat to ask questions throughout the webinar.
We will take questions midway and at the end of the presentation as well.
- 4. Take care of your bodies** Get up to stretch, use restroom, hydrate, etc.
- 5. Practice Grace and Openness** We are all here to learn! All questions are welcome.

WELCOMING REMARKS, USDA FNS GUEST



Derrick Dolphin
SNAP E&T Regional Analyst, FNS USDA
Mid-Atlantic Region

BUILDING STRONGER WORKFORCE ECOSYSTEMS ACROSS APPALACHIA

- ✓ A cohort of community-rooted businesses and organizations working to expand access to employment and unlock new resources for the region.
- ✓ A space to connect to share what's working, ideas, and navigate challenges together.
- ✓ Focused on practical implementation, peer learning, and opportunities

The goal: not just stronger individually, but a stronger, more connected ecosystem across Appalachia.

SNAP E&T FOR EMPLOYMENT SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

This year, prepare your organization to become a SNAP E&T provider through the 2026 SNAP E&T Technical Assistance Cohort, designed for organizations based across the Appalachian region. Brought to you by REDF, SJI & CEO



Seattle Jobs Initiative (SJI) is a recognized national expert on SNAP E&T, and the SJI Team brings a wealth of expertise helping states, counties, and individual workforce providers to develop, operate/administer and grow high-quality SNAP E&T programs.



**Center for
Employment
Opportunities**

Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO) is a national nonprofit ESE providing immediate, comprehensive employment services to individuals recently released from incarceration. CEO is a E&T partner in all 12 states for their 30+ locations.



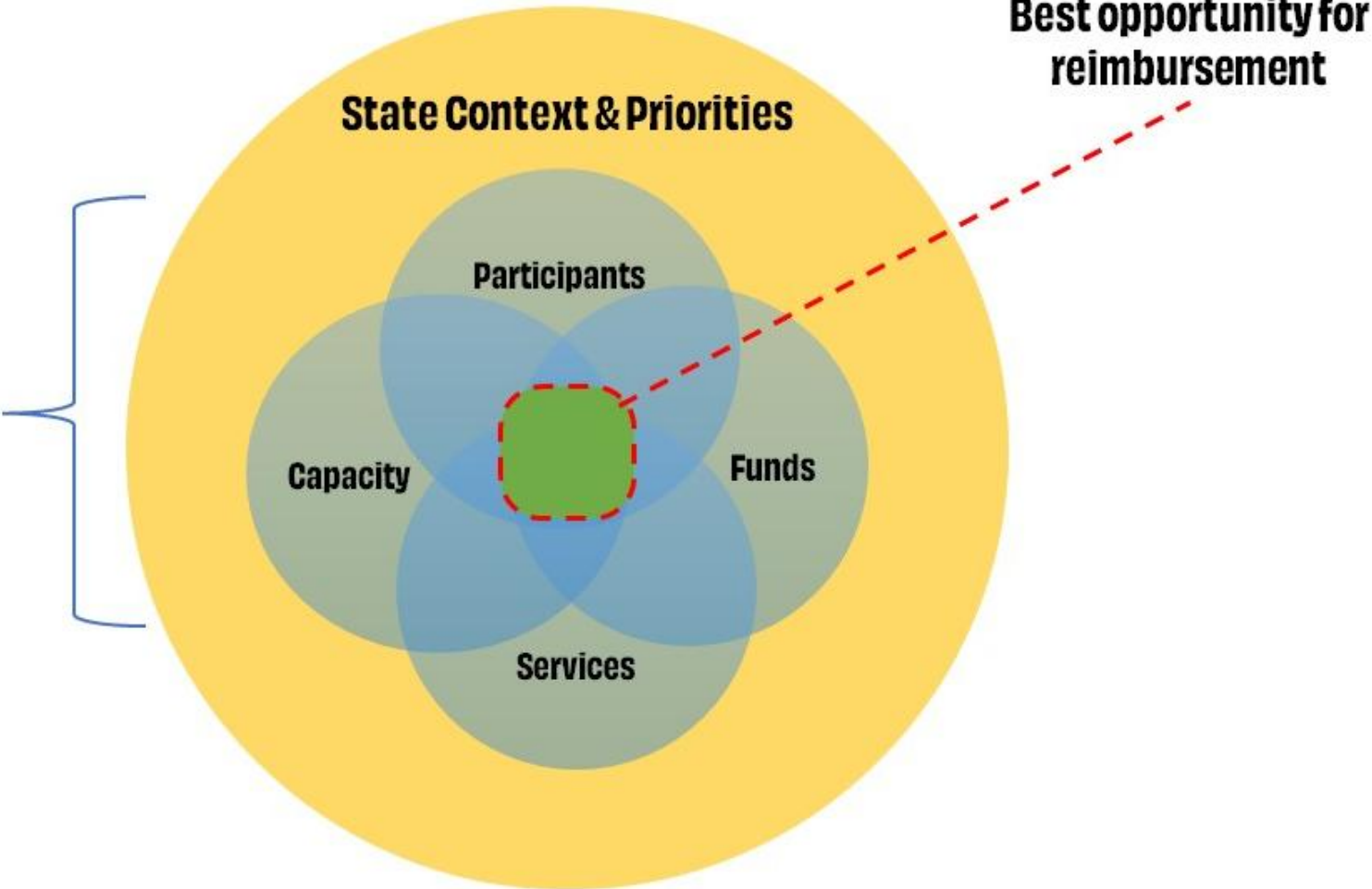
REDF is a pioneering 501(c)3 venture philanthropy that leads a national movement of employment social enterprises and businesses. REDF is the only philanthropy in the U.S. that invests exclusively in social enterprises focused on employment.

SNAP E&T APPALACHIA COHORT OVERVIEW

- ✓ An opportunity to receive technical assistance and collaborate with peers aimed at becoming a SNAP E&T Third-Party Provider
- ✓ In monthly 1:1 meetings, receive technical assistance support from a dedicated SJI or CEO assigned team to guide program development and expansion tied to your goals and work plan. (Assignments to Come!)
- ✓ In cohort meetings and trainings, you will collaborate with peers and experienced SNAP E&T partners, utilize valuable resources, learn effective strategies, and share program successes
- ✓ [REDF Workshop](#) Our Custom Cohort Landing page to access these training decks, recordings, resources, best practices, and more! (preview to come)

SNAP E&T ALIGNMENT

A strong SNAP E&T program has alignment with SNAP E&T in four key areas



Questions?

Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR)

Where you're located: We serve the 54 Appalachian counties of Kentucky as outlined by the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). The SOAR EKY Runway Program serves 12 of those counties.

Mission or organization "about" information: SOAR transforms lives through meaningful employment, empowering individuals to achieve economic self-sufficiency and contribute to growing communities.

Services you provide: We offer workforce coaching and mentorship that includes personalized training plans aligned with each client's goals, support connecting with referral partners to access the right opportunities and resources, and steady guidance to help clients stay engaged and overcome new barriers as they move forward.

Names of staff participating in the cohort : Program Officer Kimberly Albright, Outreach & Retention PM Chris Partin, WTSN PM Barbara Gay, COO Josh Ball

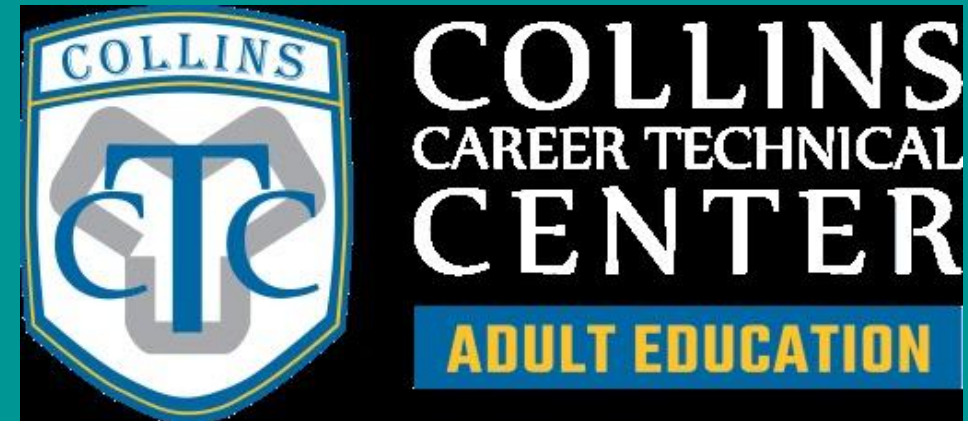
What you hope to gain from the cohort: We hope to strengthen our understanding of SNAP E&T, build our skills, and improve our service delivery through shared learning and stronger partnerships



SOAR
SHAPING OUR APPALACHIAN REGION

COLLINS CAREER TECHNICAL CENTER (LCJVS)

- We are located in Chesapeake, OH
- We are dedicated to providing all learners with lifelong learning skills, work ethic, and the highest quality of academic and career technical preparation to compete and advance in a global market while encouraging them to give back to the community.
- Auto Mech., STNA, CRCST, CDL, DMS, Driver's Ed., Electricity, HEO, HVAC, LPN to RN, Paramedic, Paramedic to RN, LPN, Rad. Tech., R.T., Surg. Tech., Welding
- Shannon Lusk, Financial Aid Consultant; Stephanie Mills, Financial Aid Consultant, Community Outreach
- We hope to learn more about SNAP E&T and how to better serve our students and community!



High Rocks Educational Corporation

West Virginia

Our Mission: Educate. Empower. Inspire.

High Rocks is a leader in transforming the lives of young people and the impact they have on their communities. High Rocks runs award-winning pathway programs for young people ages 12-29 focused on empowerment, leadership, education, & workforce development.

High Rocks runs three social enterprises (Earn & Learn Programs) that build pathways for young people. In addition to our three social enterprises, High Rocks has four other programs.

WV Jobs Network - *The WVJN brings together individuals and organizations that are building innovative workforce pathways that benefit the job seeker, the employee and the employer.*

First2 Network - *The First2 Network is an expanding group of over 1200 people and 30 organizations working to increase the number of college graduates in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) to strengthen our communities and drive an innovation economy in West Virginia and beyond.*

AmeriCorps - *High Rocks runs the largest year-round AmeriCorps program in the state. We engage members in hands-on service that supports education, workforce development, and community initiatives across WV.*

High Rocks Academy - *year-round program that supports high school students in building confidence, leadership, and real-world skills through hands-on learning and mentorship. Participants explore college and career pathways while gaining the tools and support needed to succeed beyond high school.*

Staff Participating in Cohort:

Tiffany Rogers-McClure, Operations Manager

Andrew Lacasse, Director of Business

Leah Deitz, Director of Development

We hope to gain the guidance and infrastructure needed to become a SNAP E&T provider, enabling us to expand workforce opportunities and better support participants in achieving long-term employment.



High Rocks
EDUCATE ■ EMPOWER ■ INSPIRE

12 LIVE STAFFING

Salem, Virginia

- 12 Live is dedicated to hiring candidates currently under case management from Community Action Agencies, workforce development organizations and others considered disadvantaged in the labor market.
- 12 Live has partnered with Roanoke, VA's Total Action for Progress to hire and provide paid training to their eligible clients referred through their programs and wishes to replicate these relationships in Appalachia.
- 12 Live has created apprenticeships registered in VA and WV. SNAP recipients and SNAP eligible recipients receive paid training leading to Insurance Licensure through VA's State Corporation commission - this license enjoys reciprocal recognition nation-wide. Additional training in customer service, CRM proficiency and sales management is also provided.



EASTERN ACTION West Virginia

Petersburg, West Virginia

People taking opportunities to lift themselves out of poverty resulting in safe and healthy communities

Our vision is to empower people and make thriving communities. Basic job skills are the beginning of a pathway to empowerment and community change.

We would like to address the under employment problem in our service area. If we can help people learn some skills to improve their earning ability that is a big win.



Pollen8

South Charleston, West Virginia
Breaking the cycle of addiction.

*We are going to improve the family, the community, the state, the nation, and the world—
one woman at a time.*

Our mission to provide meaningful pathways to employment for individuals facing barriers, particularly those in recovery and those reentering the workforce.

Through our social enterprise model—including our café and community-based programs—we focus on building job readiness, life skills, and long-term employment stability.

By participating in the cohort, we hope to gain a deeper understanding of how SNAP E&T operates in West Virginia, learn best practices for becoming an effective partner, and explore how to structure our programs so they can better support SNAP participants while strengthening our workforce development impact.



Fair Chance Works

London, Kentucky

Fair Chance Works PBC operates workforce development and employment support services that align closely with the goals of Kentucky's SNAP Employment & Training (E&T) program.

Through our work as a Community Rehabilitation Provider with the Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, we regularly serve individuals who face barriers to employment, many of whom are participants in public assistance programs, including SNAP. Our programs are designed to help individuals build the skills, confidence, and employer connections necessary to enter and sustain competitive employment.



Questions?

MEET THE COHORT & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TEAMS

CEO TEAM, Riley & Aaron

(Kentucky) SOAR

(Virginia) 12 Lives

(Kentucky) Fair Chance Works

SJI TEAM Kathi, Deana & Andrew

(West Virginia) Eastern Action
Deana & Andrew

(West Virginia) Pollen8
Deana & Andrew

(Ohio) Lawrence County Voc Ed
Kathi & Deana/Andrew

(West Virginia) High Rocks
Deana & Andrew

UP NEXT & ACTION ITEMS

Complete March 2026:

- ✓ Respond to email from assigned TA team & schedule first 1:1 TA call
 - Schedule recurring monthly TA Calls
 - Invite others as needed
 - No later than early April if March is booked*
- ✓ Test access to your shared google folder
 - Email to come!
 - Reach out to Samantha troubleshooting

Upcoming Training Dates & Topics:

- Wednesday 03/25/2026 **SNAP E&T Services: Mapping**
- Wednesday 04/22/2026 **SNAP E&T Participants: Eligibility**

Landing Page Walk Through

[REDF Workshop](#) Our Custom Cohort Landing page to access these training decks, recordings, resources, best practices, and more!