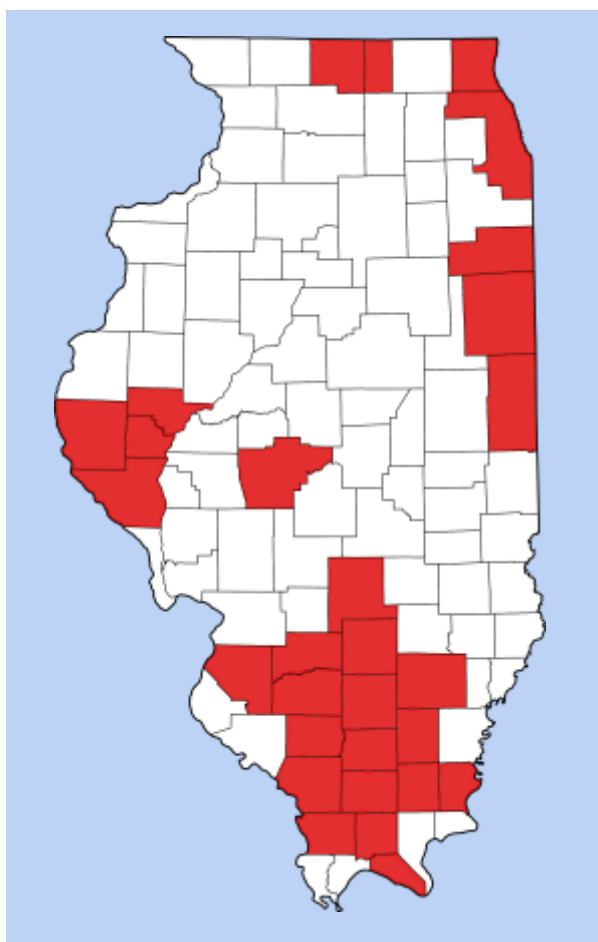


# SNAP Employment & Training in Illinois

Through the federal nutrition program, SNAP Benefits, formerly known as food stamps, states are required to operate a SNAP Employment & Training (E&T) program to offer job training services to SNAP Recipients. States have great flexibility in structuring their program. Services could include job search, job search training, work experience, or education. Federal funding is available for states to grow and expand their programs, but states are not required to provide a specific number of slots.



SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) in Illinois is currently a mixed Mandatory and Voluntary program. Counties that contract with workforce development providers to offer employment and training services are mandatory (see left and below).

## Mandatory Counties

Region 1: Cook  
Region 2: Kankakee, Iroquois, Lake, Winnebago, Boone  
Region 3: Vermillion  
Region 4: Adams, Pike, Brown, Schuyler, Sangamon  
Region 5: Franklin, Hamilton, Jackson, Jefferson, Washington, Wayne, Marion, Clinton, Fayette, Massac, Perry, Saline, Gallatin, St. Clair, Union, Johnson, Williamson

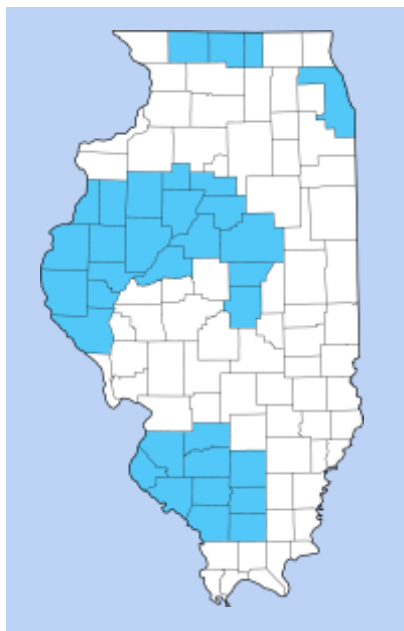
When a state chooses to operate a mandatory SNAP E&T program, participants must follow guidelines and track their hours closely, or they will be at risk of losing their benefits. Mandatory participants in IL are primarily able-bodied adults without dependent children (ABAWDs) unless they meet exemptions or are currently working 20 hours a week or more. For more information on ABAWDs, please visit [ILHunger.org](http://ILHunger.org).

## Participation Options

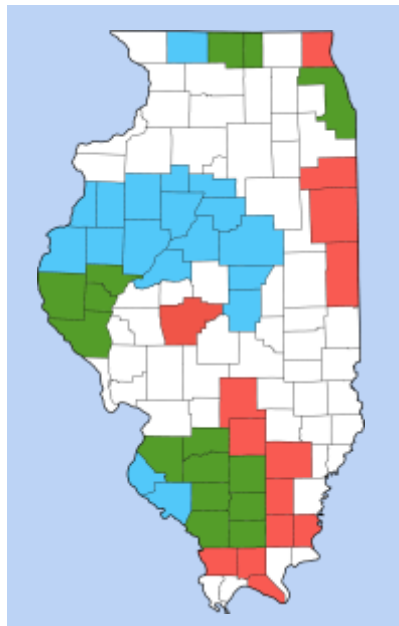
In mandatory counties, customers typically have a few options for participation:\*

1. Job Placement Provider (JPP)- Clients learn job readiness skills such as resume building and participate in job search at participating providers.
2. EARNFARE- **SNAP recipients “work-off” their SNAP benefits at a participating provider** by working at the state minimum wage, which was \$8.25/hr as of 7/1/10. After their benefits are worked off, customers have the opportunity to make up to an additional \$294 per month. Clients can only receive EARNARE for 6 months out of 12 consecutive months. Support for clothing and transportation costs are available.
3. In 15 mandatory counties and 18 voluntary counties (see below), a program called EPIC is also available for enrollment through May 2017. EPIC is one of 10 pilot projects granted to states across the nation by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Through EPIC, participants have the opportunity to access more comprehensive job training services in a variety of employment sectors paid for through grant money from the USDA. Find additional details about the EPIC program at [ilhunger.org](http://ilhunger.org).

\*Clients who meet ABAWD exemptions may be exempt from participating in these programs. Additionally, they will be exempt if they are participating in basic education classes or vocational training. Please find more details about ABAWD time limits and exemptions at [ilhunger.org](http://ilhunger.org).



EPIC  
Counties



Green= Mandatory  
Counties with EPIC  
Blue= Voluntary  
counties with EPIC;  
participation is optional  
Red= Mandatory SNAP  
E&T Counties, EPIC is  
not an option in these  
counties



Created by the Illinois Hunger Coalition  
Call our Hunger Hotline at 1-800-359-2163  
Se habla Español

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