



Texas Workforce Commission Sunset Hearing
August 12, 2026

Chair Kolkhorst and Sunset Committee members,

The SNAP Employment & Training Program (SNAP E&T) is an opportunity for Texas to upskill its workforce, move people from low-wage jobs into higher-paying careers, and help SNAP participants reach self-sufficiency, all funded in significant part by federal dollars that Texas is entitled to draw down. There were 224,149 mandatory SNAP E&T participants in FY25, and that number will only grow as the new federal work requirements in H.R. 1 take effect. Texas should be positioned to meet that moment. Right now, it is not.

The Sunset Advisory Commission's own review found that Texas "fails to effectively manage SNAP E&T and performs poorly in comparison to other states." It also describes the program as functioning simply as a "check-the-box exercise," rather than as a meaningful pathway to employment.

That means the program is falling short of its stated purpose: putting Texans to work and helping Texas employers find skilled workers. We are leaving federal money on the table, holding providers to a stricter standard than every other state, and burying the program in administrative overhead. Three fixes would change that and put Texas back on track toward the efficient and effective use of federal dollars.

First, Texas needs more third-party partners providing SNAP E&T services, and a coordinated plan by HHSC and TWC to use the 50/50 federal reimbursement match to get there. The Sunset report found Texas is "potentially leav[ing] millions in federal education and training funds on the table." That is federal money, already available, that could expand the quality and quantity of workforce training in this state at no added cost to Texas taxpayers. Directing TWC and HHSC to grow and strengthen third-party partnerships is the most immediate way to put our federal tax dollars to work for Texas.

Second, Texas should align its 30-hour weekly participation requirement with the federal 20-hour standard, the standard every other state already uses. Holding Texas to a higher bar than the rest of the country has not improved employment outcomes. Instead, it shrinks the pool of qualified providers. Nationally accredited workforce training programs and community colleges are structured around the 20-hour federal standard, and Texas's 30-hour threshold locks many of them out of the state entirely. That means fewer options for working adults, caregivers, and students trying to complete training on a real-world schedule. Matching the federal standard would bring the same providers, and the same competition, that improve outcomes elsewhere.



Third, the program is too administratively burdensome for Local Workforce Development Boards and for the third-party partners trying to work with them. Requirements and processes vary across LWDB regions, which means a provider approved in one region has to start over in the next. That duplication drains staff time for both parties and discourages exactly the partners we need more of. Streamlining and standardizing requirements across regions, in a way that prioritizes access for third-party partners and measurable outcomes for participants, would put the state's limited administrative capacity toward results instead of paperwork.

None of this requires new spending. It requires using the federal match Texas already qualifies for, matching the participation standard every other state already uses, and cutting red tape that serves no one. Texas has the opportunity to turn SNAP E&T into a real workforce pipeline. Right now, the program's own design is standing in the way. I urge the committee to direct TWC and HHSC to act on these three recommendations.

Thank you for your time and commitment to efficient and effective government.

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