

Employment & Training Programs



A photograph of two men wearing yellow hard hats and blue work shirts, smiling. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent teal filter. The text 'SkillUP Program' is centered over the image in white.

SkillUP Program

Our Goal

Self sufficiency

Provide opportunities for SNAP participants to gain skills, training, and work experience that will improve their ability to attain employment and decrease their dependency on public assistance.



SkillUP Program

- SkillUP is Missouri's employment and training program for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participants
- SkillUP assists SNAP participants in achieving self-sufficiency through job placement, training and education, and supportive services
- The Department of Social Services (DSS), Family Support Division (FSD) determines eligibility for SNAP and other public assistance benefits
- FSD contracts with various agencies to operate SkillUP throughout Missouri



SkillUP Program

Who is eligible?

- Any SNAP participant 16 years of age or older.
 - If they receive an allotment of SNAP benefits, they can participate.
- Any person unemployed or underemployed in a SNAP household
- Participation is **FREE** and voluntary

Types of Participants

- Volunteers
- ABAWDs – Able Bodied Adults without Dependents



SkillUP Program

ABAWD Participation

- Must participate in employment and/or training 80 hours a month to remain on SNAP for longer than 3 months
 - Not required to participate in SkillUP, but can choose to participate to meet the required hours
- If a SNAP recipient loses benefits, they may be eligible for an additional 3 months of benefits if they meet employment and training hours in the prior 30 days
- ABAWDs are screened for exclusions at the time of application for SNAP
- Requirements are currently waived due to COVID-19 Pandemic



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Volunteers

- Food Stamp participants age 16 and older
- Meet an ABAWD exclusion
 - Do not have to meet the 80 hour a month requirement
- May enroll or withdraw at any time

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How is the SkillUP Program Funded?

- Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)
- Administration of Children and Families (ACF) Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

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SkillUP Providers

- SkillUP Providers are statewide and offer free of cost programs.
- Providers deliver a variety of services to ensure participants are able to develop and accomplish their training and career goals.
- To find a provider, go to <https://mydss.mo.gov/food-assistance/missouri-employment-training-program/map>.

SkillUP Program

Contracted Partners



Southern Missouri Works Project



SkillUP Program

What we offer

- Trainings/education; training program must be short term(12 months or less) and lifetime tuition cap is \$10,000 per participant
- Leads to employment or self-sufficiency



SkillUP Program

Intensive Case Management

- This component is for individuals with multiple barriers to employment that require one-on-one assistance.
- Individual or Group Counseling
- Comprehensive Guidance & Counseling



SkillUP Program

Job Placement

- Assist participants using Labor Market Information (LMI) with job placement through relationships/agreements with:
 - Community Based Organizations
 - SkillUP provider agencies
 - Employers in the community



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Supportive Services

- Supportive Services are provided to enable a participant in activities authorized under SkillUP.
- Two types of services:
 - Work Related Expenses (WRE) and
 - Transportation Related Expenses (TRE)

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SkillUP Program

Supportive Services

- Work-related equipment
- Instructional materials
- Testing fees
- Criminal background checks
- Work attire or uniforms
- Work-related tools
- Transportation (bus tickets, gas cards, mileage reimbursements)

SkillUP Program

Success Stories



<https://dss.mo.gov/employment-training-provider-portal/success-stories.htm>

A photograph of two men wearing yellow hard hats and smiling. The man on the left is Black, and the man on the right is white. They are in an industrial setting. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent teal filter.

SkillUP Program

More Information

- SkillUP Missouri Website: <https://mydss.mo.gov/skillup-program>
- Email: SkillUP.Missouri@dss.mo.gov

SkillUP Program

Questions?

