

August 17, 2023

The Honorable Glenn Thompson
Chair
House Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture
U.S. Senate
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable David Scott
Ranking Member
House Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
1010 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Boozman
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Agriculture
U.S. Senate
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Thompson, Chair Stabenow, Ranking Member Scott, and Ranking Member Boozman:

On behalf of the organizations below, we write to urge you to include Senator Amy Klobuchar's RESET for America's Future Act (RESET Act) in the 2023 Farm Bill reauthorization, which will improve and strengthen the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training (SNAP E&T) program. Senator Klobuchar, along with Representative Abigail Spanberger, also submitted the RESET Act bill language into your respective Committees' Farm Bill portals for consideration.

SNAP E&T, accounting for over \$600 million in federal investment yearly, is a vital funding stream to support self-sufficiency and economic mobility among SNAP participants. More and more, state E&T programs nationwide have embraced partnerships with innovative, effective providers, such as employment social enterprises, sectoral training providers, workforce boards, colleges and universities, and other community-based workforce organizations. Reforms instituted in the last two Farm Bill reauthorizations—such as the 10 E&T pilots launched by the 2014 Farm Bill, required case management, and support for subsidized employment—have expedited these vital, innovative partnerships to deliver high-quality, relevant services.

The RESET Act will help us to realize the potential of the SNAP E&T program moving forward by ensuring more Americans can participate in high-quality employment and training programs that provide evidence-based services, such as subsidized employment and sectoral training. The RESET Act also invests in coordinated services to help participants complete their programs, including data infrastructure that facilitates service alignment and performance management.

The proposals build on past Farm Bill reauthorizations to strengthen economic mobility among SNAP E&T participants. Ultimately, we believe incorporating the proposals into the legislation will reduce participants' reliance on public benefits as they increase their earnings and employment, as numerous evidence-based workforce programs have demonstrated.

Key components of the bill include:

- **Support state investment in effective, innovative, performance-driven activities.** The RESET for America's Future Act encourages and supports States to prioritize effective, innovative, and performance-driven activities by providing for 100 percent reimbursement for evidence-based activities, activities under evaluation, or activities leveraging outcomes-based payments, supported by an additional \$100 million annual investment. The bill also allows States to leverage a portion of funding for complementary administration,

evaluation, and technical assistance costs, while allowing States to reimburse more funding for such costs if they align E&T activities with Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) investments. Today, most federal E&T dollars are reimbursed through a 50 percent match, meaning new 100 percent dollars will provide substantial leverage to drive State priorities moving forward.

- **Matching support for federal workforce dollars.** To encourage States to prioritize alignment between workforce funding streams, RESET makes other federal funding streams, such as WIOA, eligible sources of matching dollars for E&T's 50 percent reimbursement alongside State and private dollars for qualifying activities once States exhaust their 100 percent funds.
- **Full funding for supportive costs.** Under the current E&T model, States can only reimburse up to 50 percent of costs for supportive services, such as transportation costs, that enable participants to engage in E&T. The 10 E&T pilots demonstrated that such services, especially transportation, are essential to help individuals participate in E&T services and stay engaged. However, most pilots faced serious challenges in offering those services, often due to funding. RESET shifts to 100 percent reimbursement of such costs for eligible activities to ensure the E&T program enables participants to ultimately achieve self-sufficiency and economic mobility.
- **Enable participants to complete services.** Today, participants who earn more—for instance, through subsidized employment programs—are at risk of losing access to their E&T services once they are no longer SNAP-eligible, even if they have not completed their program. RESET instead ensures participants can receive services up to 6 months after they would otherwise “income out,” helping participants build the skills and credentials for sustained economic mobility.
- **Invest in data infrastructure.** Building on multiple rounds of E&T data grants funded through the appropriations process, RESET formally authorizes dedicated support for state data infrastructure, enabling more effective tracking of program and participant outcomes and alignment with other workforce investments, such as WIOA. These investments are integral and should be expanded to all states.

Together, the proposals will provide essential support and incentives to strengthen evidence-based, innovative, and outcomes-focused workforce development approaches in the SNAP E&T program. As the Farm Bill reauthorization process continues, we look forward to working with you to advance these important issues in the months ahead.

Sincerely,

America Forward
Abriendo Puertas
Big Thought
Chrysalis
Colorado Equitable Economic Mobility Initiative (CEEMI)
Downtown Women's Center
FareStart
FutureFit AI
Goodwill Southern California
Goodwill of Silicon Valley
Homeward Bound of Marin
Juma Ventures
Landforce
LIFT, Inc.
Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)
National Association of Counties (NACo)
National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB)
New Earth
Opportunity@Work

Orion Industries
Per Scholas
Project Evident
Project QUEST
Propel America
REDF
Results for America
Social Finance
The Institute for College Access & Success (TICAS)
Third Sector Capital Partners
UTEC Inc.
Working Fields
Year Up, Inc.