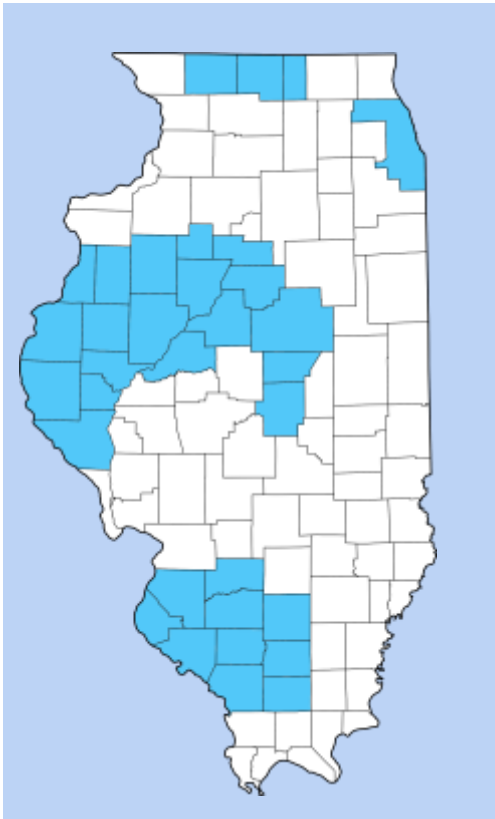


EPIC: A USDA Pilot Project in Illinois



What is EPIC?

Illinois is a recipient of one of the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) 10 pilot projects to test SNAP Employment & Training (E&T) programs across the country. EPIC which stands for Employment opportunities, Personalized services, Individualized training and Career planning is available for Illinois residents in 33 counties. As per an Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) memo released on April 8th, 2016, the program became effective on March 1st, 2016, and all participants must be enrolled and participating in training by December 31st, 2017. For more information about SNAP E&T in IL, please visit ilhunger.org.

How do participants get involved?

1. EPIC participants must be SNAP recipients, including current recipients or new enrollees. Program slots are primarily reserved for able-bodied adults without dependent children (ABAWDs), but other SNAP recipients counted as “volunteers” can also sign up.
2. Interested customers must contact their local Family Community Resource Center (FCRC) where they will be interviewed for eligibility. Eligible customers will then be referred to a group orientation session available in English and Spanish.
3. After the group orientation session, participants are either randomly assigned to the EPIC treatment group where they will receive expanded services, or they will be assigned to the control group for regular E&T services in counties where services are available.
4. If participants are randomized into the study, they will complete training at a community based organization (CBO) contracting with the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) to provide job driven training. The participant will select a training program based on their career goals.

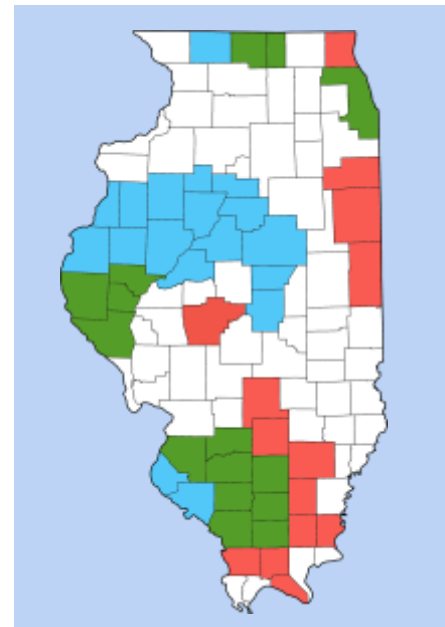
Is EPIC Mandatory?

15 counties participating in EPIC currently operate mandatory SNAP Employment & Training programs (E&T) meaning that able-bodied adults without dependent children (ABAWDs) in these counties must participate in an employment and training activity or they will be at risk for losing their SNAP benefits. Participating in EPIC is one option for ABAWDs to ensure that they will keep receiving benefits. For more information on ABAWD time limits and SNAP E&T in Illinois, please visit ilhunger.org.

Green- Mandatory counties with EPIC

Blue- EPIC in voluntary counties. EPIC is optional in these counties.

Red- Mandatory counties without EPIC



Quick Facts:

- To participate in EPIC, customers must agree to be part of the study, which includes agreeing to be randomized into the treatment group or the control group, as well as agreeing to have their employment tracked for up to 3-4 years after they complete their training.
- After a participant is accepted to either the EPIC group or the control group, a customer may still opt out of the project.
- For more information on EPIC, please visit: <https://www.illinoisworknet.com/EPIC/AboutEPIC1/Pages/About.aspx>
- Find additional provisions in a full policy memo from IDHS: <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=81642>
- To find an EPIC location, contact your local FCRC: <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?module=12>
- For questions or trouble with a specific case, please contact the Illinois Hunger Coalition at 1-800-359-2163.



**Created by the
 Illinois Hunger
 Coalition**
**Call our Hunger
 Hotline at 1-800-
 359-2163**
Se habla Español
**Last updated
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Participating Counties	FCRC** Location
Adams*	Adams
Boone*	Winnebago
Brown*	Cass
Clinton*	Marion
Cook*	Cook
DeWitt	Logan
Franklin*	Franklin
Fulton	Fulton
Hancock	Adams
Henderson	Warren
Jackson*	Jackson
Jefferson*	Jefferson
Knox	Knox
Macon	Macon
Marshall	Bureau
Mason	Mason
McDonough	McDonough
McLean	McLean
Monroe	Randolph
Peoria	Peoria
Perry*	Jackson
Pike*	Adams
Randolph	Randolph
Schuyler*	Cass
St. Clair*	St. Clair/E. St. Louis
Stark	Henry
Stephenson	Stephenson
Tazewell	Tazewell
Warren	Warren
Washington*	Jefferson
Williamson*	Williamson
Winnebago*	Winnebago
Woodford	Peoria
*Mandatory Counties **FCRC= Family Community Resource Center Source: IDHS Policy Memo	