FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 19, 2018

Media Contact
Sherri Egerton
Communications & Research Assistant
sherri@thecommonwealthinstitute.org
804-396-2051 x102
www.thecommonwealthinstitute.org

Virginia Missing Out on Federal Resources to Bolster Training Program for People on Food Assistance

RICHMOND, VA -- State and local leaders have an opportunity to increase access to education and training services for people on food assistance, according to a new report from The Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis, an economic and policy research organization in Richmond.

The report highlights a federal reimbursement program that offsets costs for education, training, and employment support services for people on food assistance. These resources can be maximized if state and local social service agencies partner with community-based organizations and community colleges in providing eligible services. Through a survey of community-based organizations in Northern Virginia, The Commonwealth Institute identified up to $2.1 million in services currently being provided that could be eligible for federal 50 percent reimbursement.

“With the 50 percent reimbursement grants, that’s an additional $1 million that could have been used to invest in additional SNAP E&T services, thereby strengthening the opportunity for low-income Virginians to reach self-sufficiency at no additional cost to the state,” says Chris Duncombe a senior policy analyst with the Institute and co-author of the report. “And this scan just touches the surface of what could be claimed.”

The report points to a successful model implemented in Washington state that increased federal support for these services from $1.4 million in 2006 to almost $30 million in 2013 by partnering with 28 community-based organizations and 34 community colleges. They recommend state and local social service agencies strengthen partnerships between community-based organizations and community colleges that are already providing these eligible services.

The full report, Expanding SNAP Employment and Training in Northern Virginia, is available online at www.thecommonwealthinstitute.org.
About The Commonwealth Institute
The Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis provides credible, independent, and accessible information and analyses of fiscal and economic issues with particular attention to the impacts on low- and moderate-income persons. Our products inform fiscal and budget policy debates and contribute to sound decisions that improve the well-being of individuals, communities and Virginia as a whole. Visit www.thecommonwealthinstitute.org for more information.