

A New Model Jobs Initiative

New York's Empire State Jobs Bill



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Purpose of ESJ Program

- The Empire State Jobs (ESJ) Program (A.6179\S. 5292) will serve hard-to-employ Family Assistance (FA) and Safety Net Assistance (SNA) participants.
- ESJ will benefit those families (over 70,000 statewide) approaching the 60-month federal time limit by providing a transitional job with training that will not count toward their time limit on assistance.
- ESJ will benefit local governments and communities, especially those with large numbers of families reaching the FA time limit and those regions of the state with high unemployment.



Basics of the ESJ Program

- The ESJ program is modeled after several successful new jobs initiatives serving hard-to-employ TANF families.
- It is a pilot program creating 8,000 transitional jobs in the public sector and in non-profit agencies to prepare participants for unsubsidized employment.
- Two-thirds of the families must be within two years of their FA time limit (or beyond) and one-third must be eligible for SNA or be long-term unemployed.



Terms of ESJ Employment

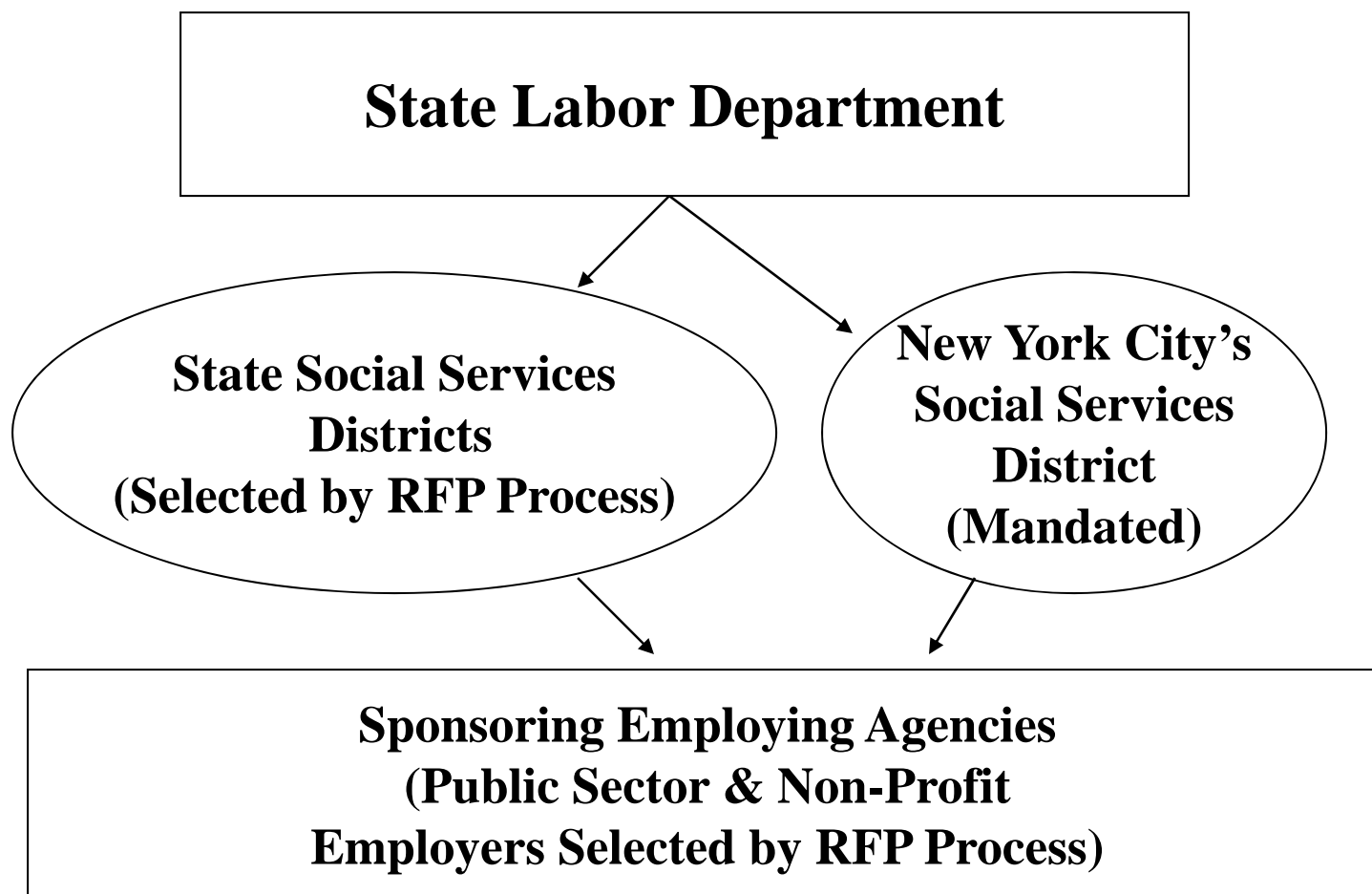
- ESJ placements will last up to 18 months.
- Participants will have all the employment rights of other workers, and they will qualify for the EITC.
- They will receive the higher of the ESJ minimum wage of \$7.50 to \$8.00 an hour (depending on the area of the state) or the wage for other employees doing similar work (small non-profits are required to pay the comparable wage only).
- Benefits must be comparable to other employees, and participants remain eligible for government-funded work supports (e.g., Medicaid & child care).
- Regular workers are broadly protected against displacement.



Emphasizing Education, Training & Support Services

- Participants may spend up to eight hours a week in compensated education and training.
- Government-funded education, training and support services will be coordinated with the ESJ program.
- The ESJ program also promotes training for current entry-level workers to advance in their jobs by giving preferences to those employers that provide “incumbent worker training.”

Implementation of the ESJ Program





ESJ Enrollment & Selection

- To enroll in the ESJ program, individuals submit an application to the participating Social Services District.
- Social Services Districts will establish eligibility, assess the individual's employment and support service needs, and then certify the individual to participate in the program.
- Once certified, individuals will be placed on a roster to participate and then they will be selected by sponsoring employment agencies based on the targeting criteria.