Script for EPIC orientation overview V6

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Welcome to the EPIC program orientation. We are very excited to have you here with us today. By the end of this orientation, you will have a good understanding of:

* + what the EPIC program is,
	+ why it is a part of a very important national study,
	+ and why your participation in this study is important to determine future program services to help SNAP E&T recipients obtain good jobs .

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EPIC is a unique program. It provides a holistic approach to assisting you with services that can eliminate barriers, provide work experience, and access education and skills training that will give you credentials to get a good job.

(Click) If you are randomly selected to participate in the EPIC program, you will be assigned a career navigator that will be by your side to guide you through the process. Your career navigator will help you identify your career goals and assist you with any barriers that could derail your progress.

Special training will be available for you if you need assistance with upgrading your skills in reading, math, or English as a Second Language.

(Click) Training will also be available for you to earn your high school equivalency certificate, receive career and technical education, and obtain work experience in an accelerated approach to get you employed in your career choice faster.

(Click) You may have the chance to be placed in paid work experience that can lead to a permanent job and does not have a negative effect on your SNAP benefits. During this time, your career navigator will be assisting you with obtaining essential skills that employers require. These include time management, attendance, communication skills, ability to work independently and show initiative, leadership and teamwork, positive attitude, problem solving, and work ethic.

(Click) You will also have the chance to be placed in training that will earn you industry-recognized credentials needed to get a job. These credentials are in a career pathway where you can earn additional credentials to access higher skill and wage jobs.

(Click) Your career navigator will help you find a job based on the new skills and credentials you earned.

As mentioned before, EPIC is part of a pilot program to test new and innovative approaches for employment and training. It is part of a national study that will be evaluated for success.

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There are two pathways for service - if you choose to take part in the study.

After random assignment, you will either be assigned to the EPIC program group or placed into services currently offered by your DHS office.

(Click) If placed in the EPIC service group, you will work with your career navigator who will assist you with planning your career goals.

(Click) You will receive supportive services on a needs basis for things such as transportation to and from training and worksites, uniforms or supplies needed for your training or worksite placement, and childcare. Your career navigator will also work with other social service agencies to connect you with services such as housing needs and support groups for a person’s growth and wellbeing.

(Click) Your career navigator will help you develop an Individualized Services Training and Employment Plan (ISTEP). This will be your roadmap to success and will include your training, (Click) work experience, work readiness, and (Click) job search and placement activities.

(Click) If you are placed in the control group, you will receive the traditional SNAP Employment and Training services and/or referral to community services. Your DHS caseworker will assist you in accessing services that are available.

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(Click) Now that you know what the EPIC program is and what the study is about you will need to complete the next steps:

* (Click) Step 2 – We ask you to take a short Career Interest Survey. These are a set of questions that help determine what career pathway might be of most interest to you. This may take between 5 and 25 minutes.
* (Click) Step 3 – Training opportunity review. You are going to learn about the jobs you can get from the training opportunities available in your area (about 30 minutes). Just answer three questions –
	+ the region and zip code where you live,
	+ the career pathways that match your interest survey, and
	+ information about your personal situation.
	+ You will see a list of options that meet your circumstances. Just click on the links and learn about the job wages, skills needed, and training required. Watch the overview video, or watch other videos in the playlist to learn about the job from people in the job.
* (Click) Step 4 - Complete the Application, you will complete the application (about 30 minutes) that gives us information about you so that we can match a program or programs to suit your goals and experiences. The orientation facilitator will provide you with the information to access both the interest survey and application.
* (Click) Step 5 - Meet with a case worker for follow-up and random assignment. If you are assigned to the EPIC program, you will leave today with an appointment for your training orientation.

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(Click) In the application, you will have the chance to pick up to 3 career choices. You will want to rank your choices based on:

* (Click) results from the interest survey you took,
* what you learned while reviewing the job information, and
* watching the videos.

A good match should take into consideration the requirements of the occupation; for example, if you would like to get your CDL license to be an over the road truck driver, you have to have a valid driver’s license with no restrictions.

(Click) When reviewing your career options, consider your current skills, past work, and education history. You should also consider the environment of the job and if you will be able to work day, or evening shifts if required, when you review the training and jobs available in your area. Also, take into consideration how far you can travel to access training or a job.

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If you are placed in the EPIC services group, you will be matched up with a training program.

Let’s take a look at the jobs and median wages you could earn after you complete the training programs that may be available in your area. This information can help you decide which career pathway to pursue.

All training programs are in a career pathway that can lead to additional training opportunities and higher paying jobs.

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Now is the time for action!! To be considered for participation in the EPIC program you will need to:

* log into Illinois workNet with the information provided to you,
* complete the interest survey,
* research your training options,
* complete all required fields in the application and rank the training programs that interest you, and
* meet with your case worker to enroll in the study.

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Once you have completed the orientation step, a case worker will review your information to make sure there is an appropriate training program available that is a good fit for you.

(Click) In your meeting with your case worker, you will review your training options and decide if there is a suitable training program for you. If there is a suitable training program, (Click) you will complete the consent form to participate in the study. Your case worker will also collect information from you to fill out the study registration document. (Click) Then you will be randomly assigned to a training program. This should take about 45 minutes. Once it has been determined what group you are in, your case manager will provide you with the next step. If assigned to the EPIC program, you will receive an appointment for your training orientation and contact information for the provider. They will be notified that you are in their program group. If you are assigned to the SNAP E&T group or Community Only services, OR if you decide not to participate in the study, you will receive traditional SNAP employment and training services available in your area. Those include:

Life Skills training

Job readiness and job search activities if you participate in one of these programs: Earnfare, Work Experience, Basic Education, Vocational Training, or Community Work and, Job Retention support for 30, 60, or 90 days.

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Now it is time to take a quick break and give you time to review all of the information you have been provided and ask questions. If you are interested in participating in the study and potentially receiving EPIC services, you can start the application and assessment. If you are not interested, please complete a short survey before you leave. If you are a mandatory SNAP work registrant, you are required to participate in one of the DHS employment and training offerings. EPIC is a great opportunity that you should consider.

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Thank you for your time and for considering being a part of a very important project.