



NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING INCLUDING STATEMENT OF NEED & FISCAL IMPACT

CHAPTER 461 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROGRAMS

FILED

10/29/2025 4:10 PM
ARCHIVES DIVISION
SECRETARY OF STATE

FILING CAPTION: Rule Changes about Applications, Definitions, Eligibility, Processing Timeframes, Restoration of Benefits and Grant Monitoring Requirements

LAST DAY AND TIME TO OFFER COMMENT TO AGENCY: 11/25/2025 5:00 PM

The Agency requests public comment on whether other options should be considered for achieving the rule's substantive goals while reducing negative economic impact of the rule on business.

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HEARING(S)

Auxiliary aids for persons with disabilities are available upon advance request. Notify the contact listed above.

DATE: 11/24/2025

TIME: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

OFFICER: Jennifer Lay

REMOTE HEARING DETAILS

MEETING URL: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

PHONE NUMBER: 669-254-5252

CONFERENCE ID: 1602660760

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

Passcode: 255913

NEED FOR THE RULE(S)

OAR 461-135-1260 about Specific Requirements: Job Participation Incentive needs to be amended to comply with Public Law 118-5, Federal Fiscal Responsibility Act (FRA) of 2023, section 303. Due to the FRA of 2023, the federal government now requires 'small check schemes', that allow states to count expanded caseloads toward the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) work participation rate, to increase the payment from a monthly \$10 minimum to a monthly \$35 minimum for each family. This is a significant budget impact to the Job Participation Incentive (JPI) program, hence due to limited General Funds that count towards the State Maintenance-of-Effort funds available for JPI, the overall caseload must be reduced to ensure eligible families are paid the \$35 payment. The JPI program is necessary to aid the TANF program in achieving federal work participate rates.

OAR 461-155-0180 about Income Standards; Not OSIPM or QMB needs to be amended because the current rule does not reflect federal poverty guidelines that are updated March 1 of each year. This amendment promotes accurate benefit decisions in Self-Sufficiency Programs by updating Oregon's standards to match the updated federal standards.

OAR 461-160-0420 about Shelter Cost; SNAP needs to be amended to keep Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) eligibility deductions aligned with annual adjustments and costs as required by the United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service.

OAR 461-196-0020 about Definitions; Summer EBT needs to be amended to clarify the wording on several definitions. Changes to the rule address the language in the definitions that is vague and prone to misinterpretation. In addition, the current definition of "eligibility period" does not provide sufficient detail regarding the differences in the various timeframes for the Summer EBT program. Rule changes address this by aligning the definition of "eligibility period" with the definition in the federal regulation.

OAR 461-196-0040 about Application; SEBT needs to be amended to clarify when an application is required. The current rule suggests that as long as one child in a filing group qualifies for streamlined certification, all children in that filing group will also qualify. There are scenarios where that is not accurate, such as when the children have different coverage under the Oregon Health Plan or when one child attends a qualifying school, but another child does not. The update removes the filing group language and clarifies that the need to submit an application is based on whether the individual child qualifies for Summer EBT.

OAR 461-196-0050 about Benefit Amount, Access, and Use; SEBT needs to be amended to clarify to whom electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards are issued. The current rule suggests that Summer EBT benefits may be deposited to the EBT card of a child who has Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). EBT cards are typically not issued to children on those cases but are instead issued to an adult on the case. The update clarifies the language to state that benefits are issued to the filing group's account, which would include both the child and whatever adults have access to the EBT card associated with the account.

OAR 461-196-0060 about Eligibility; SEBT needs to be amended to add language about how eligibility for the Summer EBT program is determined and to update the program period dates. The current rule does not provide any details regarding how the Summer EBT program determines the order of priority for which qualifying factors are used to determine eligibility and at what point in the operational period that information is assessed. This has caused confusion in many cases where custody of a child changed midway through the operational period and more than one parent or guardian seeks Summer EBT funds to support the child. The updated language clarifies how the qualifying factors are assessed, both chronologically and in what order of priority. The rule change also removes the no longer relevant dates for the 2024 program period and adds the information for the upcoming 2026 period.

OAR 461-196-0110 about Processing Timeframes; SEBT needs to be amended to update the application processing timeframe when verification is requested. The current rule allows 15 days for processing an application and issuing benefits if approved. In some instances, additional verification is necessary to make a determination of eligibility. Since communicating that need for verification and allowing sufficient time for the applicant to respond may take longer than 15 days, the language is being updated to extend that 15-day processing timeframe to begin on the day the required verification is received. That change should allow the Summer EBT team sufficient time to verify the information and make an eligibility determination.

OAR 461-196-0150 about Restoration of Lost Benefits; SEBT needs to be amended to add a timeframe requirement for benefit restoration. The current language of the rule does not provide any timeframe for restoration of benefits, which means there is no way to enforce accountability for unreasonable delays. The SNAP program has a 10-day deadline to act on these types of requests (see OAR 461-165-0230), so the language in the Summer EBT rules is being updated to mirror what is required by SNAP.

OAR 461-197-0040 and 461-198-0040 about Monitoring and Reporting Requirements in Youth Experiencing Homelessness Grant Programs need to be amended to change reporting requirements from quarterly reports to semiannual reports. This change is being made because quarterly reports are excessive and no longer needed. Semiannual reports will deliver timely and important information. These reports will also be used to verify accurate Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data models and support the development of a statewide data dashboard.

DOCUMENTS RELIED UPON, AND WHERE THEY ARE AVAILABLE

For OAR 461-135-1260:

Public Law 118-5, Federal Fiscal Responsibility Act (FRA) of 2023, section 303.

<https://www.congress.gov/118/plaws/publ5/PLAW-118publ5.pdf>

For OAR 461-155-0180:

<https://aspe.hhs.gov/topics/poverty-economic-mobility/poverty-guidelines>

For OAR 461-160-0420:

United States Department of Agriculture cost of living adjustment information is available here:

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/allotment/cola>

Oregon utility calculation submission and federal response is available from the Oregon SNAP team.

STATEMENT IDENTIFYING HOW ADOPTION OF RULE(S) WILL AFFECT RACIAL EQUITY IN THIS STATE

The Department estimates the changes to all of the rules in this filing will have no impact to racial equity in Oregon.

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT:

The Department estimates that the amendments to 461-135-1260 will have a negative fiscal impact to the Department. Using Self-Sufficiency programs data from federal fiscal year 2023, it was determined the average monthly caseload of one-parent Job Participation Incentive (JPI) was 14,114. Increasing the benefit from \$10 to \$35 per month for these individuals reflects a cost difference of approximately \$5.8 million for the biennium; this is in addition to the current total JPI budget of 6 million for the biennium. Due to the significant increase in budget need, the decision was made to eliminate the two-parent JPI program. The Department also estimates a negative fiscal impact for working two-parent families as they will no longer qualify to receive a \$10 monthly JPI food benefit. The Department estimates a positive fiscal impact for working one-parent families as their JPI benefit will increase from \$10 per month to \$35 per month. The Department estimates no fiscal impact to other state agencies, local government, and business including small business. There is no cost of compliance for small business.

The Department is unable to estimate the fiscal impact of OAR 461-155-0180 on individuals receiving or applying for Self Sufficiency programs because the adjustments set forth by the Food and Nutrition Service are not yet known. The Department estimates that these amendments will have no fiscal impact on the Department, other state agencies, local government, and business including small business.

The Department estimates that the annual federal amendments to deductions in OAR 461-160-0420 will have a small, positive impact to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients because utility allowances used to calculate SNAP benefits were slightly increased. The Department is unable to determine the amount of the impact because SNAP benefits are calculated for each case individually, based on reported income and eligible deductions. The

Department estimates no impact to the other state agencies, local government, the Department, and business including small business.

The Department estimates that the amendments to all other rules in this filing will have no fiscal impact on those applying for or receiving benefits or services, the Department, other state agencies, local government, and business including small business. There is no cost of compliance for small business.

COST OF COMPLIANCE:

(1) Identify any state agencies, units of local government, and members of the public likely to be economically affected by the rule(s). (2) Effect on Small Businesses: (a) Estimate the number and type of small businesses subject to the rule(s); (b) Describe the expected reporting, recordkeeping and administrative activities and cost required to comply with the rule(s); (c) Estimate the cost of professional services, equipment supplies, labor and increased administration required to comply with the rule(s).

See fiscal impact.

DESCRIBE HOW SMALL BUSINESSES WERE INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE RULE(S):

Small businesses were not involved in the development of these rule changes but are invited to provide comment during the public comment period.

WAS AN ADMINISTRATIVE RULE ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSULTED? NO IF NOT, WHY NOT?

Proposed changes to certain rules in this filing, including fiscal and racial equity impact information, were shared with Rule Advisory Committee (RAC) members. A RAC meeting was held; however, there were not enough participants to meet the agency's attendance requirement. Other rules included in this filing were exempted from the RAC process, as they involved mandatory federal changes that allowed no room for interpretation or the Department participated in community engagement outside of the standard RAC process.

RULES PROPOSED:

461-135-1260, 461-155-0180, 461-160-0420, 461-196-0020, 461-196-0040, 461-196-0050, 461-196-0060, 461-196-0110, 461-196-0150, 461-197-0040, 461-198-0040

AMEND: 461-135-1260

RULE SUMMARY: OAR 461-135-1260 is being amended to remove the eligibility provisions that allow Job Participation Incentive (JPI) payments to two parent families, add JPI eligibility provisions for one parent families, and change the monthly JPI payment amount from \$10 to \$35 for one parent families. Additionally, a rule section is added that indicates the JPI program is subject to the availability of funds and that the Department may suspend the program whenever the Department determines that sufficient funding is not available to sustain benefits.

CHANGES TO RULE:

461-135-1260

Specific Requirements: Job Participation Incentive ¶¶

(1) Eligibility for the Job Participation Incentive (JPI) program is subject to the availability of funds. The Department (see OAR 461-001-0000) may suspend the program whenever the Department determines that sufficient funding is not available to sustain benefits.¶¶

(2) This rule explains specific requirements of the Job Participation Incentive (JPI). The JPI food benefit provides \$1035 per month for qualifying SNAPsupplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households with a dependent child (see OAR 461-001-0000) under age 18.¶¶

(23) An individual eligible for JPI may receive a \$1035 monthly food benefit.¶¶

- (a) The individual receives the ~~\$1035~~ incentive payment starting the month the Department receives documentation that all enrollment criteria in section (35) of this rule have been met.¶
- (b) There are no partial months of JPI benefits.¶
- (c) The individual may only be issued retroactive JPI benefits as allowed under OAR 461-180-0130.¶
- ~~(34)~~ As used in this rule, a "two-parent household" refers to a SNAP household group (see OAR 461-110-0210) that contains a dependent child under age 18 and the dependent child's two parents.¶
- ~~(45)~~ To receive JPI, an individual must be in a SNAP filing group (see OAR 461-110-0370) and meet the requirements of all of the following subsections:¶
- (a) Be working at an unsubsidized paid employment that meets the federally required participation rates (see OAR 461-001-0025) and total countable (see OAR 461-001-0000) income is at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level (see OAR 461-155-0180). For self-employment or piece rate work, the hours of work must be equivalent to the required average weekly hours at federal minimum wage. An individual must meet the requirements of at least one of the following paragraphs:¶
- (A) Be a single parent (see OAR 461-001-0000) of a dependent child under six years of age and working at an unsubsidized paid employment for an average of at least 20 weekly hours.¶
- (B) Be a single parent of a dependent child at least six years of age and under 18 years of age, and working at an unsubsidized paid employment for an average of at least 30 weekly hours.¶
- ~~(C) Be a parent in a two-parent household (see section (3) of this rule) that does not receive federally-funded child care assistance, and the parents are working at unsubsidized paid employment for a combined average of at least 35 hours per week.¶~~
- ~~(D) Be a parent in a two-parent household that receives federally-funded child care assistance and the parents are working at unsubsidized paid employment for a combined average of 55 hours per week.¶~~
- (b) Provide the Department with employer-produced documents of paid, unsubsidized work hours covering a consecutive two-week period that has occurred within the last 60 days.¶
- (c) Anticipate weekly employment hours will remain the same or increase for the reporting period.¶
- (d) Provide employer-produced documents of paid, unsubsidized work hours each time requested by the Department and no later than the last day of the sixth month following the date the individual provides the verification of work hours in accordance with subsections (a) and (b) of this section.¶
- (e) Be an eligible adult in a SNAP benefit group (see OAR 461-110-0750) and the parent of an eligible dependent child under age 18 in the same SNAP benefit group.¶
- (f) Not be receiving any Employment Payments (see OAR 461-001-0025 and 461-135-1270), ~~SFPSS, or~~ tate Family Pre-SSI/SSDI (SFPSS), or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program benefits in the same month.¶
- ~~(g) All eligible adults must provide marital status to~~ Must not be part of a two-parent household (see section (4) of this rule).¶
- (h) Eligible adults must provide the following to the Department:¶
- (A) Marital status; and¶
- (B) Any housing subsidy information requested by the Department.¶
- ~~(56)~~ To remain eligible for JPI, an individual must meet all requirements in section (45) of this rule and all SNAP eligibility and reporting requirements (see OAR 461-170-0011).¶
- ~~(67)~~ Household income in JPI is calculated in accordance with all SNAP financial rules.¶
- ~~(78)~~ An individual is no longer eligible for JPI when it has been determined that the individual does not meet federally required participation rates and requirements due to any of the following:¶
- (a) Loss of employment.¶
- (b) A reduction in work hours.¶
- (c) The second parent of a dependent child under age 18 joins the SNAP household group.¶
- (d) The individual no longer has a dependent child under age 18 in their SNAP benefit group.
- Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 409.050, 411.060, 411.070, 412.049
- Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 409.010, 411.060, 411.070, 412.049

AMEND: 461-155-0180

RULE SUMMARY: OAR 461-155-0180 is being amended to adjust the income standards to reflect the annual update to the Federal Poverty Level. These amendments keep Oregon in line with current federal standards. These amendments will take effect March 1.

CHANGES TO RULE:

461-155-0180

Income Standards; Not OSIPM or QMB ¶

THIS RULE WILL BE AMENDED TO REFLECT FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL STANDARDS ¶

(1) A Department program may cite this rule if the program uses a monthly income standard based on the federal poverty level.¶

(2) A monthly income standard set at 100 percent of the 2025 federal poverty level, and updated every October, is set at the following amounts: ¶

Size of Group&&&&Standard ¶

1&&&&&&&&&\$ 1,305¶

2&&&&&&&&& 1,763¶

3&&&&&&&&& 2,221¶

4&&&&&&&&& 2,680¶

5&&&&&&&&& 3,138¶

6&&&&&&&&& 3,596¶

7&&&&&&&&& 4,055¶

8&&&&&&&&& 4,513¶

9&&&&&&&&& 4,972¶

10&&&&&&&&.. 5,431¶

+1&&&&&&&&... +459¶

(3) A monthly income standard set at 130 percent of the 2025 federal poverty level, and updated every October is set at the following amounts:¶

Size of Group&&&&Standard¶

1&&&&&&&&&\$ 1,696¶

2&&&&&&&&& 2,292¶

3&&&&&&&&& 2,888¶

4&&&&&&&&& 3,483¶

5&&&&&&&&& 4,079¶

6&&&&&&&&& 4,675¶

7&&&&&&&&& 5,271¶

8&&&&&&&&& 5,867¶

9&&&&&&&&& 6,463¶

10&&&&&&&&.. 7,059¶

+1&&&&&&&&... +596¶

(4) A monthly income standard set at 165 percent of the 2025 federal poverty level, and updated every October, is set at the following amounts: ¶

Size of Group&&&&Standard¶

1&&&&&&&&&\$ 2,152¶

2&&&&&&&&& 2,909¶

3&&&&&&&&& 3,665¶

4&&&&&&&&& 4,421¶

5&&&&&&&&& 5,177¶

6&&&&&&&&& 5,934¶

7&&&&&&&&& 6,690¶

8&&&&&&&&& 7,446¶

+1&&&&&&&&... +757¶

(5) A monthly income standard set at 185 percent of the 2025⁶ federal poverty level, and updated every March, is set at the following amounts: ¶

Size of Group&&&&Standard¶

1&&&&&&&&&\$ 2,413¶

2&&&&&&&&& 3,261¶

3&&&&&&&&& 4,109¶
 4&&&&&&&&& 4,957¶
 5&&&&&&&&& 5,805¶
 6&&&&&&&&& 6,653¶
 7&&&&&&&&& 7,501¶
 8&&&&&&&&& 8,349¶
 9&&&&&&&&& 9,197¶
 10&&&&&&&&&.. 10,044¶
 +1&&&&&&&&&... + 848¶

(6) A monthly income standard set at 200 percent of the 2025⁶ federal poverty level, and updated every March, is set at the following amounts: ¶

Size of Group&&&&Standard¶
 1&&&&&&&&&\$ 2,609¶
 2&&&&&&&&& 3,525¶
 3&&&&&&&&& 4,442¶
 4&&&&&&&&& 5,359¶
 5&&&&&&&&& 6,275¶
 6&&&&&&&&& 7,192¶
 7&&&&&&&&& 8,109¶
 8&&&&&&&&& 9,025¶
 +1&&&&&&&&&... + 917¶

(7) A monthly income standard set at 250 percent of the 2025⁶ federal poverty level, and updated every March, is set at the following amounts: ¶

Size of Group&&&&Standard¶
 1&&&&&&&&&\$ 3,261¶
 2&&&&&&&&& 4,407¶
 3&&&&&&&&& 5,553¶
 4&&&&&&&&& 6,698¶
 5&&&&&&&&& 7,844¶
 6&&&&&&&&& 8,990¶
 7&&&&&&&&& 10,136¶
 8&&&&&&&&& 11,282¶
 +1&&&&&&&&&. +1,146¶

(8) A monthly income standard set at 350 percent of the 2025⁶ federal poverty level, and updated every March beginning 2023, is set at the following amounts: ¶

Size of Group&&&&Standard ¶
 1&&&&&&&&&\$ 4,565¶
 2&&&&&&&&& 6,169¶
 3&&&&&&&&& 7,773¶
 4&&&&&&&&& 9,378¶
 5&&&&&&&&& 10,982¶
 6&&&&&&&&& 12,586¶
 7&&&&&&&&& 14,190¶
 8&&&&&&&&& 15,794 ¶
 9&&&&&&&&& 17,398¶
 10&&&&&&&&&.. 19,003 ¶
 +1&&&&&&&&&... + 1,605¶

(9) A monthly Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (DSNAP) income standard, updated every October, is set at the following amounts for the household (see OAR 461-135-0491):¶

Size of Group&&&&Standard¶
 1&&&&&&&&&\$ 2,258¶
 2&&&&&&&&& 2,716¶
 3&&&&&&&&& 3,174¶
 4&&&&&&&&& 3,647¶
 5&&&&&&&&& 4,143¶
 6&&&&&&&&& 4,639¶
 7&&&&&&&&& 5,098¶
 8&&&&&&&&& 5,556¶
 +1&&&&&&&&&... +459

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 409.050, 411.060, 411.070, 411.816, 412.049

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 409.010, 411.060, 411.070, 411.816, 412.014, 412.049, 7 CFR 280.1

AMEND: 461-160-0420

RULE SUMMARY: OAR 461-160-0420 is being amended to align the amount of shelter costs used to determine the shelter deduction for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program with annual adjustments set forth by the United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service.

CHANGES TO RULE:

461-160-0420

Shelter Cost; SNAP ¶

(1) This rule explains how to calculate the shelter cost. The shelter cost is used to determine the shelter deduction (see OAR 461-160-0430). The shelter cost is the sum of the filing group's cost of housing plus an allowance for utilities, if the individual incurs a utility cost. The shelter deduction is calculated considering the shelter cost and may be subject to a limitation described in OAR 461-160-0430.¶

(2) Cost of housing.¶

(a) The following comprise the cost of housing if they are incurred with respect to the filing group's current residence or the home described in section (5) of this rule:¶

(A) Regular, periodic charges for the shelter of the filing group (see OAR 461-110-0370), such as rent, mortgage payments, and condominium or association fees. Late fees charged because a mortgage or rent payment was made late are not deductible.¶

(B) Property taxes, state and local assessments, and property insurance on the structure.¶

(C) Costs for repairing a home substantially damaged or destroyed by a natural disaster (such as a fire or flood), if such costs are not reimbursed.¶

(D) If a filing group is experiencing homelessness and their living circumstances meet the definition of homeless under OAR 461-001-0015, the following are allowable costs:¶

(i) Working in exchange for housing costs; or¶

(ii) If living in a vehicle, vehicle payments and collision and comprehensive insurance premiums.¶

(E) For filing group members required to pay room and board in a nonstandard living arrangement (see OAR 461-001-0000), the shelter cost is the cost of room and board, minus the payment standard for the benefit group; or the actual room cost if the individual can prove that the room cost exceeds the room and board minus the payment standard.¶

(b) If housing costs are billed on a weekly or biweekly basis, the monthly cost is the weekly cost multiplied by 4.3 or the biweekly cost multiplied by 2.15.¶

(c) The filing group has the following choices about housing costs:¶

(A) The group may choose to apply the cost in the month it is billed or becomes due.¶

(B) The group may choose to have periodic costs averaged.¶

(C) For expenses that are billed less often than monthly, the group may choose to have them averaged over the period they are intended to cover.¶

(3) Shared housing. If the filing group shares housing costs with an individual in the dwelling who is not in the filing group, only the housing costs incurred by the filing group are included in the calculation. If the portion paid by an individual outside the filing group cannot be ascertained, the cost is apportioned among the individuals contributing to the cost. The pro rata share of those not in the filing group is deducted from the total, and the balance is considered a housing cost of the filing group.¶

(4) Cost for utilities.¶

(a) A filing group has a cost for utilities if it incurs a cost for heating or cooling; cooking fuel; electricity; water and sewerage; well installation and maintenance; septic tank system installation and maintenance; garbage and trash collection; service for a telephone, such as basic service fee, wire maintenance, subscriber line charges, relay center surcharges, 911 service, and taxes; or initial installation fees charged by a utility provider.¶

(b) If the group incurs no cost for utilities in either its current home or in the home described in section (5) of this rule, then the shelter cost is calculated without an allowance for utilities.¶

(c) If a filing group experiencing homelessness uses a vehicle for shelter, the cost of fuel for the vehicle is considered a utility cost.¶

(d) If a filing group incurs a cost for utilities, then the utility allowance is one of the following:¶

(A) Allowance with heating or cooling. A full standard utility allowance of ~~\$50~~\$215 per month is used if the household group (see OAR 461-110-0210) is billed for heating or cooling costs for its dwelling. Charges for any fuel and for electricity are considered heating costs if they are used for heating. A filing group who receives an energy assistance payment for the dwelling provided through the Low Income Energy Assistance Act of 1981 is eligible for the utility allowance established by this paragraph (A). This energy assistance payment must be greater

than \$20 annually.¶

(B) Allowance without heating or cooling.¶

(i) A limited standard utility allowance of ~~\$393~~\$404 per month is used if the filing group is not billed for heating or cooling costs but is billed for at least two other costs enumerated in subsection (4)(a) of this rule.¶

(ii) An individual standard utility allowance of ~~\$63~~\$5 per month is used if the filing group is not billed for heating or cooling costs but is billed for only one of the costs enumerated in subsection (4)(a) of this rule other than the service cost for a telephone, including the related taxes or fees.¶

(iii) A telephone standard utility allowance of ~~\$79~~\$81 per month is used if the filing group is billed only for telephone service, such as basic service fee, wire maintenance, subscriber line charges, relay center surcharges, 911 service, and taxes.¶

(5) Housing costs for a home not occupied by the filing group. Housing and utility costs with respect to a home not currently occupied may be considered in calculating the shelter cost if--¶

(a) The home is temporarily unoccupied because of employment or training away from home, illness, or abandonment caused by casualty or natural disaster;¶

(b) The filing group intends to return to the home;¶

(c) No other, current occupant is claiming a deduction for shelter costs in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); and¶

(d) The home is not leased during the household's absence.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 409.050, 411.060, 411.070, 411.816

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 409.010, 409.050, 411.060, 411.070, 411.816, 411.825, 411.837, 7 CFR 273.5

RULE SUMMARY: OAR 461-196-0020 is being amended to clarify definitions and grammar. The definition of eligibility period is being updated to align with the language used in the federal regulations.

CHANGES TO RULE:

461-196-0020

Definitions; Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (SEBT)

The following definitions apply to the rules of the Summer EBT (SEBT) program in Chapter 461. ¶

(1) Adult means an individual 18 years of age or older. ¶

(2) Benefit means the value of SEBT provided to a filing group by means of an EBT system. ¶

(3) Categorically eligible means considered eligible for SEBT, as applicable, based on documentation that a child is a member of a filing group, as defined in this ~~section~~rule, and one or more children in that filing group are receiving assistance under ~~SNAP, TANF, Medicaid or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Medicaid or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR).~~ A foster child, homeless child, migrant child, Head Start child ~~and~~or runaway child, as defined in this rule ~~are~~is also categorically eligible. Categorically eligible, and streamlined eligibility ~~and automatic eligibility~~ may be used synonymously. ¶

(4) Department refers to the SEBT Agency. ¶

(5) Direct ~~V~~erification means the process of verifying the filing group's income or categorial eligibility by matching against data sources or other records without the need to contact the filing group for documentation. ¶

(6) Dual participation means a child simultaneously receiving benefits from more than one ~~State EBT Program~~ administered ~~SEBT Program by a State, US Territoriesy or Tribal Lands or;~~ receiving SEBT in ~~one or more~~more than one households; or receiving multiple allotments from the same State administered SEBT Program. ¶

(7) Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) account means a set of records containing demographic, card, benefit, transaction, and balance data for an individual household within the EBT system that is maintained and managed by the Department or its contractor as part of the client case record. ¶

(8) Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card means a method to access EBT benefits issued to a household member or authorized representative through the EBT system by a benefit issuer. This method may include an on-line magnetic stripe card, an off-line smart card, a chip card, a contactless digital wallet with a stored card, or any other similar benefit access technology approved by FNS. ¶

(9) Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) contractor or vendor means an entity that is selected to perform EBT-related services for the State agency. ¶

(10) Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) system means an electronic payments system under which household benefits are issued from and stored in a central databank, maintained, and managed by a State or its contractor, and uses electronic funds transfer technology for the delivery and control of food and other public assistance benefits. ¶

(11) Eligible child(ren) means a child who meets the requirements to receive SEBT benefits as provided in OAR 461-196-0060. ¶

(12) Eligible household means a household that includes at least one eligible child. ¶

(13) Eligibility period means the ~~period of time frame during which a child may meet the eligibility criteria for SEBT~~from the first day of instructional year, as defined in this rule, immediately preceding the summer operational period, as defined in this rule, through the last day of the summer operational period. ¶

(14) Enrolled students means students who are enrolled in and attending a school participating in the USDA National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and who have access to a meal service (breakfast or lunch) on a regular basis. ¶

(15) Expungement means the removal of SEBT benefits from the EBT account to which they were issued, typically by an EBT processor on behalf of the Department. ¶

(16) FDPIR means the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations. ¶

(17) Filing group means a group of related or nonrelated individuals who are living together as one economic unit. ¶

(18) FNS means the Food and Nutrition Service, United States Department of Agriculture. ¶

(19) Foster child means a child who is formally placed by a court or an agency that administers a State plan under parts B or E of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 621 et seq.). ¶

(20) Free or reduced-price meal eligible means a student which is determined by the school as eligible to receive free or reduced-price National School Lunch Program. ¶

(21) Head Start child means a child enrolled as a participant in a Head Start program authorized under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.) ¶

(22) Homeless child means a child identified as lacking a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, as

specified under section 725(a) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a(2)) by the local educational agency liaison, director of a homeless shelter, or other individual identified by FNS.¶¶

(23) Instructional year means the period from July 1 of the prior year through one day prior to the summer operational period. ¶¶

(24) Medicaid means medical assistance under title XIX of the Social Security Act, as amended. For the purposes for SEBT eligibility, this applies only to individuals eligible under 185% of the federal poverty level. ¶¶

(25) Migrant child means a child identified as meeting the definition of migrant in section 1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6399) by the State or local Migrant Education Program coordinator ~~or~~, the local educational liaison, or other individual identified by FNS.¶¶

(26) NSLP/SBP means the National School Lunch Program established under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.) and the School Breakfast Program established under the Child Nutrition Act of 1996 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.). ¶¶

(27) NSLP/SBP application means an application for free and reduced-price meals, submitted by a household for a child or children enrolled at an NSLP/SBP participating school(s). Eligibility determinations based on NSLP/SBP applications may be used to confer eligibility for SEBT. ¶¶

(28) NSLP school means an Oregon public school, nonprofit private school, or residential childcare institution that is a sponsor of the National School Lunch Program. ¶¶

(29) NSLP student means an individual enrolled in an Oregon public school, nonprofit private school, or residential childcare institution that provides meal service as a sponsored National School Lunch Program school.¶¶

(30) ODE means the Oregon Department of Education.¶¶

(31) ODHS means the Oregon Department of Human Services. ¶¶

(32) Runaway child means a child identified as a runaway receiving assistance under a program under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5701 et seq.) by the local educational liaison, or other individual in accordance with guidance issued by FNS.¶¶

(33) School aged means the years in which a child is required to attend school, or an equivalent program as defined by State or Tribal law. Also known as the age requirement for compulsory education, which is defined as six (6) to eighteen (18) years old in Oregon. ¶¶

(34) SEBT means Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer.¶¶

(35) Signature means a person's name written in a distinctive way as a form of identification. For the purposes of SEBT the following signatures are acceptable: hand-written, telephonic, and electronic signature including a typed signature.¶¶

(36) SNAP means Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, which is a Federal food benefits program for low-income individuals to supplement their grocery budget. ¶¶

(37) SNAP participant means an individual who is a member of a SNAP filing group (see OAR 461-110-0370) that received ~~s~~ more than \$0 in SNAP benefits.¶¶

(38) Streamlined certification means automatically enrolling an eligible child for SEBT, without need for further application or confirmation of school enrollment. Streamlined certification, and categorically eligible ~~and automatic eligibility~~ may be used synonymously.¶¶

(39) Summer EBT agency means the Oregon Department of Human Services.¶¶

(40) Summer EBT application means an application for SEBT benefits submitted to the Department by a filing group for a child or children who are enrolled at a NSLP/SBP participating school ~~for SEBT benefits.~~ ¶¶

(41) Summer ~~Operational Period~~ means the benefit period that generally reflects the period between the end of classes during the current school year and the start of classes for the next school year, as determined by the Department. ¶¶

(42) TANF means Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, which is the State funded program under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act.¶¶

(43) USDA means United States Department of Agriculture. ¶¶

(44) Verification means confirmation of eligibility for the Summer EBT Program when a child's eligibility is established through a Summer EBT application. Verification includes confirmation of income eligibility and may also include confirmation of any other information required in the application.¶¶

(45) Verification for ~~C~~ause means verification of questionable applications, on a case-by-case basis, such as an instance when the Department is made aware of conflicting or inconsistent information than what was provided on the application.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 411.060

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 411.060

AMEND: 461-196-0040

RULE SUMMARY: OAR 461-196-0040 is being amended to clarify language regarding when children need to submit applications for Summer EBT when there is more than one child in the filing group, but not all children qualify for streamlined certification.

CHANGES TO RULE:

461-196-0040

Application; SEBT

(1) An application for Summer EBT (SEBT) is considered complete if the following information is provided:¶¶

(a) Full name(s) of child(ren) and other filing group (see OAR 461-196-0020) members; ¶¶

(b) Name of school(s) where the child(ren) attend;¶¶

(c) Mailing address;¶¶

(d) Amount, source, and frequency of income for each filing group member; and ¶¶

(e) Signature of an adult filing group member.¶¶

(2) Applications for SEBT must be received by the Department (see OAR 461-196-0020) by:¶¶

(a) The last day of the summer operational period (see OAR 461-196-0020 and 461-196-0060); or¶¶

(b) The deadline permitted by the USDA Food and Nutrition Services. ¶¶

(3) Children who ~~are in a filing group with a~~qualify for streamlined certification (see OAR 461-196-0020 and 461-196-0060) do not need to submit an application. ¶¶

(4) If an adult (see OAR 461-196-0020) applicant in the filing group is ineligible to receive SEBT benefits for a qualifying child due to serving an intentional program violation (see OAR 461-195-0601) disqualification:¶¶

(a) An authorized representative may represent a SEBT applicant or participant, or¶¶

(b) The Department will work with the filing group to identify another adult to send the EBT card and benefits to for that child.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 411.060

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 411.060

AMEND: 461-196-0050

RULE SUMMARY: OAR 461-196-0050 is being amended to clarify that Summer EBT benefits may be deposited to an active Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) account of the filing group when such an account exists, not to a separate account for the child.

CHANGES TO RULE:

461-196-0050

Benefit Amount, Access, and Use; SEBT

(1) The Summer EBT (SEBT) benefit will be \$120 per each eligible child (see OAR 461-196-0020) for the summer operational period (see OAR 461-196-0020 and 461-196-0060). ¶

(2) Eligible children who ~~have~~are part of a filing group (see OAR 461-196-0020) with an active EBT card associated with a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) case, will receive benefits on the same EBT card. ¶

(3) Eligible children who ~~do~~are not havepart of a filing group with an active EBT card associated with a SNAP or TANF case will receive a separate EBT card for their SEBT benefits.¶

(4) SEBT benefits are not prorated. ¶

(5) The Department (see OAR 461-196-0020) considers benefits available when the SEBT benefits have been issued on an EBT account. ¶

(6) Unused benefits are expunged (see OAR 461-196-0020) 122 days after the date of issuance. ¶

(7) Expunged benefits will not be restored.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 411.060

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 411.060

AMEND: 461-196-0060

RULE SUMMARY: OAR 461-196-0060 is being amended to add details regarding how streamlined certification is determined and in what order the system checks the various qualifying factors. Also removing references to the 2024 Summer EBT program period and adding information for the 2026 program period.

CHANGES TO RULE:

461-196-0060

Eligibility; SEBT

(1) For the purposes of Summer EBT (SEBT), categorically eligible (see OAR 461-196-0020) is used synonymously with streamlined certification (see OAR 461-196-0020) ~~and means any of the following:~~ Streamlined certification is determined using the most recent instance in which an eligible child (see 196-0020) meets any of the following qualifying factors. If an eligible child meets more than one of the listed qualifying factors at the same time, streamlined certification will be determined based on the first factor that is met, in descending order from (a) through (g).¶

(a) Receiving foster or resource care through Child Welfare.¶

(b) Part of a filing group (see OAR 461-196-0020) that receives Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).¶

(c) Part of a filing group that receives Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) with benefits greater than \$0.¶

~~(d) Part of a filing group that r~~Receives Medicaid (Oregon Health Plan) with countable income under 185 percent of the federal poverty level.¶

(e) Attending a Head Start program which participates in the National School Lunch Program/School Breakfast Program (NSLP/SBP) (see OAR 461-196-0020).¶

(f) Receiving Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) (see OAR 461-196-0020).¶

(g) Migrant, homeless, or runaway as defined by the student's school.¶

(2) Children eligible for SEBT include those who, at any time during the eligibility period (see OAR 461-196-0020) are:¶

(a) School-aged (see OAR 461-196-0020) and categorically eligible.¶

(b) Enrolled in an NSLP/SBP participating school during the instructional year immediately preceding the summer operational period and:¶

(A) Categorically eligible; ¶

(B) Certified to receive free or reduced-price school meals through an NSLP/SBP participating school; ¶

(C) Otherwise determined eligible to receive a free or reduced-price meal; or¶

(D) Determined eligible through a Summer EBT (SEBT) application (see OAR 461-196-0020) with the filing group's total countable income below 185% of the federal poverty level (see OAR 461-196-0120) on the date the completed application is received.¶

(3) Eligibility for SEBT is established from the first day of the instructional year (see OAR 461-196-0020) immediately preceding the summer operational period (see OAR 461-196-0020) through the last day of the summer operational period, ~~with the exception of the 2024 program period.~~¶

(4) For the 2024~~5~~ program period:¶

(a) The summer operational period is May ~~24~~³⁰, 2024~~5~~, through September ~~23~~, 2024~~5~~.¶

(b) The instructional year is July 1, 2023~~4~~, through May ~~23~~²⁹, 2024~~5~~.¶

(c) The eligibility period is from September 1, 2023, through September 2, 2024.¶

~~(d) Retroactively effective September 3, 2024, the SEBT application deadline is extended from the end of the summer operational period to September 30, 2024. To qualify for SEBT based on a completed application submitted to the Department from September 3~~July 1, 2024, through September 30, 2024, a child must meet the eligibility criteria identified in section (2) of this rule during the 2024 eligibility period. 5.¶

(5) For the 2025~~6~~ program period:¶

(a) The summer operational period is May ~~30~~^{June 5}, 2025~~6~~, through September ~~31~~, 2025~~6~~.¶

(b) The instructional year is July 1, 2024~~5~~, to May ~~29~~^{hrough June 4}, 2025~~6~~.¶

(c) The eligibility period is July 1, 2024~~5~~, through September ~~31~~, 2025~~6~~.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 411.060

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 411.060

AMEND: 461-196-0110

RULE SUMMARY: OAR 461-196-0110 is being amended to add language regarding processing timeframes to allow additional time when verification is requested for information provided on a Summer EBT application.

CHANGES TO RULE:

461-196-0110

Processing Timeframes; SEBT

(1) Children found eligible through streamlined certification (see OAR 461-196-0020 and 461-196-0060) or who have an approved Summer EBT (SEBT) application (see OAR 461-196-0020) on file prior to the start of the summer operational period (see OAR 461-196-0020 and 461-196-0060) must have benefits issued and available to use at least seven calendar days and no more than 14 calendar days before the start of the summer operational period.¶

(2) Children found eligible through an SEBT application after the start of the summer operational period must have benefits issued and available no later than 15 business days after a complete application and any required verification (see OAR 461-196-0020) is received by the Department (see OAR 461-196-0020). ¶

(3) Children found eligible through information provided from the child's school after the start of the summer operational period must have benefits issued and available no later than 15 business days from the date of receipt of information from the school.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 411.060

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 411.060

AMEND: 461-196-0150

RULE SUMMARY: OAR 461-196-0150 is being amended to add a 10-day timeframe for restoration of Summer EBT benefits when the restoration request meets the agency requirements. The update aligns the Summer EBT restoration timeframe with the timeframe followed by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

CHANGES TO RULE:

461-196-0150

Restoration of Lost Benefits; SEBT

(1) An individual is entitled to a restoration of lost benefits if: ¶

(a) The loss was caused by an error by the Department (see OAR 461-196-0020), including an action to restore any benefits that were lost, or the failure to issue due to agency error; or ¶

(b) An administrative disqualification for intentional program violation (see OAR 461-195-0601) was subsequently reversed. ¶

(2) Benefits shall be restored for not more than twelve months prior to whichever of the following occurred first: ¶

(a) The date the Department receives a request for restoration from the filing group (see OAR 461-196-0020); or ¶

(b) The date the Department is notified or otherwise discovers that a loss to a filing group has occurred. ¶

(3) The Department must restore benefits found to have been wrongfully withheld through judicial action. ¶

(a) If the judicial action is the filing group's first attempt to regain lost benefits, the benefits must be restored for not more than twelve months from the date the court action began. ¶

(b) When the judicial action involves reviewing the Department's action, benefits must be restored not more than twelve months from: ¶

(A) The date the agency receives a restoration request. ¶

(B) If no request is made, the date the hearing action is initiated. ¶

(C) Never exceeding one year from when the agency is informed of or discovers the loss. ¶

(D) Benefits must be restored even if the child is currently ineligible. ¶

(4) The Department must restore any lost benefits to a filing group by issuing an allotment equal to the amount of benefits that were lost, irrespective of the filing group's current eligibility status. This restored amount will be issued in addition to the regular allotment entitled to the eligible filing group. ¶

(5) The Department will issue a timely replacement of Summer EBT benefits within 10 days of receiving the request for restoration, the discovery of the agency error that led to the lost benefits, or the notification of judicial or administrative action ordering the benefits to be restored. ¶

(6) Individuals disqualified for intentional program violation are entitled to restoration of any benefits lost during the months that they were disqualified, not to exceed twelve months prior to the date of Department notification, only if the decision which resulted in disqualification is subsequently reversed.

Statutory/Other Authority: 411.060

Statutes/Other Implemented: 411.060

AMEND: 461-197-0040

RULE SUMMARY: OAR 461-197-0040 is being amended to update stated reporting requirements from a quarterly basis to a semiannual basis, consistent with program data needs. It is also being amended to add a rule reference.

CHANGES TO RULE:

461-197-0040

Monitoring and Reporting Requirements

(1) The Department (see OAR 461-197-0010) will conduct reviews, audits, and other compliance monitoring as it deems appropriate to verify compliance with grant agreements. Grant recipients must cooperate fully with the Department in its compliance monitoring.¶

(2) Grant recipients shall:¶

(a) Allow Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program (YEHP) staff access to the grant recipient's facilities and to speak with staff and youth experiencing homelessness (see OAR 461-197-0010) enrolled, or previously enrolled, in grant funded services.¶

(b) Submit ~~quarterly~~semiannual progress reports to the Department in the format specified by the grant agreement. Progress reports must include a description of:¶

(A) Major activities and accomplishments ~~from the last quarter~~;¶

(B) Challenges, barriers, and service gaps ~~from the last quarter~~;¶

(C) Steps taken to address challenges, barriers, and service gaps ~~from the last quarter~~;¶

(D) Success in service delivery or development ~~from the last quarter~~; and¶

(E) Any future plans or major activities ~~in the subsequent quarter~~.¶

(c) Submit Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) reports and data as specified in the grant agreement.¶

(d) Maintain and provide access to financial records associated with the grant activities for a period of six years following final disbursement or termination of a grant agreement.¶

(e) Comply with all other data collection and reporting requirements outlined in the grant agreement.¶

(3) On an annual basis, the Department and the grant recipient shall jointly review ~~quarterly~~semiannual progress reports to determine how allowable activities are being provided and if improvements or changes are needed to achieve identified goals and desired outcomes outlined in grant agreements.¶

(4) In the event a grant recipient is not in compliance with all applicable laws, rules, or the grant agreement, the Department will remedy noncompliance per terms outlined in grant agreement or may engage with grant recipients to discuss and remedy situations in which the grant recipient is:¶

(a) Not providing the allowable activities identified in the grant agreement;¶

(b) Not in communication with YEHP; ¶

(c) Unwilling, or unable to, comply with reporting requirements;¶

(d) Unwilling to engage in monitoring requests; or¶

(e) Unwilling to explore implementing recommendations from YEHP.¶

(5) At its sole discretion, the Department may terminate any agreement with any grant recipient as per terms outlined in the grant agreement.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 417.802

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 417.802

AMEND: 461-198-0040

RULE SUMMARY: OAR 461-198-0040 is being amended to update stated reporting requirements from a quarterly basis to a semiannual basis, consistent with program data needs.

CHANGES TO RULE:

461-198-0040

Monitoring and Reporting Requirements

(1) The Department (see OAR 461-198-0010) will conduct reviews, audits, and other compliance monitoring as it deems appropriate to verify compliance with grant agreements. Grant recipients must cooperate fully with the Department in its compliance monitoring.¶

(2) Grant recipients shall:¶

(a) Allow Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program (YEHP) staff to access the host home project (see OAR 461-198-0010) facilities and allow YEHP staff to speak with host home project staff and host home participants (see OAR 461-198-0010).¶

(b) Submit ~~quarterly~~semiannual progress reports to the Department in the format specified by the grant agreement. Progress reports must include a description of:¶

(A) Major activities and accomplishments ~~from the last quarter~~;¶

(B) Challenges, barriers, and service gaps ~~from the last quarter~~;¶

(C) Steps taken to address challenges, barriers, and service gaps ~~from the last quarter~~;¶

(D) Success in service delivery or development ~~from the last quarter~~; and¶

(E) Any future plans or major activities ~~in the subsequent quarter~~.¶

(c) Submit Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) reports and data as specified in the grant agreement.¶

(d) Maintain and provide access to financial records associated with the grant activities for a period of six years following final disbursement or termination of a grant agreement.¶

(e) Comply with all other data collection and reporting requirements outlined in the grant agreement.¶

(3) On an annual basis, the Department and the grant recipient shall jointly review ~~quarterly~~semiannual progress reports to determine how allowable activities are being provided, and if improvements or changes are needed to achieve identified goals and desired outcomes outlined in grant agreements.¶

(4) In the event a grant recipient is not in compliance with all applicable laws, rules, or the grant agreement, the Department will remedy noncompliance per terms outlined in the grant agreement or may engage with grant recipients to discuss and remedy situations in which the grant recipient is:¶

(a) Not providing the allowable activities identified in the grant agreement;¶

(b) Not in communication with YEHP; ¶

(c) Unwilling, or unable to, comply with reporting requirements;¶

(d) Unwilling to engage in monitoring requests; or¶

(e) Unwilling to explore implementing recommendations from YEHP.¶

(5) At its sole discretion, the Department may terminate any agreement with any grant recipient as per terms outlined in the grant agreement.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 417.803

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 417.803