

# **JOBS UPDATES**

## **Job Opportunities and Basic Skills Program**

WORK VERIFICATION POINTS UPDATES

JUNE 2020

### **Housing and Utility Support Services**

As mentioned in the May JOBS Updates the Support Services rule (OAR [461-190-0211](#)) was amended effective 4/1/2020. These changes were outlined in [SS-PT-20-006](#). One hot topic from the changes is around housing and utility payments.

#### **Housing and Utility Payments in Rule**

Housing and utility payments are still allowable under the updated rule, and no changes were made to the considerations for eligible payments. The rule states:

*5.g. Moving Expense/Relocation: Payments for housing and utilities expenses. Payments are subject to the following:*

*A. Except as provided in paragraph (C) of this subsection, each payment type (such as rent, mortgage, utility bill, storage fees) is limited to two months per benefit group.*

*B. Except as provided in paragraph (C) of this subsection, this payment is limited to \$3,000 per benefit group for each three-month period.*

*C. With prior manager approval upon verification that an individual has a greater need to stabilize a living situation or prevent homelessness, the Department may approve payments that exceed the limits in paragraphs (A) and (B) of this subsection.*

#### **Stabilize Living (SL) Activity Not Eligible for Support Services**

Many staff have asked about the change in the Stabilized Living activity implemented in OAR [461-190-0211](#) on 4/1/2020. The JAG was also updated to align with the rule (page 26). Please keep in mind:

- This change is in preparation for the ONE system. ONE will not allow support service payments to be tied to the SL step.

- When prior guidance came out June 2018 implementing the ability to issue support service payments for housing and utilities, participants need to be active in their Personal Development Plan (PDP) with other activities besides SL.
- When a housing or utility payment is being requested by the Family Coach, use the activity the participant was actively engaged in (other than SL) when the housing-related need was identified. This can be any activity that allows for support service payments to be issued, see [OAR 461-190-0211](#). (See examples below)
- The SL step is an option for participants who are searching for housing, working with a local housing agency for housing navigation services, etc. An SL step is not required on TRACS when assistance with housing or utility costs is requested.

### Case Study Examples

Example 1: Kay is working on the goals she set with her Family Coach during their ongoing Assessment conversations and JOBS appointments. When meeting with her Family Coach this month, Kay stated that in addition to taking Vocational Training, she has been worried about her housing. She is unable to pay her rent for next month because she has a medical bill that is due and not covered by her insurance. Kay and her Family Coach explored different resources, yet Kay was still in need of \$900 for her rent for next month. Kay decided that her goals are still focused on VT and did not want to have Stabilized Living added to her plan. The Family Coach requested the \$900 payment for rent on JASR. In JASR, the Family Coach tied 100% of the \$900 rent payment to Kay's VT.

Example 2: Petros called his Family Coach and requested assistance with a deposit on an apartment. Petros has an existing High School Diploma or GED (HS) step on his PDP. Petros stated that he has also started working with the Community Action Agency and is meeting with a housing navigator weekly. The Family Coach and Petros discuss other resources and identify that there is a need for a \$500 deposit. The Family Coach adds an SL step to Petros' PDP to represent the meetings with the housing navigator, confirms the landlord will accept a check from the State, and requests a \$500 is made on JASR tied 100% to Petros' existing HS step.