

Policy Transmittal Office of Self-Sufficiency Programs



Claire Sequin, Self-Sufficiency Programs Deputy
Director

Authorized signature

Number: SS-PT-21-004
Issue date: 03/05/2021

Topic: Food Benefits

Due date: 03/05/2021

Transmitting (check the box that best applies):

- New policy
 Policy change
 Policy clarification
 Executive letter
 Administrative Rule
 Manual update
 Other:

Applies to (check all that apply):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All DHS employees | <input type="checkbox"/> County Mental Health Directors |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Area Agencies on Aging: Type B | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aging and People with Disabilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Self Sufficiency Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> ODDS Children’s Intensive In Home Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County DD program managers | <input type="checkbox"/> Stabilization and Crisis Unit (SACU) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Support Service Brokerage Directors | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): 5503 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ODDS Children’s Residential Services | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child Welfare Programs | |

Policy/rule title:	SNAP Student Eligibility-COVID Temporary Change		
Policy/rule number(s):		Release number:	
Effective date:	1/16/21	Expiration date:	30 days after the COVID-19 public health emergency is lifted
References:	OAR 461-16		
Web address:	https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/students https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/student-provisions-consolidated-appropriations-act-2021-qars		

Discussion/interpretation:

A change in federal law expanded temporary eligibility for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to more students. This transmittal provides information about which students may be eligible under the new, temporary exemptions and where you can get more information.

The new, temporary exemptions do not impact any other student exemptions.

- All current student eligibility exemptions remain in effect.
- **Students must still meet all other SNAP financial and non-financial criteria in order to be eligible for benefits.**
- Student eligibility will be determined under expanded exemption criteria until 30 days after the COVID-19 public health emergency is lifted.
- Students determined eligible under expanded criteria will be reevaluated at next recertification.

Implementation/transition instructions:

Under regular SNAP rules, students enrolled at least half-time in an institution of higher education are not eligible for SNAP **unless** they meet one of the [exemptions \(FSM:Ch2Sect3:StudentStatus-Pg92\)](#).

The [Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021](#), temporarily expands SNAP eligibility to also include students who:

1. Are eligible to participate in state or federally financed work study during the regular school year, as determined by the institution of higher education
or
2. Have an expected family contribution (EFC) of \$0 in the current academic year

As of Jan. 16, 2021, students who meet one of the two criteria outlined above may receive SNAP if they meet all other financial and non-financial SNAP eligibility criteria. The new, temporary exemptions will be in effect until 30 days after the National COVID-19 public health emergency is lifted.

Work Study:

Under regular SNAP rules, only students who actually participate in state or Federally Funded Work Study (FWS) are eligible. However, the new temporary exemption expands SNAP eligibility to students who are eligible to participate in work study during the regular school year without the requirement that they actually participate.

Note: When completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application, the student may have checked a box indicating that they are interested in FWS. Oregon students may not be aware that they are eligible for work study because, even though they are eligible, there is limited money to offer work study positions to all eligible students.

FWS Verification:

- Accept a student's statement that they are eligible for FWS unless questionable
 - If the student does not meet an additional exemption and is unsure if they are eligible for FWS, pend the case for verification
- Possible sources for verification of eligibility for FWS when needed include;
 - The Federal Financial Aid award letter from the institution of higher education

- Contact or verification such as a letter provided by the institution of higher education
 - This may include an email from the institution of higher education to the student

Note: Some institutions of higher education, such as University of Oregon, plan to send emails to all eligible students. If the household has received this type of notice from the institution of higher education, it may be considered acceptable verification of work study eligibility.

Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) of \$0:

Accept a student’s statement they are eligible based on having an EFC of \$0, unless questionable. If a student reports requesting a review of their EFC, and meets no other exemptions, please pend the case for verification of EFC.

***Note:** Students may request a review of their EFC when the student or family has experienced financial hardships or changes in income. This is determined by the institution of higher education’s financial aid department. With the student’s permission, we may also reach out to the school to verify by phone, email or letter with the result of the review and resulting changes to the student’s EFC.*

An EFC of \$0 can be verified with:

- The Financial Aid Award letter
- The Students Aid Report (SAR)
- A statement from or by contacting the institution of higher education

Training/communication plan:

An updated QRG will be released to support student eligibility in ONE/IE.

Local/branch action required: Review transmittal with eligibility staff. If a case was denied on or after 1/16, but was eligible based on these expanded COVID-19 flexibilities, review eligibility and authorize based on the earlier filing date (1/16 or after).

Central office action required: A central office team will be pulling a list of student denials made on or after 1/16 and review for eligibility based on the expanded temporary exemptions.

Field/stakeholder review: Yes No

If yes, reviewed by:

Filing instructions:

If you have any questions about this policy, contact:

Contact(s): SNAP Policy Team	
Phone:	Fax:
Email: SNAP.POLICY@dhsosha.state.or.us	