SNAP Mandatory Employment and Training Program Expanding to Four More Counties

(Salem, OR.) – On January 1, 2018, Oregon is expanding the mandatory Employment and Training program to serve Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients who are categorized as Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) and do not qualify for an exemption from the SNAP time limits to Benton, Lane, Marion and Yamhill counties. This program went into effect on January 1, 2016 in Multnomah and Washington counties and on January 1, 2017 in Clackamas County.

ABAWDs are individuals between the ages of 18-49; they are required to participate satisfactorily in qualifying employment and training activities to maintain SNAP eligibility. Individuals who fail to meet the ABAWD work requirement will be restricted to receiving SNAP benefits for three months within a 36-month period. Individuals that have or meet an exemption will not be subject to the SNAP time limit.

Exempt individuals include pregnant women, individuals working 30 or more hours per week, and individuals mentally or physically unable to work. Qualifying Employment and Training activities consist of:

- Working 20 hours a week (paid or unpaid);
- Education and/or Training activities; or
- Workfare (community service with a public or private nonprofit organization).

The staff of the Oregon Department of Human Services is dedicated to assisting the ABAWD population with finding employment or providing skill building and experience in order to find employment.

SNAP households that may be affected by this policy change were notified in August regarding the change in policy. The notice will encourage households to contact their DHS district branch to comply with the new policy or verify their exemption status to prevent a possible disruption or reduction in benefits.

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