

Food Security

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May 27, 2020
House Human Services Committee



OVERVIEW

Several temporary changes are in place, removing barriers to benefits.

Highlights for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) include:

1. Increasing access to the online application
2. Policy changes
 - Time Limit Suspensions
 - Emergency Allotments
 - Pandemic EBT
3. Unemployment Insurance Considerations

SNAP APPLICATIONS

Moved the online application to a new server to accommodate the increase in online traffic.

Created a new benefits page to help Oregonians learn more about SNAP and other assistance programs.

Made changes to simplify the application process:

- Waived interviews for people with application filing dates on or before June 30, 2020

TIME LIMIT SUSPENSIONS

Prior to the pandemic, the federal rule changed increasing the number of Oregon's able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD) that would be limited to three months of SNAP benefits in a 36-month period.

- An estimated 19,000 Oregonians would have been impacted
- The Families First Coronavirus Act suspended these time limits starting March 26, 2020
- The suspension ends the last day of the month following the month the federal public health emergency ends

EMERGENCY ALLOTMENTS

Emergency allotments increase a households' benefit amount to the maximum allotment for their household size.

Household Size	Max. SNAP Benefit
1	\$194
2	\$355
3	\$509
4	\$646
5	\$768
Each additional person	+\$146

- These emergency allotments have been approved for April, May and June
- The chart provides the maximum allotment amounts for various household sizes

PANDEMIC EBT

PEBT provides additional food benefits for families with students who qualify for the National Free or Reduced School Lunch Program.

Benefits are retroactive to March 16, or the month that the family became eligible for free or reduced-price meals, and ends on June 16, 2020.

P-EBT Amount Per Child	
March	\$69
April	\$126
May	\$120
June	\$69

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (UI) CONSIDERATIONS

UI benefits are countable income when determining SNAP eligibility.

However, Oregonians are still encouraged to apply.

In partnership with the Food Security Task Force, we have developed NeedFood.Oregon.Gov and will be launching a digital campaign.



A poster titled "NEED FOOD?" with a torn paper effect. The text reads: "If you are unemployed you may be able to get short-term food benefits. Apply online and get approved from home." Below this, it says "To find out more go to: NEEDFOOD.OREGON.GOV". On the left side of the poster, there is a vertical list of logos: SUMMER MEALS (with a lemon icon), SNAP (with a grocery bag icon), OREGON FOOD BANK (with a leaf icon), ADRC (Aging and Disability Resource Connection of OREGON), WIC OREGON (with a WIC logo), 211info (with a star icon), and DHS (Oregon Department of Human Services).

Thank you!