

**Docket Item:**

Permanent Rule Chapter 715 Oregon Youth Corps Community Stewardship Corps

**Summary:**

- New Rule                       Temporary  
 Amend Existing Rule         Permanent  
 Repeal Rule

**Prompted by:**

- State law changes  
 Federal law changes  
 Other

The Oregon Youth Corps was created by the Legislature in 1987 and is authorized in ORS 418.650-418.663. HECC allocates Oregon Youth Corps grants to local community partners across the state offering both summer and school-year programming. The primary funding for the program comes from the Amusement Device Tax (ORS 320.005-320.150), a tax on the video lottery terminals in bars and restaurants. This permanent rule affects the support vouchers for the school-year based Community Stewardship Corps (CSC) program.

HECC currently has 22 CSC grant agreements with community partners that were entered into in August 2019 and will expire July 31, 2020. These agreements were executed prior to the passage of HB 2871 (2019) which, in part, changed how the support vouchers can be used effective January 1, 2020.

This permanent rule does three things. First, it codifies conditions OYC had placed on vouchers issued through programs funded by grants finalized prior to the recent law change. Second it establishes more permissive limitations on the use of vouchers issued going forward. Finally, it develops cost control mechanisms if it is determined there are inadequate funds to operate a robust program.

This was presented and approved as a temporary rule at the May 14, 2020, HECC Commission meeting. The cost control mechanisms have been modified since approval.

**Docket Material:**

Text of permanent Rule Changes

**Staff Recommendation:**

Staff recommends the Commission approve the attached permanent rule changes, to take effect up filing with the Secretary of State.

NEW RULE 1  
Community Stewardship Corps Vouchers  
715-100-0005

1) The following definitions apply to terms used in this rule:

- a) Program – Recipient of an Oregon Youth Corps Community Stewardship Corps Grant.
- b) Successful Completion – Completion of a program in a manner that qualifies a participant for a voucher. The criteria for successful completion is defined by each program as required in section 3 of this rule.
- c) Voucher – Award issued to a program participant upon successful completion of such participant’s commitment to a program.

2) In order to be eligible for a voucher, and in addition to meeting criteria for successful completion, a participant must be 16 years of age or older at the time of completion.

3) Programs shall develop a definition for successful completion. Criteria for successful completion may include participant attendance, grades, behavior, or other criteria determined by the program. Definitions must be approved by the agency during the grant application process.

4) Programs shall determine whether a participant has met the criteria for successful completion. Programs shall then record participant eligibility for a voucher by entering participants’ names in the OYC reporting portal with the voucher amount earned according to the calculation in subsection a-c of this section. If a participant has not met the successful completion criteria, the program shall record the reason(s) within the portal.

a) The maximum voucher award is \$1,500 per participant.

b) Voucher value shall accrue at the rate of \$125 per month of student participation in a program.

c) Voucher value shall only accrue during the academic year, and no voucher may accrue greater than 9 months of value during any calendar year.

5) Vouchers may only be used to pay for tuition, books, or other items or services, as determined by the agency that enhance and support education and employment.

6) Vouchers to students participating in programs subject to grant agreements executed and funded prior to January 1, 2020 may only be used at any career school or post-secondary educational institution that is qualified to receive assistance through the Office of Student Access and Completion for payments toward tuition, fee, and book costs.

7) The agency shall issue vouchers on a first-come, first-served basis to eligible participants based on the date a program submits a request for voucher issuance.

8) The Commission may suspend, or authorize programs to suspend, the awarding of vouchers to eligible participants, notwithstanding sections 4 and 7 of this rule, if the Commission determines there are insufficient resources available to operate programs and issue vouchers to students.

9) Upon approval of voucher award amounts, the agency shall notify students of such amounts and process for redemption.

10) Vouchers shall expire five years after the date of issuance.