

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

BEV CLARNO
SECRETARY OF STATE

JEFF MORGAN
INTERIM DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE



ARCHIVES DIVISION

STEPHANIE CLARK
DIRECTOR

800 SUMMER STREET NE
SALEM, OR 97310
503-373-0701

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING
INCLUDING STATEMENT OF NEED & FISCAL IMPACT

CHAPTER 715
HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING COMMISSION

FILED

09/23/2020 2:11 PM
ARCHIVES DIVISION
SECRETARY OF STATE

FILING CAPTION: Oregon Youth Corps Support Voucher

LAST DAY AND TIME TO OFFER COMMENT TO AGENCY: 10/28/2020 5:00 PM

The Agency requests public comment on whether other options should be considered for achieving the rule's substantive goals while reducing negative economic impact of the rule on business.

CONTACT: Karen Lynne Howard 3225 25th St SE
971-273-9222 Salem, OR 87302
karen.lynne.howard@hecc.oregon.gov

Filed By:
Karen Howard
Rules Coordinator

HEARING(S)

Auxiliary aids for persons with disabilities are available upon advance request. Notify the contact listed above.

DATE: 10/19/2020

TIME: 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

OFFICER: Karen Lynne Howard

ADDRESS:

Teleconference

N/A, OR 0

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

This public rules hearing will be conducted by teleconference only. The meeting is open to the public: Please dial 888-363-4735 and enter the access code 5789157 followed by the # sign. As the presiding officer of the hearing, I will ask for each public participant to state their name, address, and affiliation. Please email me at

karen.lynne.howard@hecc.oregon.gov
scanned copies any written materials you would like to submit related to the rules for the meeting and for record. Please also send hardcopy written materials to: Higher Education Coordinating Commission, 3225 25th St SE, Salem, OR 97302.

NEED FOR THE RULE(S):

The rules are required to implement statutory authorities provided to HECC to issue vouchers to individuals for successful completion of certain Oregon Youth Corps programming.

DOCUMENTS RELIED UPON, AND WHERE THEY ARE AVAILABLE:

None

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT:

Each Community Stewardship Corps member that successfully completes the program is eligible to receive up to \$1,500 in support vouchers. The amount of vouchers earned during the 2018-19 school year was over \$129,000.00.

COST OF COMPLIANCE:

(1) Identify any state agencies, units of local government, and members of the public likely to be economically affected by the rule(s). (2) Effect on Small Businesses: (a) Estimate the number and type of small businesses subject to the rule(s); (b) Describe the expected reporting, recordkeeping and administrative activities and cost required to comply with the rule(s); (c) Estimate the cost of professional services, equipment supplies, labor and increased administration required to comply with the rule(s).

There are no compliance costs as entities providing programming under OYC grants currently meet similar standards for the issuance of vouchers. There are no effects on small businesses.

DESCRIBE HOW SMALL BUSINESSES WERE INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE RULE(S):

Small businesses are not impacted and were not consulted.

WAS AN ADMINISTRATIVE RULE ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSULTED? NO IF NOT, WHY NOT?

Oregon Youth Corps has a standing advisory committee

ADOPT: 715-100-0005

RULE SUMMARY: This rule does three things. First, it codifies conditions Oregon Youth Corps had placed on vouchers issued through programs funded by grants finalized prior to a recent law change. Second, it establishes more permissive limitations on the use of vouchers issued moving forward. Finally, it develops a cost control mechanism by providing for vouchers to be paid on a first come first served basis if it is determined there are inadequate funds.

CHANGES TO RULE:

715-100-0005

Community Stewardship Corps Vouchers

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

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

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 418.658

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 418.658