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TEMPORARY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
INCLUDING STATEMENT OF NEED & JUSTIFICATION

HECC 3-2020

CHAPTER 715
HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING COMMISSION

FILED

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ARCHIVES DIVISION
SECRETARY OF STATE
& LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

FILING CAPTION: Oregon Youth Corps Support Voucher

EFFECTIVE DATE: 05/19/2020 THROUGH 11/01/2020

AGENCY APPROVED DATE: 05/14/2020

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Filed By:
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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.

JUSTIFICATION OF TEMPORARY FILING:

ORS 418.658 requires the Commission to have rules governing the distribution of support vouchers under the statute. The next voucher issuance period would occur prior to the adoption of permanent rules without the adoption of temporary rules.

DOCUMENTS RELIED UPON, AND WHERE THEY ARE AVAILABLE:

None

ADOPT: 715-100-0005

RULE TITLE: Community Stewardship Corps Vouchers

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.

RULE TEXT:

(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