

## Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Summary Sheet

**Program Description:** SNAP offers nutrition assistance to eligible, low income individuals and families (participants) and provides economic benefits to communities. It is the largest safety net in the country and its use responds to economic changes.

In Oregon, the SNAP Program is administered by the Department of Human Services (DHS) Self Sufficiency Programs (SSP). The eligibility determination and issuance of benefits are provided through DHS and AAA offices across the state. The benefits are distributed through the state's Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) system, which allows people to access their benefits by using an "Oregon Trail Card". Unused SNAP benefits remain on an EBT card for at least 12 months and can be used at any time within this period of time.

**Benefits of SNAP:** SNAP puts food on the table right away and places limited restrictions on the items to be purchased, allowing participants to follow a culturally appropriate diet. In general, SNAP recipients have a decreased worry about meeting daily food needs, can use this extra income for other living expenses. The short and long term impacts of SNAP on health are well documented, in addition to the positive impact on the local economy. For example, every \$1 of SNAP benefits generates \$1.70 in local economic activity. In 2016, 1 in 6 Oregonians received SNAP, resulting in \$1.1 billion into Oregon's Economy.

**Applications and interviews:** Obtain an application at a local branch (call 211 or visit [www.oregon.gov/DHS/Offices/Pages/index.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/Offices/Pages/index.aspx)) to obtain the closest location. To apply online go to: <https://apps.state.or.us/onlineApplication/> Interviews for benefits can be in person, over the phone, or if necessary during a home visit.

### **SNAP vs SNAP Ed vs SNAP Outreach vs SNAP Employment and Training**

DHS SSP administers many programs, in addition to SNAP. For example, SNAP Ed focuses on preventing obesity and increasing healthy eating habits. SNAP Outreach focuses on teaching local partners how to help their communities apply for benefits. SNAP Employment and Training seeks to provide SNAP recipients with skills to help them improve their likelihood of attaining employment and a path towards self-sufficiency.

### **Other programs administered by SSP (send questions to program specific emails)**

**Temporary assistance to needy Families (TANF)** - [TANF.Policy@dhsosha.state.or.us](mailto:TANF.Policy@dhsosha.state.or.us) TANF provides cash assistance to low-income families with children while they strive to become self-sufficient. The program's goal is to reduce the number of families living in poverty, through employment and community resources.

**Employment Related Day Care (ERDC)** - [childcare.policy@dhsosha.state.or.us](mailto:childcare.policy@dhsosha.state.or.us) ERDC assists low-income working parents. Parents in this program pay a share of the child care cost called the copay. The amount of the copay is based on a sliding fee scale.

**Temporary Assistance for Domestic Violence Survivors (TA-DVS)** - [tadvs.policy@dhsosha.state.or.us](mailto:tadvs.policy@dhsosha.state.or.us) TADVS program was created and is a TANF-funded program intended to provide temporary financial assistance and support to families affected by domestic violence during crisis or emergent situations when other resources are not available. TA-DVS is used to help the domestic violence survivor and the children address their safety concerns and stabilize their living situation, thus reducing the likelihood of the survivor returning to the abuser. The most common use is when the domestic violence survivor flees the abuser.

**Refugee** - [refugee.policy@dhsosha.state.or.us](mailto:refugee.policy@dhsosha.state.or.us) The Refugee Program is designed to serve single adults and childless couples and emancipated minors with cash assistance, medical assistance and employment services, who do not meet the eligibility standards for other programs administered by DHS. Intent of the Program provides for the effective resettlement of refugees and to assist them to achieve economic self-sufficiency as quickly as possible.

