Change Tools

SNAP for College Students

Supporting students as they navigate changes to their SNAP food benefits

For individuals with disabilities or individuals who speak a language other than English, OHA can provide information in alternate formats such as translations, large print, or braille. Contact 503-945-5488 (all relay calls accepted) or feedback@odhsoha.oregon.gov.
Overview: SNAP for College Students

Students 18-49 who attend higher education at least half-time may be eligible for SNAP by meeting income guidelines and additional criteria. The COVID relief bill passed in December 2020 expanded SNAP eligibility for college students, allowing more students to qualify if they met two new, temporary criteria:

- Are eligible for work study—students do not need to have a work study position or award.
- Have an Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) of $0 on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

When the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) ends in May 2023, these temporary criteria will begin phasing out and end completely by July 2023. While most college students will remain eligible for SNAP, students receiving SNAP due to the temporary criteria will need to meet other criteria to keep their SNAP benefits, or their benefits will close the next time they renew.

Starting June 30, 2023, college students renewing SNAP must meet regular criteria to keep their benefits.
Journey Map: I’m eligible for SNAP for College Students

**I’m eligible**

- Receive Notice of Eligibility
- Monthly SNAP amount added to EBT cards between the 1st and the 9th

**I’m not eligible**

- Request hearing (optional)

**Main Menu**

**JOURNEY**

- Get ready
- Update information
- Watch for mail & text

**STAGES**

**Get ready**

- 45 days before benefits will end
- Receive SNAP renewal notice
- Complete Interview
- Send additional info (if required)

**Receive my SNAP renewal notice and complete my interview**

- 45 days before my benefits will end, I receive my SNAP renewal notice in the mail and on my ONE Applicant Portal if I have one. My notice tells me how to re-apply for SNAP benefits and what to expect during my interview.
- Once I’ve submitted my application, Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) will contact me to schedule an interview.
- I receive my Notice of Eligibility in the mail and on my ONE Applicant Portal if I have one.
- I continue to receive my SNAP benefits on my EBT (Oregon Trail) card between the 1st and 9th day of the month.
- I am notified 45 days before my benefits will end (15 days prior to final month) that it is time to re-apply.

**Receive my Notice of Eligibility, review my benefits, and act as needed**

- I can use my SNAP benefits and check my benefit amount to help me budget.
- I can ask for a hearing if I do not agree or think the state made a mistake with my benefits.
- I should report changes in my household (like my income) so the state can best serve me.

**EXPERIENCE**

- I may learn about the end of the temporary criteria for college students in various ways, including:
  - ONE Applicant Portal notices
  - Community Partners
  - Social media

**ACTIONS**

- I can prepare by:
  - Updating my contact and household information.
  - Watching for mail and texts from the state and acting when needed.

- I can get help understanding this notice from the ONE Customer Service Center, my local ODHS office, or a community partner.
- During my interview, I can answer questions to help determine if I still qualify.
- If additional information is needed, I will be sent a pending notice with details on what I need to provide and should respond immediately.
**Journey Map: I’m not eligible for SNAP for College Students**

### JOURNEY
- **Main Menu**
- **I’m eligible**
- **I’m not eligible**

### STAGES
- **Get ready**
- **Receive my SNAP renewal notice and complete my interview**
- **Receive and act on my Notice of Closure**

### EXPERIENCE
- I may learn about the end of the temporary criteria for college students in various ways, including:
  - **ONE Applicant Portal notices**
  - Community Partners
  - Social media

- 45 days before my benefits will end, I receive my SNAP renewal notice in the mail and on my ONE Applicant Portal if I have one. My notice tells me how to re-apply for SNAP benefits and what to expect during my interview.
- Once I’ve submitted my application, Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) will contact me to schedule an interview.
- I receive my Notice of Closure in the mail and on my ONE Applicant Portal if I have one.
- My benefits will end on the date shown in my Notice of Closure or after losing a hearing request.

### ACTIONS
- I can prepare by:
  - Updating my contact and household information.
  - Watching for mail and texts from the state and acting when needed.

- I can get help understanding this notice from the ONE Customer Service Center, my local ODHS office, or a community partner.
- During my interview, I can answer questions to help determine if I still qualify.
- If additional information is needed, I will be sent a pending notice with details on what I need to provide and should respond immediately.

- I can check my SNAP benefit amount to know how much I will lose to help me budget.
- I can know what food supports are in my area.
- I can ask for a hearing if I do not agree or think the state made a mistake with my benefits.
- I should report changes in my household (like my income) so the state can best serve me.
Sample Scenarios and Challenges

Scenario 1: College student renewing SNAP before June 30, 2023

A 22-year-old full-time student has been receiving SNAP benefits during the pandemic because they reported $0 for their Expected Family Contribution (EFC). Their next SNAP renewal is before June 30, 2023, which means they will still qualify to keep their SNAP benefits by meeting this temporary criteria even when the PHE ends on May 11 and until their next renewal.

Anticipating needs
It is important this student understands that they will no longer be eligible for SNAP based on their temporary COVID exemption at the time of their next renewal (after June 30). They may have questions about temporary vs. regular SNAP criteria for college students and what they can expect in the future.

Scenario 2: College student renewing SNAP after June 30, 2023

A 49-year-old part-time student has been receiving SNAP benefits during the pandemic because they are eligible for federal work study. Their next SNAP renewal is after June 30, 2023, which means their SNAP benefits will end at the end of their certification period unless they still qualify by meeting other criteria.

Anticipating needs
Unless this individual learns in advance about changes to SNAP criteria for college students, they will likely be surprised and confused to learn the reasons they formerly qualified for SNAP have ended. They may need help quickly finding other resources to fill the gaps in their food benefits.

CHALLENGES

- Difficulty reaching people with outdated or no address on file
  It will be challenging to reach people who are houseless, move often, and/or do not have an updated address on file. Unless they have other ways of receiving information from the state, they may miss their opportunity to renew and could lose their SNAP.

- Difficulty accessing critical food supports
  People living in food deserts or who need help finding and accessing food banks and similar resources may struggle to fill the gaps in their food benefits if their SNAP benefits end.

- High cost of living and related factors
  Rising prices for food, goods, and services only worsen the challenges people will face if their SNAP benefits end.

- Limited language options in ONE Applicant Portal
  The ONE Applicant Portal is the quickest way someone can update their contact information or respond to RFIs, but it is only available in English and Spanish. People who prefer or need other languages can use a toll-free language line or get help from community partners.
How SNAP Households Can Prepare

1. Check monthly SNAP benefit amounts at ebtEDGE.com or by logging into your ONE account.

2. Update contact information and report any changes in income or # of people in household:
   - **Online**: one.oregon.gov
   - **Call** the ONE Customer Service Center at 1-800-699-9075 (ODHS accepts all relay calls), Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Pacific Time.
   - **Visit a local office**:
     - Find an ODHS Office at https://www.oregon.gov/dhs/Offices/Pages/one-services.aspx
     - **Mail**: ONE Customer Service Center, PO Box 14015, Salem, OR 97309
     - **Fax**: 503-378-5628

3. Access local food resources and support:
   - Find food resources in the community: needfood.oregon.gov or alimentos.oregon.gov
   - Find a local food bank or pantry: foodfinder.oregonfoodbank.org
   - Learn about government programs and community resources for older adults and people with disabilities:
     - Aging and Disability Resource Connection of Oregon at 1-855-673-2372 or www.adrcoforegon.org.
     - Dial 2-1-1, or text your zip code to 898-211, www.211info.org
     - Connect with a local Community Action Agency: www.caporegon.org
What to do if you would like to ask for a hearing and appeal your eligibility determination

You have a right to appeal your eligibility determination

If you disagree with a decision about your benefits, you can ask for a hearing to challenge the decision. If you ask for a hearing, you may also ask for your benefits to continue until there is a decision made. If you want a hearing or continued benefits you must ask for them on time.

How the process works

1. **Review the Hearing Rights Section of your notice**
   - Your notice includes a section with information about your hearing rights. This section includes ways to ask for a hearing and answers common questions about hearings.

2. **Request a hearing immediately**
   - You must request a hearing within a certain amount of time depending on the program (see “Ways to ask for a hearing”). Your notice will tell you your deadline.

3. **Complete hearing**
   - The Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) holds hearings. At the hearing, you can tell OAH why you do not agree with the decision. You can have people testify for you. ODHS will tell OAH why they support the decision and may have people testify. Your notice will tell you how to learn more about your hearing rights and the hearing process.

4. **Receive and act on decision**
   - At the end of your hearing, you will learn the outcome and what you can do in response to OAH’s decision.

Ways to Ask For a Hearing

For food benefits and medical eligibility:

- **Ask a Worker at a ODHS Office**
  - Find locations at: [ONEOfficeLocations](https://go.usa.gov/xz2mx).

- **Call**
  - Call any ODHS office, or ONE Customer Service Center: 1-800-699-9075. All relay calls accepted.

- **Fill Out a Form**
  - Fill out an Administrative Hearing Request Form (MSC 0443) at [https://go.usa.gov/xz2mx](https://go.usa.gov/xz2mx).

For all other benefits:

- **Fill Out a Form**
  - Fill out an Administrative Hearing Request Form (MSC 0443) at [https://go.usa.gov/xz2mx](https://go.usa.gov/xz2mx).