



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

## Department of Human Services

Office of the Director

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March 4, 2015



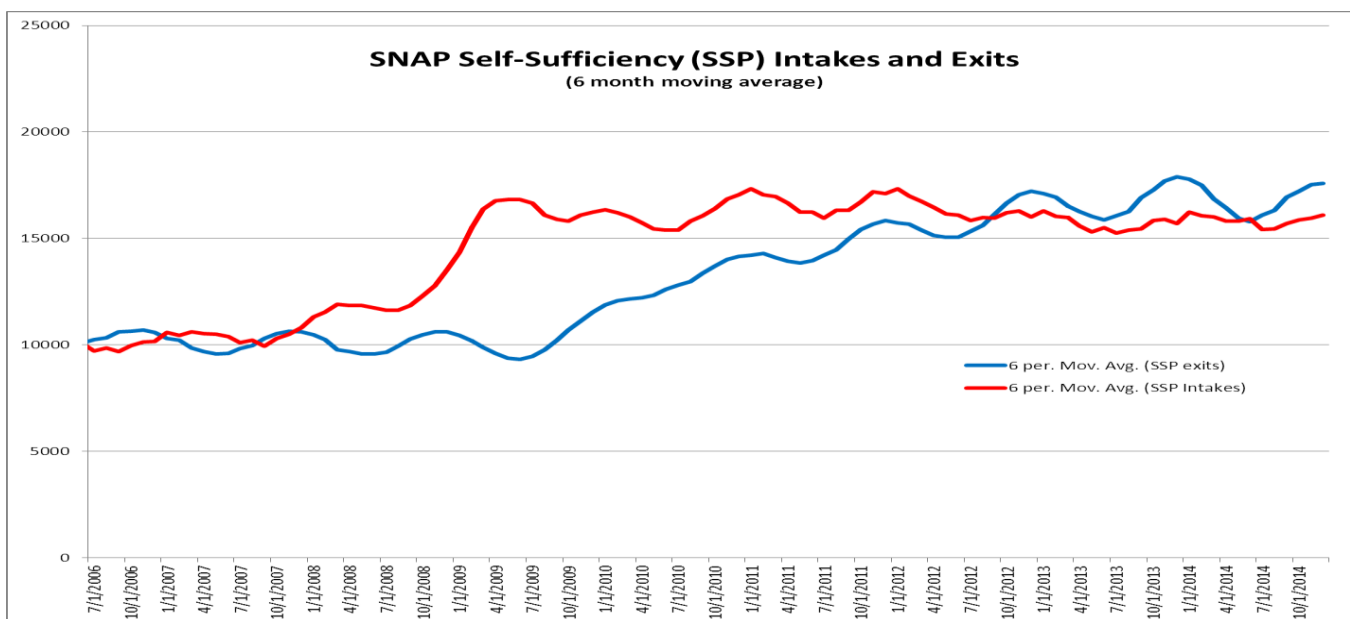
The Honorable Alan Bates, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Nancy Nathanson, Co-Chair  
Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs:

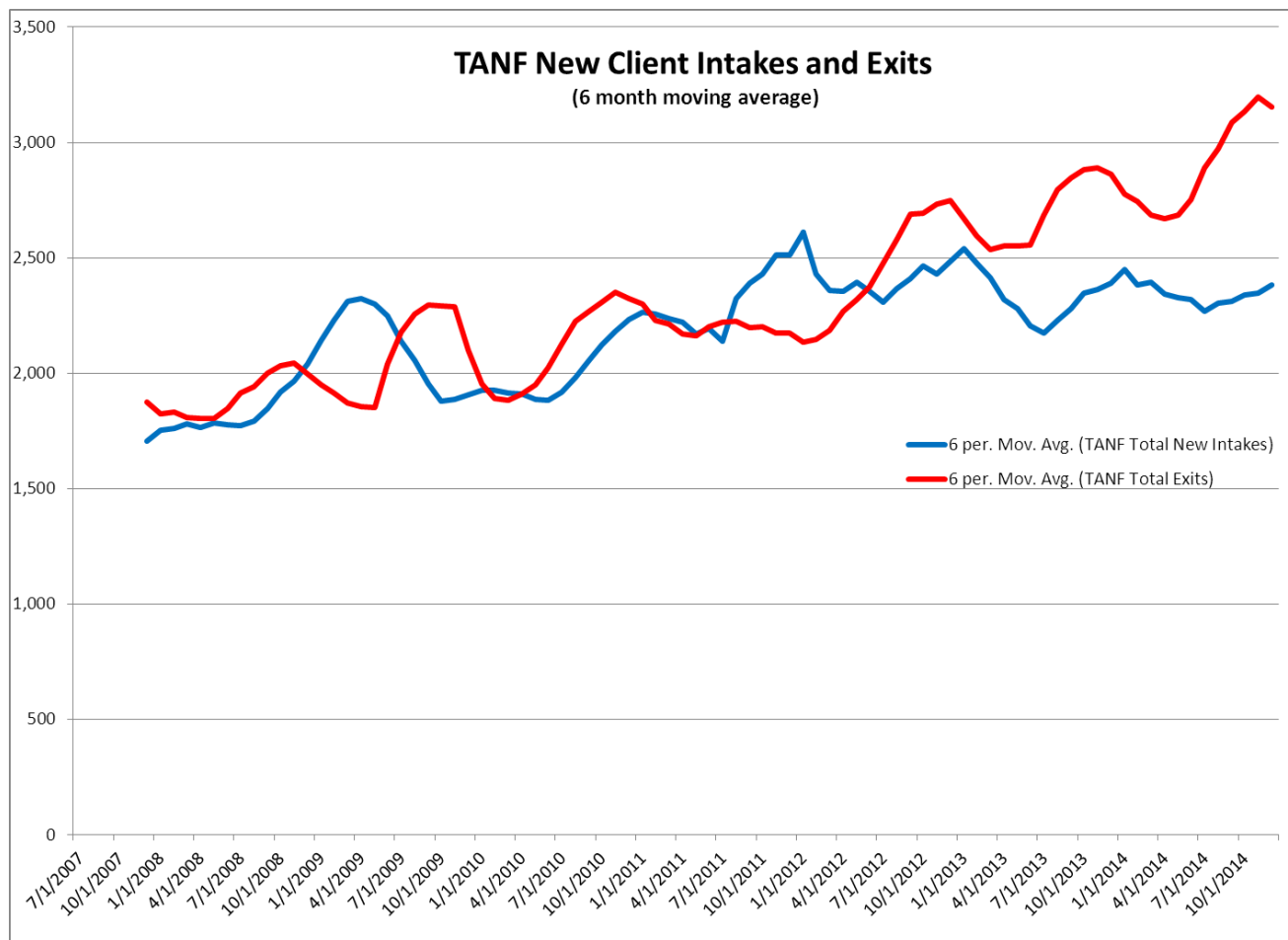
Please accept this letter as our response to the Committee’s questions raised during the DHS Self Sufficiency (SS) presentation on February 25, 2015.

**Question:** Bring us the number of closed cases - what has occurred within this last biennium from open to close? (TANF, SNAP)

**Answer:** See below charts. The data demonstrates that exits to both TANF and SNAP by the middle of 2012 began to overtake new entries and thus lead to the lowering of caseloads.



*“Assisting People to Become Independent, Healthy and Safe”*



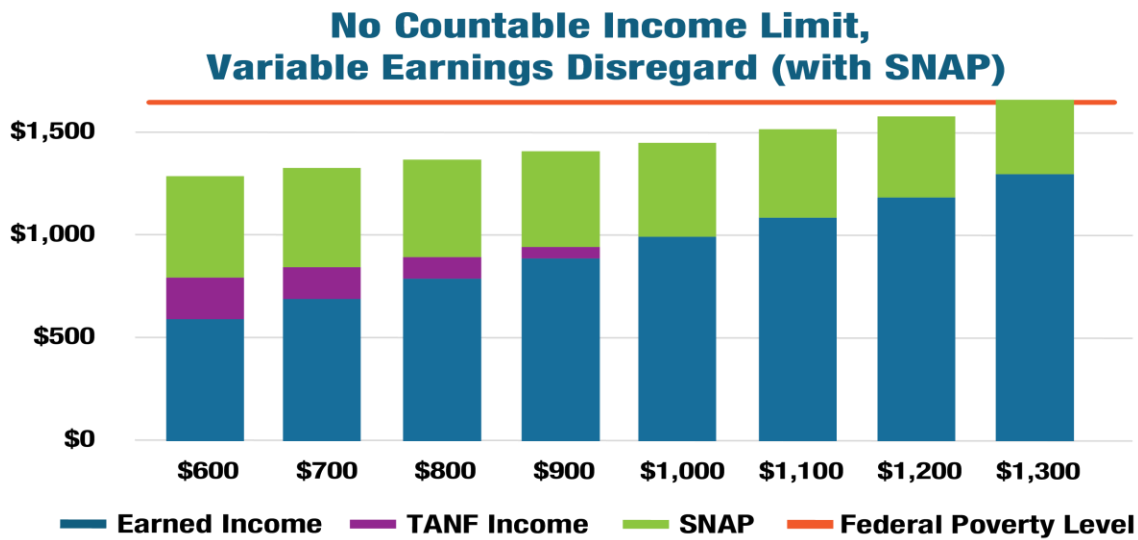
**Question:** Can you take a snapshot of a real family and include it when you talk about the cliff piece and what \$506 buys?

**Answer:** A family of 3 receives a TANF grant in the amount of \$506 this amount is used to cover living expenses. Below is a breakdown of the percentage where average Oregon family’s monthly income goes. The data for this information was pulled from: [http://www.bestplaces.net/cost\\_of\\_living/city/oregon/salem](http://www.bestplaces.net/cost_of_living/city/oregon/salem)

<b>Living Expenses:</b>	<b>Percent of income:</b>	<b>Amount of TANF per Expense:</b>
Housing	30%	\$151.80
Grocery	15%	\$75.90
Transportation	10%	\$50.60
Utilities	6%	\$30.36
Healthcare	7%	\$35.42
Miscellaneous	32%	\$161.92
<b>Total:</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$506.00</b>

Please note the amount set aside for housing in Oregon is 30 percent of a family’s budget and the rent for a 2-bedroom apartment in various locations in Oregon are listed below to provide reference points. If a family does not have housing assistance the 30 percent of their TANF grant would not cover the rent in an urban or rural area let alone meet any other basic living needs.

<b>Portland</b>	<b>\$920</b>	<b>Salem</b>	<b>\$802</b>
<b>Burns</b>	<b>\$637</b>	<b>Medford</b>	<b>\$820</b>
<b>Eugene</b>	<b>\$843</b>	<b>Astoria</b>	<b>\$767</b>



**Question:** It would be great to see how ERDC fits into this slide for the minority # of families on ERDC under the HB2015.

**Answer:**

Family Scenario: This graph represents a single parent with two children ages 10 months and 4 years. The children are attending a certified family provider in Eugene (rate area A). Rent is \$825.00 and the parent is paying heating separate from rent. At minimum wage, the number of hours this parent works in order to earn \$1000 a month and travel to and from work will be enough for this licensed provider to receive the full-time monthly DHS rate \$1685 for both children.

The Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) copay is applied to SNAP benefits as an income deduction for child care costs.

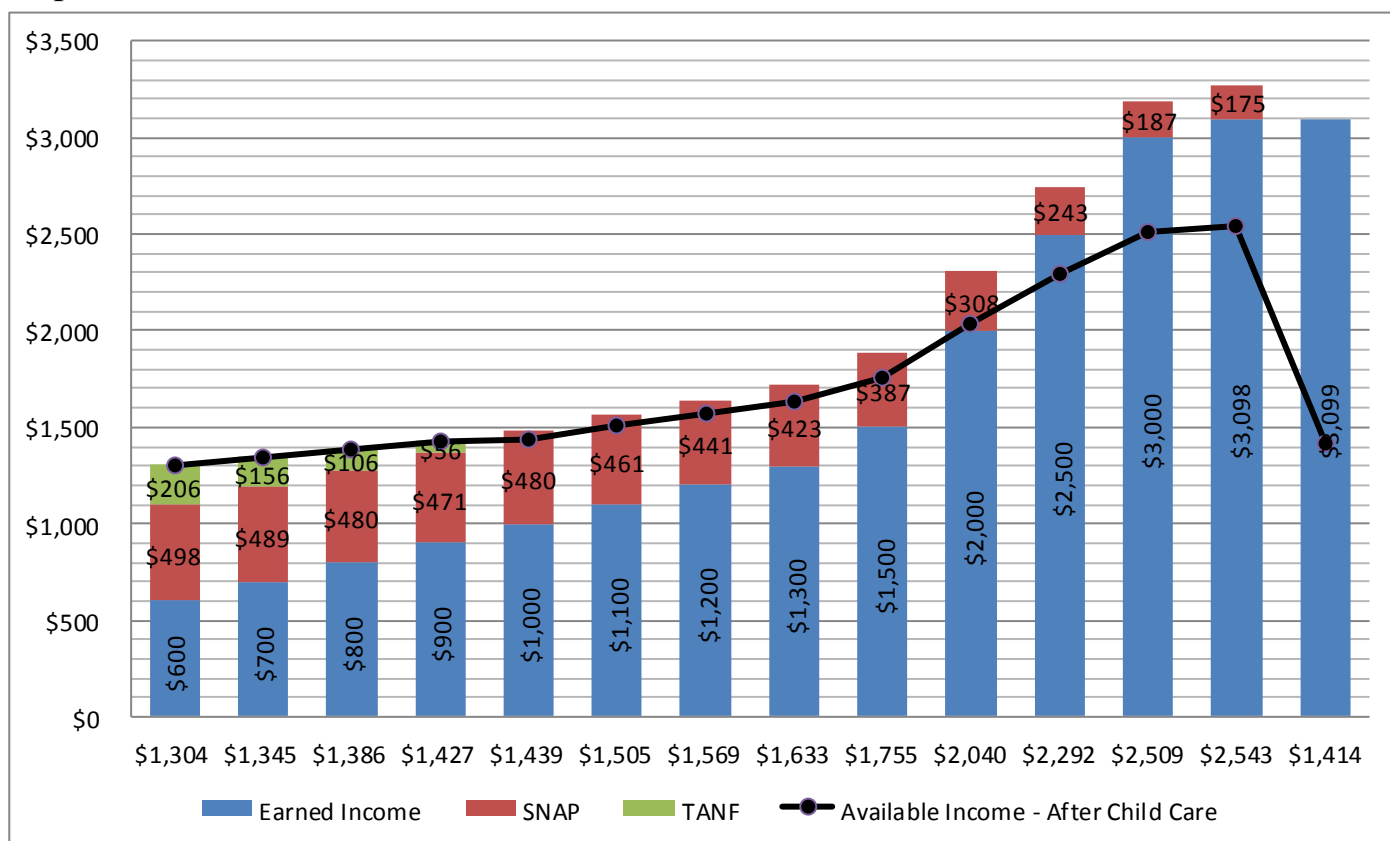
The black line on the graphs below show the total income and benefits minus the family’s out-of-pocket child care cost. Families receiving TANF benefits do not have a

copay. Once employed the family’s copay steadily increases as their wages increase.

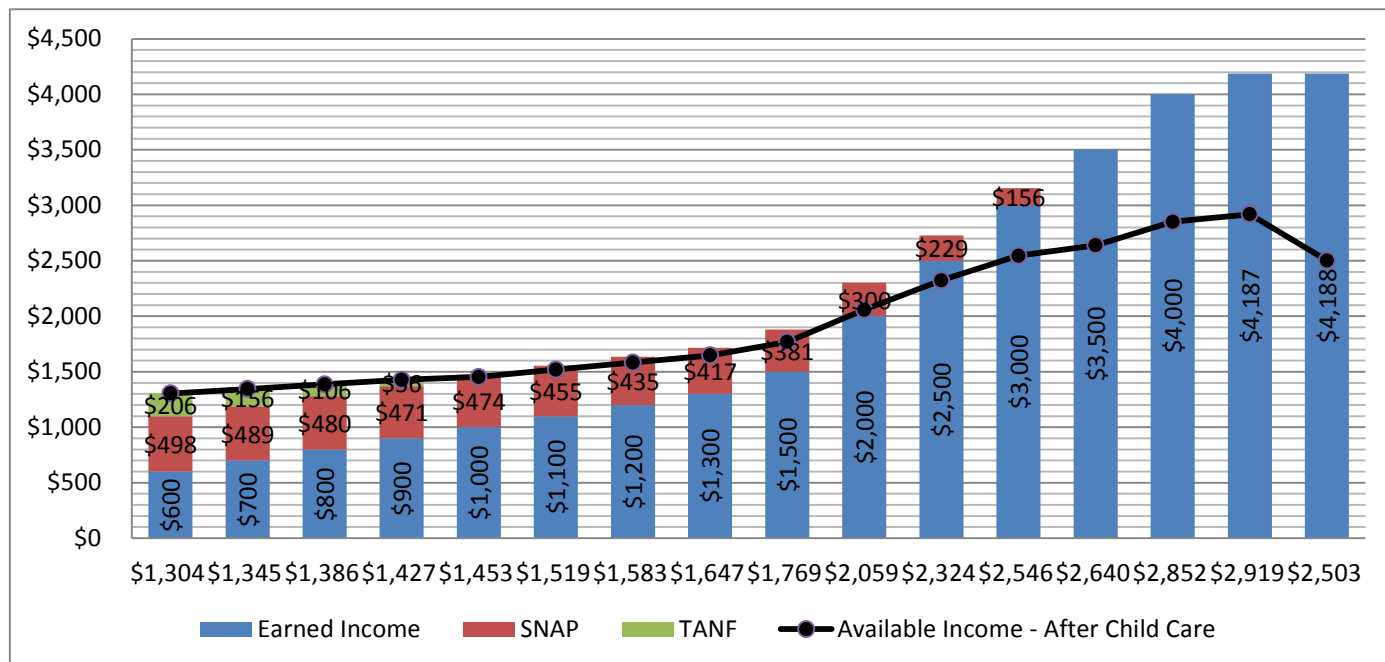
Graph 1 shows current policies. Once the family goes over the income limit, they are faced with the “cliff effect” and paying the full cost of child care. The example below shows a \$1 increase in earned income results in a \$954 net loss in available income to the family.

Graph 2 shows a reduction in the “cliff effect” based on policy improvements outlined in HB2015. Specific changes include raising the exit income limit from 185 percent to 250 percent of the Federal Poverty Level and the parent receiving a copay incentive for using a high quality child care provider. The benefit cliff in the graph 2 has been reduced from \$954 to \$416.

Graph 1:



Graph 2



**Question:** Provide us with ethnic breakdown of child poverty data. Provide information on single parents. Include the number of abuse/neglect cases in Oregon. DHS will provide the links to Children’s Trust Fund.

**Answer:** The attached tables provide (1) 2013 Poverty by Race/Ethnicity and Age Groups and (2) information on single householders.

	WHITE ALONE HOUSEHOLDER	BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN ALONE HOUSEHOLDER	AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE ALONE	ASIAN ALONE HOUSEHOLDER	NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER HOUSEHOLDER	SOME OTHER RACE ALONE HOUSEHOLDER	TWO OR MORE RACES HOUSEHOLDER	HISPANIC HOUSEHOLDER
Total Households	789,894	13,406	10,388	33,614	3,192	24,701	24,320	63,656
Total Single Parent (Male of Female Householder)								
Income in the past 12 months below poverty level:	42,024	3,263	1,687	1,525	460	4,051	3,419	7,908
With related Children Under 18	33,558	2,873	1,559	1,158	460	3,536	3,051	7,108
Income in the past 12 months above poverty level:	128,670	4,387	2,345	5,321	543	5,293	4,179	14,904
With related Children Under 18	70,315	2,779	1,820	3,065	359	3,210	2,529	9,193

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013 American Community Survey

Below a link to the child abuse/neglect assessments by County:

<http://www.oregon.gov/dhs/abuse/pages/publications/children/index.aspx>

Below is the link to the Children’s Trust fund:

<http://ctfo.org/child-abuse-prevention-in-oregon/strengthening-oregon-families-report/>

**Question:** What is the percentage of children presently in Oregon that are in poverty? Also would like some information on the relationship between the recession and people who came in for services that we hadn't seen before - what's happened with them? (middle-class waged families, 2-parent families who experienced crisis).

**Answer:** According to the latest ACS (American Community Survey) data, the percent of children under age 18 living in poverty in Oregon is 18.3 percent. The department does not have the information readily available regarding the current status of families who had not received services from DHS prior to the recession. The department is currently analyzing available information to address this question. We will follow-up with this in the next few weeks.

Oregon Estimate: Poverty by Race/Ethnicity and Age Groups

	Total	Below Poverty Level	Under Age 18
White	3,312,664	512,036	136,505
% of Total		15.5%	4.1%
Black/African American	68,540	20,993	7,143
% of Total		30.6%	10.4%
American Indian/Alaska Native	41,802	13,044	4,066
% of Total		31.2%	9.7%
Asian	148,364	26,091	5,051
% of Total		17.6%	3.4%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	14,509	4,949	2,020
% of Total		34.1%	13.9%
Some Other Race	109,515	32,165	14,235
% of Total		29.4%	13.0%
Two or More Races	158,588	33,604	13,276
% of Total		21.2%	8.4%
Hispanic of any Race	163,283	51,047	6,718
% of Total		31.3%	4.1%

From Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2013 One-Year Estimates

**Question:** Do you have a projection on what the caseload increase would be if the FPL goes up to 66 percent?

**Answer:** The department is working on that estimate and will provide a formal fiscal impact statement for HB 2029.

**Question:** Do you have any information on how the program is being done by Catholic Charities around neighborhood crisis intervention? Are you tracking this and how successful the program is?

**Answer:** DHS does not have this information and is still researching to find out more. If there is more information it will be provided at a later time.

**Question:** What is the percentage of children presently in Oregon that are in poverty? Also would like some information on the relationship between the recession and people who came in for services that we hadn't seen before - what's happened with them? (middle-class waged families, 2-parent families who experienced crisis).

**Answer:** This question will take a few weeks of data analysis to answer. Please let us know if you would like this analysis done.

**Question:** Can you talk about the federal requirements/control on the SNAP program and benefits? DHS will provide a 1-2 pager related to what you can and cannot purchase with SNAP.

**Answer:** See attachment 1

**Question:** Provide a chart of the poverty level information for programs.

**Answer:** See attachment 2

We hope this letter addressed the identified questions adequately. If you have additional questions, please don't hesitate to contact Kim Fredlund at 503-945-6071 or email [Kim.FREDLUND@dhsosha.state.or.us](mailto:Kim.FREDLUND@dhsosha.state.or.us)

Sincerely,



Eric Luther Moore  
Chief Financial Officer

Attachments










The Honorable Alan Bates, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Nancy Nathanson, Co-Chair  
March 4, 2015  
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cc: Laurie Byerly



# Oregon Trail Cards

The majority of Oregon Trail Cards are used to access benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. Oregon Trail Cards also are known as Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards.

	SNAP	TANF
PURPOSE	 <p>Food benefits</p>	 <p>Cash benefits</p>
USE	 <p>Can be used only to purchase cold food items approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).</p>	 <p>Used at client's discretion to pay for basic needs such as rent, utilities, clothes for children, medicine. TANF is regulated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.</p>
RESTRICTIONS	 <p>Can't be used to buy hot foods or non-food items such as alcohol, cigarettes, household items, pet food or medicine.</p>	 <p>Can't be used in EBT transactions in liquor stores, casinos and gambling establishments, and venues where people disrobe or perform unclothed for entertainment.</p>
ACCESS	 <p>At merchants approved by the USDA to accept EBT cards. Merchants must have capacity to automatically distinguish which products are allowable for purchase.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At merchants that opt to accept EBT cash. After the first two cash withdrawals without a purchase, the benefits account is charged an 85-cent fee for every withdrawal without a purchase.</li> <li><b>At ATMs:</b> The benefits account is charged 85 cents for each withdrawal from an ATM. Some ATMs may charge other fees as well.</li> </ul>
OVERSIGHT	 <p><b>Clients:</b> The Oregon Department of Human Services is responsible for investigating misuse by clients. Violators face a range of consequences including repayment of benefits and temporary or permanent disqualification from the program. DHS investigators work closely with local and federal law enforcement when cases call for criminal prosecution.</p>	 <p><b>Merchants:</b> The USDA is responsible for investigating misuse among merchants.</p>

# Combined Standards



## One or more adult standards for TANF subsidy level/Post-TANF

Persons in need group	TANF/ REF payment standard	TANF/REF adjusted income limit	TANF/REF countable income limit
1	\$339	\$326	\$345
2	\$432	\$416	\$499
3	\$506	\$485	\$616
4	\$621	\$595	\$795
5	\$721	\$695	\$932
6	\$833	\$796	\$1,060
7	\$923	\$886	\$1,206
8	\$1,030	\$976	\$1,346
9	\$1,093	\$1,039	\$1,450
10	\$1,204	\$1,150	\$1,622
+1	+\$110	+\$110	+\$172

**TANF payment** — This is the REF/TANF payment standard.

**Adjusted income** — Countable income minus deductions.

**Countable income limit** — Countable income after allowable exclusions.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) standards					
Persons in filing group	Categorical eligibility limit (185%)	Persons in need group	Countable income limit 130% FPL	Adjusted income limit 100% FPL	SNAP payment standard ( <i>Thrifty Food Plan</i> )
1	\$1,815	1	\$1,265	\$973	\$194
2	\$2,457	2	\$1,705	\$1,311	\$357
3	\$3,099	3	\$2,144	\$1,650	\$511
4	\$3,739	4	\$2,584	\$1,988	\$649
5	\$4,381	5	\$3,024	\$2,326	\$771
6	\$5,023	6	\$3,464	\$2,665	\$925
7	\$5,663	7	\$3,904	\$3,003	\$1,022
8	\$6,305	8	\$4,344	\$3,341	\$1,169
+1	+\$642	+1	+\$440	+\$339	+\$146

SNAP utility standards - <i>Maximum shelter deduction \$490</i>			
Full utility allowance (FUA) = \$446	Limited utility allowance (LUA) = \$328		
Telephone utility allowance (TUA) = \$57	Individual utility allowance (IUA) = \$55		

## Non-needy caretaker relative countable income limit standard (185% FPL)

Number in filing group	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	+1
NNCR countable income group	\$2,457	\$3,099	\$3,739	\$4,381	\$5,023	\$5,663	\$6,305	\$6,947	\$7,589	\$ 642

**TANF no-adult standards**

Number in household	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Number in benefit group	
TANF payment	\$228	\$180	\$167	\$156	\$150	\$143	\$140	\$133	\$132	1	
TANF adjusted income limit	\$220	\$173	\$160	\$151	\$144	\$138	\$134	\$127	\$127		
TANF countable income limit	\$249	\$205	\$198	\$186	\$176	\$172	\$168	\$161	\$162		
TANF payment	\$348	\$322	\$300	\$288	\$274	\$268	\$268	\$254	\$252		2
TANF adjusted income limit	\$334	\$308	\$290	\$276	\$264	\$256	\$256	\$242	\$242		
TANF countable income limit	\$410	\$396	\$372	\$352	\$344	\$336	\$336	\$322	\$324		
TANF payment	\$477	\$444	\$426	\$405	\$396	\$396	\$396	\$375	\$372		3
TANF adjusted income limit	\$456	\$429	\$408	\$390	\$378	\$378	\$378	\$357	\$357		
TANF countable income limit	\$594	\$558	\$528	\$516	\$504	\$504	\$504	\$483	\$486		
TANF payment	\$588	\$564	\$536	\$524	\$496	\$496	\$496	\$496	\$492	4	
TANF adjusted income limit	\$568	\$540	\$516	\$500	\$472	\$472	\$472	\$472	\$472		
TANF countable income limit	\$744	\$704	\$688	\$672	\$644	\$644	\$644	\$644	\$648		
TANF payment	\$702	\$667	\$652	\$617	\$612	\$612	\$612	\$612	\$612	5	
TANF adjusted income limit	\$672	\$642	\$622	\$587	\$587	\$587	\$587	\$587	\$587		
TANF countable income limit	\$880	\$860	\$840	\$805	\$810	\$810	\$810	\$810	\$810		
TANF payment	\$798	\$780	\$738	\$732	\$732	\$732	\$732	\$732	\$732	6	
TANF adjusted income limit	\$768	\$744	\$702	\$702	\$702	\$702	\$702	\$702	\$702		
TANF countable income limit	\$1,032	\$1,008	\$966	\$972	\$972	\$972	\$972	\$972	\$972		
TANF payment	\$908	\$859	\$852	\$852	\$852	\$852	\$852	\$852	\$852	7	
TANF adjusted income limit	\$866	\$817	\$817	\$817	\$817	\$817	\$817	\$817	\$817		
TANF countable income limit	\$1,176	\$1,127	\$1,134	\$1,134	\$1,134	\$1,134	\$1,134	\$1,134	\$1,134		
TANF payment	\$980	\$972	\$972	\$972	\$972	\$972	\$972	\$972	\$972	8	
TANF adjusted income limit	\$932	\$932	\$932	\$932	\$932	\$932	\$932	\$932	\$932		
TANF countable income limit	\$1,288	\$1,296	\$1,296	\$1,296	\$1,296	\$1,296	\$1,296	\$1,296	\$1,296		
TANF payment	\$1,092	\$1,092	\$1,092	\$1,092	\$1,092	\$1,092	\$1,092	\$1,092	\$1,092	9	
TANF adjusted income limit	\$1,047	\$1,047	\$1,047	\$1,047	\$1,047	\$1,047	\$1,047	\$1,047	\$1,047		
TANF countable income limit	\$1,458	\$1,458	\$1,458	\$1,458	\$1,458	\$1,458	\$1,458	\$1,458	\$1,458		

SFPSS Program - Grant Structure Adults in filing group applying for SSI						
One adult			No. in need group	Two or more adults		
Adult payment	Family payment	Total payment		Adult payment	Family payment	Total payment
\$125	\$214	\$339	1	\$0	\$0	\$0
\$125	\$307	\$432	2	\$148	\$284	\$432
\$125	\$381	\$506	3	\$230	\$276	\$506
\$125	\$496	\$621	4	\$200	\$421	\$621
\$125	\$596	\$721	5	\$224	\$497	\$721
\$125	\$708	\$833	6	\$180	\$653	\$833
\$122	\$801	\$923	7	\$214	\$709	\$923
\$113	\$917	\$1,030	8	\$126	\$904	\$1,030
\$112	\$981	\$1,093	9	\$222	\$871	\$1,093
\$112	\$1,092	\$1,204	10	\$220	\$984	\$1,204
\$112	+\$110	+\$110	+1	\$220	+\$110	+\$110

**Note:** The adult payment amount will be recovered by DHS when SSI is approved.

ERDC income limit (185% of 2015 FPL)	
Number in ERDC group	Gross income limit (185% of 2015 FPL)
2	\$2,457
3	\$3,099
4	\$3,739
5	\$4,381
6	\$5,023
7	\$5,663
8 or more	\$6,305