

## Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

■ Preventing hunger ■ Improving health ■ Providing nutrition education ■ Boosting local economies

SNAP, formerly known as Food Stamps, is a national program that helps bridge the gap for people who are unemployed or earn too little to meet their basic nutrition needs. SNAP benefits are provided monthly to participants via an electronic debit card called the Oregon Trail Card. SNAP benefits can only be used to purchase food from authorized food retailers. SNAP benefits cannot be used to buy non-food items such as alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, medicine, pet food or household products. The food benefits issued to clients are 100% federally funded. The U.S. Department of Agriculture authorizes and monitors retailers that accept SNAP benefits.

### SNAP services

#### Food benefits

**Employment and training program** to help participants quickly enter the workforce

**Outreach** through local community organizations to improve participation

**Nutrition education** in every county through classes, demonstrations and informational materials

**Economic stimulus: Every \$5 spent in food benefits generates up to \$9 in local economic activity.**

Benefits	
<b>\$123</b>	Average monthly benefit per person
<b>\$221</b>	Average monthly benefit per household

Eligibility	
Applicants must earn less than 185 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and meet other income and eligibility requirements. These are updated every year on February 1.	
<b>\$1,815</b>	Income limit at 185% of FPL for an individual
<b>\$3,099</b>	Income limit at 185% of FPL for family of four
<i>75% of all SNAP households have some form of income. The amount of benefits a participant receives is determined on a sliding scale based on household income and size.</i>	

### Fast Facts About SNAP

- ▶ 1 in 5 Oregonians participate in SNAP
- ▶ The SNAP caseload is 63% higher than it was before the recession
- ▶ Nearly 36% of participants are children
- ▶ 45% of households include a child or elderly person
- ▶ More than 50% of participants are between the ages of 18 and 59
- ▶ Seniors are the fastest growing category of participants
- ▶ Nutrition education efforts touched 387,800 people in 2014
- ▶ 21,600 participated in the employment and training program in 2014

### Performance Awards

Oregon has received national recognition seven years in a row for effective administration of SNAP. Oregon has been a national leader for the timeliness of application processing, participation and accuracy. The performance awards, from the USDA, come with cash bonuses that have been used to off-set budget cuts to preserve important state programs.