

# **Self-Sufficiency Programs**

Self-Sufficiency Programs (SSP) is working toward a future where its services and resources are centered around whole-person well-being. To do this, SSP collaborates across multiple systems to create and coordinate services while letting community lead the way.

This approach acknowledges the complexity of needs that must be met if people and families are to thrive in our economic and social climate – including stable housing, affordable childcare, and adequate cash and food resources.

Without these basic supports, individuals and families cannot be expected to exit poverty.



# Food security: Why it matters

\$342

Approx. monthly cost of food per person (U.S.)

\$162

Average monthly SNAP benefit per person

\$11.04

Average daily cost of food per person (U.S.)

\$5.32

Average daily SNAP benefit per person

- Costs for farmers and growers continue to rise as climate, global events and production factors impact the food system.
- The price of imported goods is increasing significantly, making culturally appropriate foods more expensive and difficult to acquire.
- Continued increases in fuel, energy, medical and housing costs contribute to fewer available food dollars for individuals and families.

# **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program**

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP):

- Supplements the **monthly food budget** of people who are unemployed or underemployed.
- Increases access to culturally appropriate foods.
- Improves the health and diet of older adults experiencing low income.
- Builds recipient education and skills, supporting the pursuit of work that moves them towards stability and whole well-being.
- Provides nutrition assistance during times of disaster and emergency.

#### **SNAP Services**

- Food benefits
- Employment and training to help participants create a career pathway
- Outreach through local community organizations to improve participation
- Nutrition education in every county through classes, demonstrations

1 in 6 Oregonians receive SNAP benefits

# **SNAP Funding**

- SNAP benefits are federally funded by the United States
  Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition
  Services (FNS).
- Administrative costs are split evenly between federal funds and Oregon general funds.
- SNAP recipients received \$1.85 billion in 2021, including temporary pandemic relief.
- SNAP Employment and Training receives:
  - \$2,352,366.00 (100% Federal Funds)
  - \$28,772,186.56 (50% Federal Funds Reimbursement)
  - \$27,984,141.56 (STEP Provider Funds sourced locally)
  - \$788,045.00 (General Funds)

#### **Benefits**

100% Federal

0% State

## **Administrative Costs**

50% Federal

50% State

# **SNAP** in Oregon

Eligibility	
Applicants must earn less than 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and meet other income and eligibility requirements.	
\$2,265	Income limit at 200% for an individual
\$4,625	Income limit at 200% for a family of four

## **SNAP Use**



- Beer, wine, liquor, cigarettes, or tobacco
- Vitamins, medicines and supplements
- Live animals
- Hot or prepared foods
- Non-food items like pet food, cleaning supplies or hygiene items



- Fruits and vegetables
- Meat, poultry, fish and shellfish
- Dairy products
- Breads and cereals
- Other foods such as snack foods and non-alcoholic beverages
- Seeds and plants, which produce food



#### In person shopping

At most Oregon stores that sell food and farmers markets



### Online ordering

Pickup from stores with an online option

Delivery through Amazon and Walmart

# **SNAP:** Federal definition of higher education

For SNAP purposes, individuals are considered students when enrolled at least half time at an institution of higher education that falls into one of the following criteria:

- A regular curriculum at a college or university degree program; or
- A business, technical, trade, or vocational school that normally requires a high school diploma or equivalent (GED).

3 percent of undergrad students nationwide receive SNAP



# **SNAP** eligibility for college students

In addition to meeting general SNAP requirements, a student must also meet one of the criteria's below:

- Are under age 18 or are age 50 or older.
- Have a physical or mental disability.
- Work at least 20 hours a week in paid employment.
- Participate in a state or federally financed work study program.
- Participate in an on-the-job training program.
- Care for a child under the age of 6.
- Care for a child aged 6 to 11 and lack the necessary childcare enabling you to attend school and work 20 hours a week or participate in work study.
- Are a single parent enrolled full-time in college and taking care of a child under 12.
- Receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) assistance.

- Are enrolled in a TANF Job Opportunities and Basic Skills (JOBS) program.
- Are assigned to, placed in, or self-placed in a college or other institution of higher education through:
  - A SNAP Employment and Training (STEP) program
  - Certain other E&T programs for low-income households, which are operated by a state or local government and have an equivalent component to SNAP E&T
  - A program under Title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (WIOA)
  - A Trade Adjustment Assistance Program under Section 236 of the Trade Act of 1974.

## Food security on campus

- Oregon has become a high-tuition, low-aid, low-campus funded state with tuition significantly higher than other Western States.
- Students in higher education are three to four times more likely to experience food insecurity than the general population
- Nearly half of students may be housing insecure, with one in six reporting homelessness



**40%** tuition increase at four-year public universities



**3 out of 4** students receiving bachelor degrees take out student loans



44% of Oregon students have unmet financial needs



1 in 4 OSU students face food insecurity

## **Barriers to student access**

- Federal regulations add additional criteria that a student must meet in order to be eligible to receive SNAP benefits.
- Students who purchase **meal plans** which pay for more than 51 percent of their meals per week are not eligible for SNAP.
- Students under the age of 22 who are **living with a parent or guardian** must apply with their parents.
- Financial aid received through the Veterans Administration or private scholarships count as income.
- Students must continue to meet their SNAP eligibility criteria when on **break from school** (For example, if a student qualifies by working 20 hours a week, they would need to continue working over summer break).



## What works

- Coordinated enrollment events on campus including ODHS eligibility staff
- Supporting partners in targeted outreach and application assistance on campus
- ODHS serves as a member on the Community College Consortium
- Benefit navigators on college campuses
- Employment and training opportunities through SNAP E&T in approximately 95 sites across Oregon, including all 17 Community Colleges and Portland State University