

I. Summary of State Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Employment and Training Program

A. Abstract of the State E&T Program

1. Program Changes

There had been no significant changes in the E&T Program since the beginning of FFY 08, but Oregon DHS is instituting one for FFY12: volunteers will no longer be allowed to participate in the program. This decision was made primarily due to two factors:

- The unrelenting caseload growth strains our financial ability to serve mandatory participants; and
- Severe 7/1/ 2011 cutbacks in the state's TANF employment program (JOBS), which could have resulted in unsustainable loading into the SNAP E&T Program.

Local Contractor Employment Specialists (CES) in each District continue to help mandatory clients with job search and assistance to improve their employability. CES place clients in appropriate work components; CES also monitor compliance with the assigned work component, and refer the mandatory clients to the Department of Human Services (DHS) eligibility worker (EW) for disqualification if the client has not shown cooperation with the work requirement.

The role of a DHS EW is limited to determining the mandatory or exempt status of a SNAP recipient and applying disqualification when the client has gone through conciliation and failed to show good cause for noncooperation.

All transportation and other support service payments are determined and issued by the DHS-designated CES.

2. Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) Population

In June of 2011, there were 419,803 Oregon households comprising 778,951 individuals participating in SNAP. There were 136,445 recipients between the age of 18 and 49 without dependents. Of these 17,939 were participating in a given work component each month.

The projected number of ABAWDs for FFY 2012 is 247,144. Of these, approximately 43% (106,272) will be exempt from participating in work requirements. With the waiver approval in February 08, the entire State of Oregon is considered labor surplus. Because of this and the ARRA action, the 3-month time limit for ABAWDs in Oregon is waived through September 2012. Oregon will continue to offer mandatory ABAWDs the same kind of work components offered to all mandatory non-ABAWD clients.

For FFY 2012, Oregon's anticipated number of ABAWDs is 20,577 each month. Of these:

- 16,671 will probably prefer to conduct their own job search or will refuse to participate in the E&T program
- 2,734 ABAWDs will attend job search activities offered by CES
- 782 ABAWDs are expected to be placed in contracted job search training and support