

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
OHIO DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES

DATE: May 18, 2017
TIME: 10:00 AM
LOCATION: Room 3110B

Pursuant to section 5101.54 and Chapter 119. of the Ohio Revised Code, the Director of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services gives notice of the department's intent to amend, rescind and adopt the rules as identified below and of a public hearing thereon due to five year review.

Rule 5101:4-2-07, entitled Food assistance: Initial application process. The rule describes the process for conducting the initial eligibility interview in the supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP). OFA proposes to amend this rule. Changes to the rule include:

- Clarified the rights and responsibilities that must be explained during the eligibility interview.
- Clarified that the county agency must determine if each member of the household is required to register for work.
- Added language to paragraph (A)(2) regarding the call-in method for interviews.
- The term "employment and training" was replaced with "SNAP E&T."
- Other non-substantive changes for clarity.

Rule 5101:4-3-09, entitled Food assistance: Ohio works first assistance groups. The rule describes the actions a county agency must take on SNAP benefits when a member of an assistance group in which all members are receiving Ohio works first (OWF) is sanctioned or disqualified from the OWF program for failing a requirement in the OWF program. OFA proposes to amend this rule. Changes to the rule include:

- The term "food assistance" was replaced with "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)."
- Other non-substantive changes for clarity.

Rule 5101:4-3-11, entitled Food assistance: Work registration and exemptions. The rule describes the process for determining which SNAP recipients are subject to work registration requirements. OFA proposes to amend this rule. Changes to the rule include:

- Clarified the requirements of an individual required to register for work.
- Revised the process for determining an individual to be physically or mentally unfit for employment to align with the process for able-bodied adults without dependents.
- Clarified that the county agency must ensure that work registrants received verbal notification of their rights and responsibilities at the eligibility interview.
- Added the requirement that each mandatory work registrant be provided with information about services available through the OhioMeansJobs website (OhioMeansJobs.com) and/or the closest OhioMeansJobs center.

- The term "food assistance" was replaced with "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)."
- Other non-substantive changes for clarity.

Rule 5101:4-3-11.1, entitled Food assistance: Employment and training requirements. The rule describes the work registration requirements of a work registered individual and the consequences for failing to meet the requirements. OFA proposes to amend this rule. Changes to the rule include:

- The title of the rule has been revised.
- Modified who is subject to the SNAP E&T requirements described in rule 5101:4-3-29.
- The term "food assistance" was replaced with "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)"; and the term "employment and training" was replaced with "SNAP E&T."
- Other non-substantive changes for clarity.

Rule 5101:4-3-11.2, entitled Food assistance: Employment and training program sanctions and compliance. The rule describes the consequences of a work registered individual failing to meet the requirements of work registration. OFA proposes to amend this rule. Changes to the rule include:

- The title of the rule has been revised.
- Clarified that sanctions apply to all work registration requirements, which is not limited to (but includes) SNAP E&T requirements.
- Clarified that the penalty for voluntarily quitting a job or reducing work hours is described in rule 5101:4-3-19.
- Revised paragraph (D) to align with the requirements found in 7 CFR 273.7(f)(7) which holds that the failure to comply with an unemployment or Ohio Works First requirement is equivalent to failing a SNAP work registration requirement. No determination by the county agency is required; and removed paragraph (D)(4) as it is redundant to paragraph (D)(3).
- The term "food assistance" was replaced with "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)".
- Other non-substantive changes for clarity.

Rule 5101:4-3-19, entitled Food assistance: voluntary quit and reduction of work effort. The rule describes the penalty for work registered individuals who voluntarily quit employment or reduce work hours. OFA proposes to amend this rule. Changes to the rule include:

- The term "food assistance" was replaced with "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)".
- Other non-substantive changes for clarity.

Rule 5101:4-3-20, entitled Food assistance: Able-bodied adults without dependents. The rule describes the process for determining who is an able-bodied adult without dependents (ABAWD); the work registration, SNAP E&T and work requirements applicable to ABAWDs; and the ABAWD time-limit. Because the changes to the requirements are so extensive, OFA will propose

to rescind the current rule and adopt this new rule with the same rule number. Changes from the existing rule include:

- Clarified the requirements for determining who is an ABAWD.
- Clarified that ABAWDs are subject to work registration requirements; SNAP E&T requirements; and the ABAWD work requirement.
- Clarified the way that ABAWDs may meet the work requirement.
- Removed the language describing how ABAWDs may regain eligibility after reaching the time-limit and moved it to new proposed rule 5101:4-3-20.1.
- The term "food assistance" was replaced with "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)"; and the term "employment and training" was replaced with "SNAP E&T."
- Other non-substantive changes for clarity.

Rule 5101:4-3-20.1, entitled Food assistance: regaining eligibility. The rule describes the process for ABAWDs who have reached the ABAWD time-limit to regain SNAP eligibility. OFA proposes to move this information from paragraphs (G) and (H) of existing rule 5101:4-3-20 into this new proposed rule. Changes from the existing language include:

- Clarified the requirements necessary to regain eligibility.
- Clarified requirements for calculating the SNAP benefit amount when an ABAWD regains eligibility.
- Clarified the eligibility criteria for receiving three additional months of eligibility for an ABAWD that has regained eligibility.
- Removed the language describing how ABAWDs may regain eligibility after reaching the time-limit and moved it to new proposed rule 5101:4-3-20.1.
- The term "food assistance" was replaced with "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)"; and the term "employment and training" was replaced with "SNAP E&T."
- Other non-substantive changes for clarity.

Rule 5101:4-3-29, entitled Food assistance: appraisal. The rule describes the process for appraising individuals required to participate in SNAP E&T. OFA proposes to amend this rule. Changes to the rule include:

- Added a requirement for required SNAP E&T participants to sign the employability plan developed in accordance with this rule. This change is necessary to ensure that participants are aware of their SNAP E&T assignments and obligations.
- Clarified that the county agency must ensure that work registrants received notification of their rights and responsibilities. Added a requirement that the appraisal be conducted within thirty days of authorization of benefits. Participation in SNAP E&T is a condition of eligibility for required SNAP E&T participants and ensuring that the appraisal is conducted in a timely manner is a recommendation of FNS.
- The term "food assistance" was replaced with "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)"; and the term "employment and training" was replaced with "SNAP E&T."
- Other non-substantive changes for clarity.

Rule 5101:4-3-30, entitled Food assistance: employment and training program. The rule describes the process for appraising individuals required to participate in SNAP E&T. OFA proposes to amend this rule. Changes to the rule include:

- Clarified who is required to participate in SNAP E&T.
- Added a requirement for required SNAP E&T participants to sign the employability plan. This change is necessary to ensure that participants are aware of their SNAP E&T assignments and obligations.
- The term "food assistance" was replaced with "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)"; and the term "employment and training" was replaced with "SNAP E&T."
- Other non-substantive changes for clarity.

Rule 5101:4-3-31, entitled Food assistance: required hours. The rule describes the process for appraising individuals required to participate in SNAP E&T. OFA proposes to amend this rule. Changes to the rule include:

- Revised the minimum number of hours to align with the minimum hourly requirement described in 7 CFR 273.7(e)(1).
- The term "food assistance" was replaced with "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)"; and the term "employment and training" was replaced with "SNAP E&T."
- Other non-substantive changes for clarity.

Rule 5101:4-3-37, entitled Food assistance: job development. The rule describes the former SNAP E&T job development activity. OFA proposes to rescind this rule, as it is no longer an approved component of Ohio's SNAP E&T plan.

A copy of the proposed rules is available, without charge, to any person affected by the rules at the address listed below. The rules are also available on the internet at <http://www.registerofohio.state.oh.us/>. A public hearing on the proposed rules will be held at the date, time, and location listed at the top of this notice. Either written or oral testimony will be taken at the public hearing. Additionally, written comments submitted or postmarked no later than the date of the public hearing will be treated as testimony.

Requests for a copy of the proposed rules or comments on the rules should be submitted by mail to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Office of Legal and Acquisition Services, 30 East Broad Street, 31st Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3414, by fax at (614) 752-8298 or by e-mail at rules@jfs.ohio.gov.