



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor



**Oregon Department of Human Services**

*Office of the Director*

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March 4, 2021

Senator Gelsler, Chair

Senator Anderson, Vice Chair

Members of the Senate Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery Committee

From: Oregon Department of Human Services

Re: Informational Meeting on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program on February 25, 2021

**Request:** How do individuals under 18 years old access Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to meet food needs?

**Response:** SNAP does not have a minimum age to apply. If a teen applies for benefits, the eligibility is processed and determined in the same way as it would be for an adult applicant.

Each case is unique, and it is difficult to express all scenarios, however below are key relevant policy items to consider:

- Applicants who customarily purchase and prepare meals together need to apply for SNAP together as each of their income is assessed in making an eligibility determination.
- The following applicants living together must also be on the same SNAP case even if they do not customarily purchase and prepare meals together; spouses, a parent and their child under age 22 living with the parent, and household group members and any child under age 18 who lives with and is under “parental control” of that household group member. Parental control means the adult is responsible for the care, control, and supervision of the child or the child is financially dependent on the adult.

Examples of what this looks like for teens in specific scenarios:

- If a teen lives alone, they can receive SNAP benefits on their own. If a teen lives with roommates, but purchases and prepares meals separately, they can get SNAP benefits on their own. However, if they purchase and prepare meals together the teen and roommate would be on the same SNAP case.
- If the teen lives with their parents, they will be on the same SNAP case as their parents as they are under 22. If they live with an adult who has parental control, they would need to be on the same SNAP case as that adult. However, if there is not a parental control dynamic, they can get SNAP benefits on their own.

**For more information please contact:**

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“Assisting People to Become Independent, Healthy and Safe”