

WSR 24-01-066
EXPEDITED RULES
DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
(Economic Services Administration)
[Filed December 13, 2023, 4:18 p.m.]

Title of Rule and Other Identifying Information: The department is proposing to amend WAC 388-436-0065 What is the pandemic emergency assistance fund (PEAF)?

Purpose of the Proposal and Its Anticipated Effects, Including Any Changes in Existing Rules: These housekeeping amendments clarify the federal poverty level (FPL) year when considering PEAF eligibility.

Reasons Supporting Proposal: These amendments meet the criteria for expedited adoption as set forth in RCW 34.05.353, specifically subsection (1)(c): "The proposed rules only correct typographical errors, make address or name changes, or clarify language of a rule without changing its effect."

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.08.090, 74.08A.250.

Rule is not necessitated by federal law, federal or state court decision.

Name of Proponent: Department of social and health services, governmental.

Name of Agency Personnel Responsible for Drafting, Implementation, and Enforcement: Sarah Garcia, P.O. Box 45470, Olympia, WA 98504-5470, 360-522-2214.

This notice meets the following criteria to use the expedited adoption process for these rules:

Corrects typographical errors, makes address or name changes, or clarifies language of a rule without changing its effect.

Explanation of the Reason the Agency Believes the Expedited Rule-Making Process is Appropriate: These amendments clarify language of a rule without changing its effect.

NOTICE

THIS RULE IS BEING PROPOSED UNDER AN EXPEDITED RULE-MAKING PROCESS THAT WILL ELIMINATE THE NEED FOR THE AGENCY TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS, PREPARE A SMALL BUSINESS ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT, OR PROVIDE RESPONSES TO THE CRITERIA FOR A SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATIVE RULE. IF YOU OBJECT TO THIS USE OF THE EXPEDITED RULE-MAKING PROCESS, YOU MUST EXPRESS YOUR OBJECTIONS IN WRITING AND THEY MUST BE SENT TO Katherine Vasquez, Department of Social and Health Services, 1115 Washington Street S.E., Olympia, WA 98504-5850, phone 360-664-6097, email DSHSRPAURulescoordinator@dshs.wa.gov, AND RECEIVED BY February 20, 2024.

December 13, 2023
Katherine I. Vasquez
Rules Coordinator

SHS-5011.1

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 22-07-019, filed 3/8/22, effective 4/24/22)

- WAC 388-436-0065 What is the pandemic emergency assistance fund (PEAF)?** (1) What is the pandemic emergency assistance fund (PEAF)?
- The pandemic emergency assistance fund (PEAF) is administered by the department of social and health services and provides a one-time cash benefit to low income families with at least one qualifying child, to support them in meeting their basic needs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- (2) The following definitions apply to PEAFF:
- (a) "Household" as defined in WAC 388-408-0015 or WAC 388-408-0035.
- (b) "Qualifying child" means a child as defined in WAC 388-404-0005.
- (3) Who is eligible for the PEAFF?
- Each child in your household may be eligible for PEAFF if your child meets all of the following:
- (a) A qualifying child lives in your home and has not already received PEAFF;
- (b) The household is active, eligible, and receiving TANF, SNAP, SFA, or FAP benefits in the month of issuance;
- (c) The reported household income, as defined in chapter 388-450 WAC, at the time of issuance is at or below 75% of the 2022 federal poverty level;
- (d) You reside in Washington state as required under WAC 388-468-0005.
- (4) How do I apply for the pandemic emergency assistance fund?
- (a) The department automatically reviews your eligibility for PEAFF during the month of issuance:
- (b) When you apply for TANF, SFA, SNAP, or FAP; or
- (c) You are an active household receiving TANF, SFA, SNAP, or FAP.
- (5) What benefits will I receive if I am eligible for PEAFF?
- (a) PEAFF is issued only once per qualifying child.
- (b) The amount of the PEAFF benefit is the same for each qualifying child and is determined based on:
- (i) The amount of available PEAFF funding; and
- (ii) The number of qualifying children in the month of issuance.