

WSR 24-06-005

PERMANENT RULES

DEPARTMENT OF

SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

(Economic Services Administration)

[Filed February 22, 2024, 10:03 a.m., effective March 24, 2024]

Effective Date of Rule: Thirty-one days after filing.

Purpose: The department of social and health services is adopting amendments to WAC 388-436-0065 What is the pandemic emergency assistance fund (PEAF)? These housekeeping amendments clarify the federal poverty level year when considering PEAFF eligibility and do not change the effect of the rule.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Amending WAC 388-436-0065.

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

Adopted under notice filed as WSR 24-01-066 on December 13, 2023.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 1, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 1, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: February 22, 2024.

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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.