



TED STRICKLAND
GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

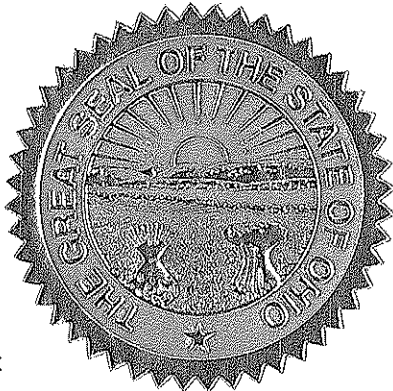
Executive Order 2008 – 20S

Immediate Amendment of Rules Regarding Requirements for Participation in the Food Stamp Employment and Training Program

- 1. Administration of the Food Stamp Employment and Training Program**
The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) is responsible for implementing and administering the State's Food Stamp Employment and Training ("FSET") Program. The FSET Program requires Ohioans who receive food stamp assistance to participate in job training courses to facilitate their economic self-sufficiency.
- 2. Changes in Federal Law Regarding Eligibility for Food Assistance Will Have an Effect on the State's Administration of the FSET Program.**
Recently, federal law regarding FSET programs was amended. These amendments, which go into effect on October 1, 2008, expand the number of persons who can be eligible to receive food stamp assistance for food purchases through several means. Those means include, but are not limited to, removing the restriction on the number of hours that recipients in any state's food stamp employment training program may participate in activities to increase their job skills and to seek gainful employment, and removing the restriction on the total amount of dependant care costs that can be considered in determining eligibility for food stamp assistance.
- 3. Implementing New Ohio Rules Effective October 1, 2008.** In order for the State to administer the FSET Program requirements consistent with the current federal law, rules in the Ohio Administrative Code regarding requirements for participation in the FSET Program must be amended immediately.
- 4. Procedure for Immediate Enactment of Rule Changes.** Section 119.03 of the Ohio Revised Code authorizes the Governor, on the request of a state agency, to suspend the normal rule-making procedures with respect to a

specific rule when an emergency exists necessitating the immediate adoption, amendment, or rescission of the rule. When such a determination is made, the agency may immediately adopt, amend or rescind that rule, but the rule is valid for only ninety (90) days.

5. **Determination of an Emergency.** I believe that an emergency exists justifying the suspension of the normal rule-making process when failure to act immediately would negatively impact the citizens of Ohio. ODJFS has asked me to determine, and I have determined, that amending the rules regarding participation in the State's FSET Program will help to ensure that Ohioans who want the opportunity to enhance their job skills and improve their opportunities for employment, and who need food stamp assistance to facilitate the purchase of food, will be able to receive the support that they need. Therefore, an emergency exists necessitating the immediate amendment of administrative rules in this regard.
6. **Authorization for Immediate Rule Implementation.** Accordingly, the normal rule-making procedures are suspended with respect to amendments to rule 5101:4-3-31 of the Ohio Administrative Code, which will remove the limit on the number of hours a FSET Program recipient can undertake for employment training, and to rule 5101:4-3-32 of the Ohio Administrative Code, which will eliminate the restriction on the total amount of dependant care costs that can be considered in determining eligibility for food stamp assistance. ODJFS may, therefore, adopt these rules immediately by electronically filing them with the Secretary of State, the Director of the Legislative Service Commission, and the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review.
7. I signed this Executive Order on October 1, 2008. It will expire at the end of the ninetieth day it is in effect, December 30, 2008.



ATTEST:

Ted Strickland
Ted Strickland, Governor

Jennifer Brunner, Secretary of State