

REACH News

New REACH Nutrition Program Strategist - Hermela Demise

Christina Bodamer, American Heart Association | Protecting policies

Flavored tobacco sales ban currently stalled in courts. June 4, policy was heard in front of Oregon supreme court, next level would be U.S. supreme court but this should be the last court system for both WAcO and MultCO court cases. MultCO commissioners have changed due to elections since the policy was passed. Need to remind them of the “blood, sweat and tears” that went into developing this policy so that after the court case is settled, there aren’t any changes.

We need assistance from community partners and coalitions like **ACHIEVE**

- There is a possibility of reinstating the office of tobacco and health at federal level
- Unlikely to see drastic change in existing state revenue streams
- ACHIEVE can help by sharing stories/personal experiences with tobacco products
- Falls into advocacy, not lobbying because of where policy is at now.
- Possibility of bringing in Senator Senator Lew Frederick to discuss with us and talk to county commissioners

Zyn - tobacco free, oral nicotine pouches

- Company claims it’s a cessation tool but it’s not regulated, and it’s being used as an initiation rather than a cessation tool
- It’s not a good cessation tool either
- Marketed like mints, easy for kids and youth to hide from adults
- Concerns of gum disease from it
- Zyn tax - end of 2025 legislative session, there was a push to make sure it was taxed/regulated like other tobacco products but this stalled
- Bill that would’ve regulated Zyn passed out of committee but Republicans stalled efforts by asking for a minority report (which requires 5 days) at the end of the legislative session so ran out of time
- Zyn being taxed at \$0.65 per container for packages containing up to 20 units, with an additional tax of 3.25 cents for each unit beyond 20.
- Complicated situation - Zyn lobbyists open to it being taxed because if it’s taxed, reduces chances of a ban in the future

Encouraging news: smoking rates are down, but still have work to do. Need policy interventions to prevent youth from smoking. A lot of advertisements on social media are promoting tobacco and nicotine products and skirting the social media platforms’ bans.

Annie Kirschner | Snap Changes

Still waiting for information about when these SNAP changes will take place. What we know is that none of the changes have happened yet, people should continue to apply for and use benefits as usual. However, **the budget bill will affect 100,000 eventually: will limit eligibility, eventually reduce the amount of dollars, extend work requirements, and will put the cost of running the program onto the state.**

6 major changes

- 1. Cost shifting: OR already pays 50% but feds covered all of food cost. Will mean that \$850 every two years shifted to the state.
- 2. Frozen benefits: benefit level won't be able to keep up food costs.
- 3. Cuts to utility/internet allowances: less help for essential bills
- 4. SNAP-Ed completely halted: no more nutrition education programs
- 5. Immigrant eligibility: benefits will be removed for those with humanitarian protection status, which are asylum seekers, refugees, domestic violence survivors (VAWA), and victims of trafficking. Up to 3,000 people in OR could lose eligibility. Lawful permanent residents, Cuban-Haitian Entrants (CHEs), COFA (citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands) should still have benefits provided they meet requirements, for now.
- 6. Reimplementing work requirements: there have always been work requirements, and if folks don't meet them, they can be limited to receiving SNAP for 3 months within any 3 year period before being cut off. However, there has been a choice to pause this, historically. Oregon has paused it as a policy choice but that choice has been taken away by the bill/congress.

Work requirements Starting in September: Historically, any time strict and complicated work requirements are implemented, people lose benefits simply because of the paperwork and documentation aspect. Not everyone has the time, language, and understanding to navigate the system and paperwork.

Requirements:

- Work/volunteer 20 hours/week
- Prove you're exempt
- Submit proof of work or exemption on a regular, ongoing basis

Changes to Exemptions to Work Requirements

*These exemptions changed in the Federal Budget Bill. In the future you may be exempt from work requirements if one or more of these apply to you:

- You are aged 55+ 65+
- There is a child under 48 14 living with you who should be receiving food benefits with you.
- ~~You are a veteran.~~
- ~~You are under age 25 and were in foster care when you turned 18.~~
- ~~You are experiencing homelessness. This includes staying at someone else's home for 90 days or less.~~

If you are affected, ODHS will send you a notice to explain what to do.

Q/A

Where geographically are people who would be affected residing? No information on that yet.

How do we step in to fill gaps and provide food if folks lose SNAP eligibility? Will be challenging, food bank budget has been decimated. Will need to lean on mutual aid, community food gardens, etc. Policy advocates are trying to find ways to restore benefits to those in the state.

Here is the Oregon Hunger Task Force survey - they are trying to map out Oregon's food safety network: Who should take this survey? Anyone feeding their community in any capacity: direct service from orgs, mutual aid, etc., free food pop-ups, meal services, gleaners, small food pantries, farmers, CSAs and donators, etc.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeQqUBxF8pQGBjinTCLBNi3PdYecu_kxGfOJqCLkjWfOkh48w/viewform

Connect with Annie: annie.kirschner@multco.us / 971-334-6858

Paula Reis Upstream Academy | Toxic Hair Products

- Many toxins in hair products including fake hair, hair dyes and other hair products. Especially true for products marketed toward Black/African women designed to manipulate their natural state
- Symptoms to watch out for: itching, burning, hair loss, foul smell from the product

- Lye, formaldehydes, vinylchloride, other chemicals found in hair products linked to cervical, uterine, breast, lung and other cancers
- People with hair dyes have 60% more chance of developing cancer and people who use straighteners have a 30% more chance
- **Main four chemicals: vinylchloride**, used to produce PVC plastic. **Lye** is any strong alkaline chemical used for soaps and cleaning products. **Formaldehyde** is a byproduct released by many things and is toxic, used to preserve dead bodies and hair products. Last one??? used to make plastic and synthetic rubbers.

Hair product resource: <https://www.ewg.org/skindeep/>

Providence Medical Group Healthy Equity Work

Mitch, Vanessa, Jazmine, Allie, Teresa - Working to address **Hypertension, Colorectal Cancer Screening, and Diabetes Prevention for Black/African Adults, Latinx, and White counterparts**. Had an assessment done by North by Northeast to get recommendations to better serve all communities.

Recommendations and adoptions

- Identify people in the clinic that reflected patient demographics, have them reach out to ensure questions about care were answered, provide more culturally responsive care
- Reach out to patients that haven't been seen for a while to schedule routine care appointments
- Provide blood pressure monitors, etc, with instructions for use to help preventative efforts

Discussion/ask: there is a need for prevention resources for Black/African youth to manage diabetes, prediabetes. **PMG wants to partner with the community to create an educational toolkit for parents and youth and provide it at no cost. What community partners should they seek to work with?**

- Miracles Club
 - SACOO - amina@sacoo.org
 - Dr. Dave Griffin
 - Ruthie Culver ruthie@blackfoodnw.org
 - Rosewood Initiative - Neema@rosewoodinitiative.org
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Community Events

Roots to Recovery

Coalition meets August 12, 1:30 - 3:30PM

Connect with Amal: amal.mohamed@upstreampublichealth.org

McCoy Village Events 4310 NE Martin Luther King Jr Blvd 97211

Connect with Teresa: teresa.a.johnson@providence.org

- Line Dance Class - Saturdays @ McCoy Village, 11:30 AM-1:00 PM
- Haven Cooks! Interactive cooking class 3rd Thursdays, 2:30-4:30 PM
- Play Smart Free ECG youth cardiac screenings, by appt. (ages 12-18)
- Rooted in Wellness Group Meetings - 3rd Thursdays, 1:15-2:15 PM

REACH + Other community events, see [public-facing calendar](#)