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TEMPORARY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

INCLUDING STATEMENT OF NEED & JUSTIFICATION

OHCS 32-2026

CHAPTER 813

OREGON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

FILED: 10/30/2026 8:07 AM

ARCHIVES DIVISION SECRETARY OF STATE & LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

FILING CAPTION: Adopting revised program guidance for both DOE and ECHO Weatherization Programs.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 11/01/2026 THROUGH 12/27/2026

AGENCY APPROVED DATE: 10/30/2026

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Filed By:
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NEED FOR THE RULE(S):

For DOE, we would be out of compliance with federal funders if we used last year's rules and state plan. For ECHO, we need to adopt the newest flexibilities to counter the stricter DOE guidance.

JUSTIFICATION OF TEMPORARY FILING:

Temporary rules are needed due to the drastic delayed release of the federal application package. Oregonians participating or potentially participating in the program, generally, would be affected if we did not file these rule changes for the current program year. With these temporary rules, we are allowed to use the federal dollars with the implementation of the new state plan. As well, the additional flexibilities with ECHO help to complement the new federal restrictions. The process to file a permanent administrative order has been initiated and will be completed before the end of this calendar year.

DOCUMENTS RELIED UPON, AND WHERE THEY ARE AVAILABLE:

US DOE State Plan for Oregon, and the ECHO program manual, which can be found on the OHCS website.

HOUSING IMPACT STATEMENT:

These rules do not affect the cost of development of a 6,000 square foot parcel and the construction of a 1,200 square foot detached single-family dwelling on that parcel.

AMEND: 813-205-0007

SUSPEND: Temporary 813-205-0007 from OHCS 13-2026

RULE TITLE: Manuals

RULE SUMMARY: Programmatic guidelines for the DOE and ECHO programs.

RULE TEXT:
(1) The U.S. Department of Energy State Plan of Oregon (USDOE State Plan) with the requirements and standards therein, dated July 1, 2026 and published November 1, 2026, is incorporated into and adopted as part of this division of administrative rules, by reference. The USDOE State Plan may be accessed online at the OHCS website.
(2) The U.S. Department of Energy's Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill State Plan of Oregon (USDOE BIL State Plan) with the requirements and standards therein, dated July 1, 2022, is incorporated into and adopted as part of this division of administrative rules, by reference. the USDOE BIL State Plan may be accessed online at the OHCS website.
(3) The Energy Conservation Helping Oregonians Weatherization Guidelines (ECHO Guidelines) with the requirements and standards therein, revised November 1, 2026, is incorporated into and adopted as part of this division of administrative rules, by reference. The ECHO Guidelines may be accessed online at the OHCS website.
(4) OHCS will encourage efforts consistent with or exceeding the greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals set forth in ORS 468A.205(1)(c).

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 456.555

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: 10 CFR 440, ORS 458.505, 757.612, 468A.205(1)(c), 2 CFR 200