

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Child Nutrition Programs—Income Eligibility Guidelines

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This Notice announces the Department's annual adjustments to the Income Eligibility Guidelines to be used in determining eligibility for free and reduced price meals or free milk for the period from July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000. These guidelines are used by schools, institutions, and centers participating in the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Special Milk Program for Children, Child and Adult Care Food Program and Commodity School Program. The annual adjustments are required by section 9 of the National School Lunch Act. The guidelines are intended to direct benefits to those children most in need and are revised annually to account for changes in the Consumer Price Index.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Robert M. Eadie, Chief, Policy and Program Development Branch, Child Nutrition Division, FNS, USDA, Alexandria, Virginia 22302, or by phone at (703) 305-2620.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This action is not a rule as defined by the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601-612) and thus is exempt from the provisions of that Act.

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3507), no new recordkeeping or reporting requirements have been included that are subject to approval from the Office of Management and Budget.

This action is exempted from review by the Office of Management and Budget under Executive Order 12866.

These programs are listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under No. 10.553, No. 10.555, No. 10.556 and No. 10.558 and are subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials. (See 7 CFR part 3015, subpart V, and the final rule related notice published at 48 FR 29114, June 24, 1983.)

Background

Pursuant to sections 9(b)(1) and 17(c)(4) of the National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(b)(1) and 42 U.S.C. 1766(c)(4)), and sections 3(a)(6) and 4(e)(1)(A) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1772(a)(6) and 1773(e)(1)(A)), the Department annually issues the Income Eligibility Guidelines for free and reduced price meals in the National School Lunch Program (7 CFR part 210), School Breakfast Program (7 CFR part 220), Child and Adult Care Food Program (7 CFR part 226), and Commodity School Program (7 CFR part 210), and the guidelines for free milk in the Special Milk Programs for Children (7 CFR part 215). These eligibility guidelines are based on the Federal income poverty guidelines and are stated by household size.

The Department requires schools and institutions which charge for meals separately from other fees to serve *free meals* to all children from any household with income at or below 130 percent of the poverty guidelines. The Department also requires such schools and institutions to serve *reduced price meals* to all children from any household with income higher than 130 percent of the poverty guidelines, but at or below 185 percent of the poverty guidelines. Schools and institutions participating in the Special Milk Program for Children may, at local option, serve free milk to all children from any household with income at or below 130 percent of the poverty guidelines.

Definition of Income

"Income," as the term is used in this Notice, means income before any deductions such as income taxes, Social

Security taxes, insurance premiums, charitable contributions and bonds. It includes the following: (1) Monetary compensation for services, including wages, salary, commissions or fees; (2) net income from nonfarm self-employment; (3) net income from farm self-employment; (4) Social Security; (5) dividends or interest on savings or bonds or income from estates or trusts; (6) net rental income; (7) public assistance or welfare payments; (8) unemployment compensation; (9) government civilian employee or military retirement, or pensions or veterans payments; (10) private pensions or annuities; (11) alimony or child support payments; (12) regular contributions from persons not living in the household; (13) net royalties; and (14) other cash income. Other cash income would include cash amounts received or withdrawn from any source including savings, investments, trust accounts and other resources which would be available to pay the price of a child's meal.

"Income," as the term is used in this Notice, does not include any income or benefits received under any Federal programs which are excluded from consideration as income by any legislative prohibition. Furthermore, the value of meals or milk to children shall not be considered as income to their households for other benefit programs in accordance with the prohibitions in section 12(e) of the National School Lunch Act and section 11(b) of Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1760(e) and 1780(b)).

The Income Eligibility Guidelines

The following are the Income Eligibility Guidelines to be effective from July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000. The Department's guidelines for free meals and milk and reduced price means were obtained by multiplying the 1999 Federal income poverty guidelines by 1.30 and 1.85, respectively, and by rounding the result upward to the next whole dollar. Weekly and monthly guidelines were computed by dividing annual income by 52 and 12, respectively, and by rounding upward to the next whole dollar.

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INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES
(Effective from July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000)

Household size	Federal Poverty Guidelines			Reduced Price Meals - 185%			Free Meals - 130%		
	Annual	Month	Week	Annual	Month	Week	Annual	Month	Week
	48 CONTIGUOUS UNITED STATES, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, GUAM AND TERRITORIES								
1.....	8,240	687	159	15,244	1,271	294	10,712	893	206
2.....	11,060	922	213	20,461	1,706	394	14,378	1,199	277
3.....	13,880	1,157	267	25,678	2,140	494	18,044	1,504	347
4.....	16,700	1,392	322	30,895	2,575	595	21,710	1,810	418
5.....	19,520	1,627	376	36,112	3,010	695	25,376	2,115	488
6.....	22,340	1,862	430	41,329	3,445	795	29,042	2,421	559
7.....	25,160	2,097	484	46,546	3,879	896	32,708	2,726	629
8.....	27,980	2,332	539	51,763	4,314	996	36,374	3,032	700
For each add'l family member add	+2,820	+235	+55	+5,217	+435	+101	+3,666	+306	+71
ALASKA									
1.....	10,320	860	199	19,092	1,591	368	13,416	1,118	258
2.....	13,840	1,154	267	25,604	2,134	493	17,992	1,500	346
3.....	17,360	1,447	334	32,116	2,677	618	22,568	1,881	434
4.....	20,880	1,740	402	38,628	3,219	743	27,144	2,262	522
5.....	24,400	2,034	470	45,140	3,762	869	31,720	2,644	610
6.....	27,920	2,327	537	51,652	4,305	994	36,296	3,025	698
7.....	31,440	2,620	605	58,164	4,847	1,119	40,872	3,406	786
8.....	34,960	2,914	673	64,676	5,390	1,244	45,448	3,788	874
For each add'l family member add	+3,520	+294	+68	+6,512	+543	+126	+4,576	+382	+88
HAWAII									
1.....	9,490	791	183	17,557	1,464	338	12,337	1,029	238
2.....	12,730	1,061	245	23,551	1,963	453	16,549	1,380	319
3.....	15,970	1,331	308	29,545	2,463	569	20,761	1,731	400
4.....	19,210	1,601	370	35,539	2,962	684	24,973	2,082	481
5.....	22,450	1,871	432	41,533	3,462	799	29,185	2,433	562
6.....	25,690	2,141	495	47,527	3,961	914	33,397	2,784	643
7.....	28,930	2,411	557	53,521	4,461	1,030	37,609	3,135	724
8.....	32,170	2,681	619	59,515	4,960	1,145	41,821	3,486	805
For each add'l family member add	+3,240	+270	+63	+5,994	+500	+116	+4,212	+351	+81

Authority: (42 U.S.C. 1758(b)(1))

Dated: March 26, 1999.

Samuel Chambers, Jr.,

Administrator.

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