

and data collected through each of the following four proposed data collection methodologies:

- *Recollections of parents/guardians on their children's attendance at the FDCHs during the days and times of the claims.
- *Parent sign-in/sign-out logs which are maintained at FDCH locations and are designed to track, by day and time, parents' dropping off and picking up of their children.
- *Parent sign-in/sign-out logs and the recollections of parents/guardians.
- *Observations made on site visits to FDCHs during scheduled meal times.

Based on the findings from the pretest evaluation, the contractor shall recommend which of the data collection methods, up to four, have the greatest chance of success for validating meal reimbursement claims submitted by FDCHs. The recommended methods of data collection shall be tested by the contractor at a local level and evaluated. The testing and after-test evaluation of the selected data collection methodologies shall address, at a minimum, the following questions:

- *What are the strengths of the proposed methodology for validating the meal reimbursement claims submitted by FDCHs?
- *What are the weaknesses of the proposed methodology for validating the meal reimbursement claims submitted by FDCHs? What, if any, steps could be taken to overcome these weaknesses?
- *What is the level of confidence that the estimations of improper payments developed from application of the tested data collection methodology will meet the requirements in the IPIA?
- *What is the feasibility of administering the validation methodology on a national level? Could the methodology be administered at this time on a national level? What are the factors or events that must be present for the projected level of feasibility to take place?
- *What is the potential cost of implementing each of the data collection methodologies nationwide?

After completing the testing and evaluation of the recommended data collection methods, the contractor shall propose a data collection methodology to validate the meals claimed for reimbursement. The contractor's recommended data collection methodology shall be:

- *Presented in sufficient detail so as to be able to be applied and tested.
- *Designed so that it has a high probability of validating the meal

reimbursement claims submitted by FDCHs.

- *Feasible to administer from both a practicality and cost standpoint on a national scale.

Affected Public: A parent/guardian of each of the children attending a sample of FDCHs will be sampled and contacted by telephone.

Estimated Number of Respondents: The estimated number of respondents included in the survey of parents is 150.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: The number of responses per set of parents/guardians for a child attending a FDCH is one.

Estimated Time per Response: The estimated average time to respond to the parent/guardian survey is 10 minutes (.17/Hour).

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 25 hours.

Dated: February 16, 2007.

Roberto Salazar,

Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed collection; Comment Request—Evaluation of the Nebraska Rural Area Eligibility Determination for Day Care Homes Pilot

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) invites the general public and other public agencies to comment on this proposed information collection.

This notice announces FNS' intent to request from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval to collect information for the evaluation of impacts of the Rural Area Eligibility Determination for Day Care Homes Pilot in Nebraska.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before April 30, 2007.

ADDRESSES: Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of

the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments may be sent to Dr. John A. Kirlin, Contracting Officer's Representative, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302. Comments may also be submitted via fax to the attention of John A. Kirlin at 703-305-2576 or via e-mail to John.Kirlin@fns.usda.gov.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will be a matter of public record.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of this information collection should be directed to John A. Kirlin at 703-305-2128.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Evaluation of the Nebraska Rural Area Eligibility Determination for Day Care Homes Pilot.

OMB Number: Not Yet Assigned.

Expiration Date: Not yet determined.

Type of Request: New collection of information.

Abstract: As authorized by Public Law 108-265 (Section 119 of the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004), which amended Section 17 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, 42 U.S.C. 1766 (p), the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), on behalf of the Secretary of Agriculture, is evaluating the impacts of the Rural Area Eligibility Determination for Day Care Homes pilot in Nebraska. The two-year pilot expands the threshold for determining eligibility for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) in rural areas of Nebraska where poor economic conditions exist. The State of Nebraska is authorized by this legislation to use either school data (on the percent of students qualifying for free or reduced-price school lunches) or census data to determine the eligibility threshold for higher (tier I) reimbursement rates. During the two-year pilot, the area eligibility threshold is reduced from the current criterion (50 percent of students qualifying for free or reduced-price school lunches) to 40 percent, thereby letting more areas qualify for higher reimbursement rates. The pilot runs from October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2007.

The evaluation of the pilot will examine the impact of the reduced area

eligibility threshold on: (1) The number of family day care homes offering meals through the CACFP in rural areas; (2) the number of family day care homes offering meals as a tier I entity, that would otherwise be defined as tier II family day care home under program regulations; (3) the geographic location of the family day care homes; (4) a description of services provided to eligible children; and (5) other factors determined by the Secretary. The evaluation will collect information from CACFP staff at the Nebraska Department of Education, from CACFP sponsor agencies in the state, from family day care providers, and from parents of children in family day care homes. Two surveys will be conducted: A survey of a random sample of family day care providers (Provider Survey); and a survey of a random sample of providers who drop out of the CACFP program after the pilot ends and reimbursement levels for some providers decrease (Exit Survey). A report of the results of the evaluation is due to Congress no later than March 31, 2008.

Affected Public: Two respondent groups are identified: (1) A random sample of all rural family day care providers in Nebraska who participate in the CACFP at the time of the planned survey (Summer 2007), and (2) a random sample of all rural family day care providers in Nebraska who exit the CACFP program after the end of the pilot.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 632. The estimated number of respondents to the Provider Survey is 582. The estimated number of respondents to the Exit Survey is uncertain because the number of exiting providers is unknown. The evaluation contractor will survey up to 50 respondents as part of the Exit Survey.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: The number of responses per respondent is one for each of the two surveys. Because both surveys will contact random samples of the family day care community in rural areas of Nebraska, however, it is possible that some exiting providers who are contacted for the second survey may also have responded to the first survey. If the probability of exiting is equally distributed across the approximately 1,350 rural providers in Nebraska, and if at least 50 rural providers leave the CACFP program after the pilot ends, the a priori likelihood of a provider being sampled for both surveys is approximately 1.6 percent (i.e., about a 43 percent chance of being selected for the Provider Survey times about a 3.7 percent chance of being selected for the Exit Survey).

Estimated Total Annual Responses: 632.

Estimated Time per Response: 38.4 minutes (0.64 hours). The estimated average time to respond to the Provider Survey is 40 minutes (0.67 hours), based on a pre-test of the draft instrument in December 2006 and subsequent revisions based on pre-test results. The data collection instrument for the Exit Survey cannot be pre-tested because the pilot will not end until September 30, 2007. The Exit Survey instrument shares many questions with the Provider Survey instrument, however, and the pre-test results for the Provider Survey are used to estimate average response time for the Exit Survey, which is 20 minutes (0.33 hours).

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 405 hours.

Dated: February 16, 2007.

Roberto Salazar,

Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.

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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 and free milk for the period from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008. These guidelines are used by schools, institutions, and facilities participating in the National School Lunch Program (and Commodity School Program), School Breakfast Program, Special Milk Program for Children, Child and Adult Care Food Program and Summer Food Service Program. The annual adjustments are required by section 9 of the Richard B. Russell 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.

DATES: *Effective Date:* July 1, 2007.

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) 305-2590.

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, No. 10.558 and No. 10.559 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 Richard B. Russell 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 for the National School Lunch Program (7 CFR Part 210), the Commodity School Program (7 CFR Part 210), School Breakfast Program (7 CFR Part 220), Summer Food Service Program (7 CFR Part 225) and Child and Adult Care Food Program (7 CFR Part 226) and the guidelines for free milk in the Special Milk Program for Children (7 CFR Part 215). These eligibility guidelines are based on the Federal income poverty guidelines and are stated by household size. The guidelines are used to determine eligibility for free and reduced price meals and free milk in accordance with applicable program rules.

Definition of Income

In accordance with the Department's policy as provided in the Food and Nutrition Service publication *Eligibility Guidance for School Meals Manual*, "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