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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC):

2016/2017 Income Eligibility Guidelines

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Agriculture (“Department”) announces adjusted income eligibility guidelines to be used by State agencies in determining the income eligibility of persons applying to participate in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC). These income eligibility guidelines are to be used in conjunction with the WIC Regulations.

DATES: Effective date July 1, 2016.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kurtria Watson, Chief, Policy Branch, Supplemental Food Programs Division, FNS, USDA, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, Virginia 22302, (703) 605-4387.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Executive Order 12866:

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

Regulatory Flexibility Act:

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 this Act.

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995:

This notice does not contain reporting or recordkeeping requirements subject to approval by the Office of Management and Budget in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3507).

Executive Order 12372:

This program is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Programs under No. 10.557, and is subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials (7 CFR part 3015, Subpart V, 48 FR 29100, June 24, 1983, and 49 FR 22675, May 31, 1984).

Description:

Section 17(d)(2)(A) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1786(d)(2)(A)), requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish income criteria to be used with nutritional risk criteria in determining a person's eligibility for participation in the WIC Program. The law provides that persons will be income-eligible for the WIC Program only if they are members of families that satisfy the income standard prescribed for reduced-price school meals under section 9(b) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(b)). Under section 9(b), the income limit for reduced-price school meals is 185 percent of the Federal poverty guidelines, as adjusted. Section 9(b) also requires that these guidelines be revised annually to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index. The annual revision for 2016/2017 was published by the Department of

Health and Human Services (HHS) at 81 FR 4036, January 25, 2016. The guidelines published by HHS are referred to as the “poverty guidelines.”

Section 246.7(d)(1) of the WIC regulations (Title 7, Code of Federal Regulations) specifies that State agencies may prescribe income guidelines either equaling the income guidelines established under section 9 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act for reduced-price school meals, or identical to State or local guidelines for free or reduced-price health care. However, in conforming WIC income guidelines to State or local health care guidelines, the State cannot establish WIC guidelines which exceed the guidelines for reduced-price school meals, or which are less than 100 percent of the Federal poverty guidelines. Consistent with the method used to compute income eligibility guidelines for reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Program, the poverty guidelines were multiplied by 1.85 and the results rounded upward to the next whole dollar.

At this time, the Department is publishing the maximum and minimum WIC income eligibility guidelines by household size for the period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. Consistent with section 17(f)(17) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1786(f)(17)), a State agency may implement the revised WIC income eligibility guidelines concurrently with the implementation of income eligibility guidelines under the Medicaid Program established under Title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396, et seq.). State agencies may coordinate implementation with the revised Medicaid guidelines, i.e., earlier in the year, but in no case may implementation take place later than July 1, 2016. State agencies that do not coordinate implementation with the revised Medicaid guidelines must implement the WIC income eligibility guidelines on or before July 1, 2016.

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

(Effective from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017)

Household Size	Federal Poverty Guidelines- 100%					Reduced Price Meals - 18%		
	Annual	Monthly	Twice-Monthly	Bi-Weekly	Weekly	Annual	Monthly	Twice-Monthly
48 Contiguous States, D.C., Guam and Territories								
1.....	\$11,880	\$990	\$495	\$457	\$229	\$21,978	\$1,832	\$916
2.....	16,020	1,335	668	617	309	29,637	2,470	1,235
3.....	20,160	1,680	840	776	388	37,296	3,108	1,554
4.....	24,300	2,025	1,013	935	468	44,955	3,747	1,874
5.....	28,440	2,370	1,185	1,094	547	52,614	4,385	2,193
6.....	32,580	2,715	1,358	1,254	627	60,273	5,023	2,512
7.....	36,730	3,061	1,531	1,413	707	67,951	5,663	2,832
8.....	40,890	3,408	1,704	1,573	787	75,647	6,304	3,152
Each add'l family member add	+ \$4,160	+ \$347	+ \$174	+ \$160	+ \$80	+ \$7,696	+ \$642	+ \$321
Alaska								
1.....	\$14,840	\$1,237	\$619	\$571	\$286	\$27,454	\$2,288	\$1,144
2.....	20,020	1,669	835	770	385	37,037	3,087	1,544
3.....	25,200	2,100	1,050	970	485	46,620	3,885	1,943
4.....	30,380	2,532	1,266	1,169	585	56,203	4,684	2,342
5.....	35,560	2,964	1,482	1,368	684	65,786	5,483	2,742
6.....	40,740	3,395	1,698	1,567	784	75,369	6,281	3,141
7.....	45,920	3,827	1,914	1,767	884	84,952	7,080	3,540
8.....	51,120	4,260	2,130	1,967	984	94,572	7,881	3,941
Each add'l family member add	+ \$5,200	+ \$434	+ \$217	+ \$200	+ \$100	+ \$9,620	+ \$802	+ \$401
Hawaii								
1.....	\$13,670	\$1,140	\$570	\$526	\$263	\$25,290	\$2,108	\$1,054
2.....	18,430	1,536	768	709	355	34,096	2,842	1,421
3.....	23,190	1,933	967	892	446	42,902	3,576	1,788
4.....	27,950	2,330	1,165	1,075	538	51,708	4,309	2,155
5.....	32,710	2,726	1,363	1,259	630	60,514	5,043	2,522
6.....	37,470	3,123	1,562	1,442	721	69,320	5,777	2,889
7.....	42,230	3,520	1,760	1,625	813	78,126	6,511	3,256
8.....	47,010	3,918	1,959	1,809	905	86,969	7,248	3,624
Each add'l family member add	+ \$4,780	+ \$399	+ \$200	+ \$184	+ \$92	+ \$8,843	+ \$737	+ \$369

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES								
Supplemental Chart for Family Sizes Greater Than Eight								
(Effective from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017)								
Household Size	Federal Poverty Guidelines- 100%					Reduced Price Meals - 100%		
	Annual	Monthly	Twice-Monthly	Bi-Weekly	Weekly	Annual	Monthly	Twice-Monthly
48 Contiguous States, D.C., Guam and Territories								
9.....	\$45,050	\$3,755	\$1,878	\$1,733	\$867	\$83,343	\$6,946	\$3,473
10.....	49,210	4,101	2,051	1,893	947	91,039	7,587	3,792
11.....	53,370	4,448	2,224	2,053	1,027	98,735	8,228	4,114
12.....	57,530	4,795	2,398	2,213	1,107	106,431	8,870	4,436
13.....	61,690	5,141	2,571	2,373	1,187	114,127	9,511	4,758
14.....	65,850	5,488	2,744	2,533	1,267	121,823	10,152	5,080
15.....	70,010	5,835	2,918	2,693	1,347	129,519	10,794	5,402
16.....	74,170	6,181	3,091	2,853	1,427	137,215	11,435	5,724
Each add'l family member add	+ \$4,160	+ \$347	+ \$174	+ \$160	+ \$80	+ \$7,696	+ \$642	+ \$321
Alaska								
9.....	\$56,320	\$4,694	\$2,347	\$2,167	\$1,084	\$104,192	\$8,683	\$4,342
10.....	61,520	5,127	2,564	2,367	1,184	113,812	9,485	4,744
11.....	66,720	5,560	2,780	2,567	1,284	123,432	10,286	5,146
12.....	71,920	5,994	2,997	2,767	1,384	133,052	11,088	5,548
13.....	77,120	6,427	3,214	2,967	1,484	142,672	11,890	5,950
14.....	82,320	6,860	3,430	3,167	1,584	152,292	12,691	6,352
15.....	87,520	7,294	3,647	3,367	1,684	161,912	13,493	6,754
16.....	92,720	7,727	3,864	3,567	1,784	171,532	14,295	7,156
Each add'l family member add	+ \$5,200	+ \$434	+ \$217	+ \$200	+ \$100	+ \$9,620	+ \$802	+ \$401
Hawaii								
9.....	\$51,790	\$4,316	\$2,158	\$1,992	\$996	\$95,812	\$7,985	\$3,993
10.....	56,570	4,715	2,358	2,176	1,088	104,655	8,722	4,361
11.....	61,350	5,113	2,557	2,360	1,180	113,498	9,459	4,729
12.....	66,130	5,511	2,756	2,544	1,272	122,341	10,196	5,097
13.....	70,910	5,910	2,955	2,728	1,364	131,184	10,932	5,465
14.....	75,690	6,308	3,154	2,912	1,456	140,027	11,669	5,833
15.....	80,470	6,706	3,353	3,095	1,548	148,870	12,406	6,201
16.....	85,250	7,105	3,553	3,279	1,640	157,713	13,143	6,569
Each add'l family member add	+ \$4,780	+ \$399	+ \$200	+ \$184	+ \$92	+ \$8,843	+ \$737	+ \$366

The first table of this Notice contains the income limits by household size for the 48 contiguous States, the District of Columbia, and all United States Territories, including Guam.

Separate tables for Alaska and Hawaii have been included for the convenience of the State agencies

because the poverty guidelines for Alaska and Hawaii are higher than for the 48 contiguous States.

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 1786

Dated: March 14, 2016.

Audrey Rowe,
Administrator,
Food and Nutrition Service.

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