



Billing Code: 3410-30-P

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, 2017 through June 30, 2018. 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 July 1, 2017.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jessica Saracino, Program Monitoring and Operational Support Division, Child Nutrition Programs, Food and Nutrition Service, United States Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Suite 628, Alexandria, Virginia 22302, 703-305-1620.

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 recordkeeping or reporting requirements have been included that are subject to approval from the Office of Management and Budget.

This notice has been determined to be not significant and was not reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget in conformance with Executive Order 12866. The affected 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 2 CFR Part 415).

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 Manual for School Meals, "income," as the term is used in this notice, continues to mean 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 that 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 that are excluded from consideration

as income by any statutory 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 Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act and section 11(b) of the 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, 2017 through June 30, 2018. The Department's guidelines for free meals and milk and reduced price meals were obtained by multiplying the year 2017 Federal income poverty guidelines by 1.30 and 1.85, respectively, and by rounding the result upward to the next whole dollar.

This notice displays only the annual Federal poverty guidelines issued by the Department of Health and Human Services because the monthly and weekly Federal poverty guidelines are not used to determine the Income Eligibility Guidelines. The chart details the free and reduced price eligibility criteria for monthly income, income received twice monthly (24 payments per year); income received every two weeks (26 payments per year) and weekly income.

Income calculations are made based on the following formulas: monthly income is calculated by dividing the annual income by 12; twice monthly income is computed by dividing annual income by 24; income received every two weeks is calculated by dividing annual income by 26; and weekly income is computed by dividing annual income by 52. All numbers are rounded upward to the next whole dollar.

The numbers reflected in this notice for a family of four in the 48 contiguous States, the District of Columbia, Guam and the territories represent an increase of 1.2 percent over last year's level for a family of the same size.

Authority: Section 9(b)(1)(A) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(b)(1)(A)).

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

Effective from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES	REDUCED PRICE MEALS - 185 %					FREE MEALS - 130 %				
	ANNUAL	ANNUAL	MONTHLY	TWICE PER MONTH	EVERY TWO WEEKS	WEEKLY	ANNUAL	MONTHLY	TWICE PER MONTH	EVERY TWO WEEKS	WEEKLY
48 CONTIGUOUS STATES, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, GUAM, AND TERRITORIES											
1	12,060	22,311	1,860	930	859	430	15,678	1,307	654	603	302
2	16,240	30,044	2,504	1,252	1,156	578	21,112	1,760	880	812	406
3	20,420	37,777	3,149	1,575	1,453	727	26,546	2,213	1,107	1,021	511
4	24,600	45,510	3,793	1,897	1,751	876	31,980	2,665	1,333	1,230	615
5	28,780	53,243	4,437	2,219	2,048	1,024	37,414	3,118	1,559	1,439	720
6	32,960	60,976	5,082	2,541	2,346	1,173	42,848	3,571	1,786	1,648	824
7	37,140	68,709	5,726	2,863	2,643	1,322	48,282	4,024	2,012	1,857	929
8	41,320	76,442	6,371	3,186	2,941	1,471	53,716	4,477	2,239	2,066	1,033
For each add'l family member, add	4,180	7,733	645	323	298	149	5,434	453	227	209	105
ALASKA											
1	15,060	27,861	2,322	1,161	1,072	536	19,578	1,632	816	753	377
2	20,290	37,537	3,129	1,565	1,444	722	26,377	2,199	1,100	1,015	508
3	25,520	47,212	3,935	1,968	1,816	908	33,176	2,765	1,383	1,276	638
4	30,750	56,888	4,741	2,371	2,188	1,094	39,975	3,332	1,666	1,538	769
5	35,980	66,563	5,547	2,774	2,561	1,281	46,774	3,898	1,949	1,799	900
6	41,210	76,239	6,354	3,177	2,933	1,467	53,573	4,465	2,233	2,061	1,031
7	46,440	85,914	7,160	3,580	3,305	1,653	60,372	5,031	2,516	2,322	1,161
8	51,670	95,590	7,966	3,983	3,677	1,839	67,171	5,598	2,799	2,584	1,292
For each add'l family member, add	5,230	9,676	807	404	373	187	6,799	567	284	262	131
HAWAII											
1	13,860	25,641	2,137	1,069	987	494	18,018	1,502	751	693	347
2	18,670	34,540	2,879	1,440	1,329	665	24,271	2,023	1,012	934	467
3	23,480	43,438	3,620	1,810	1,671	836	30,524	2,544	1,272	1,174	587
4	28,290	52,337	4,362	2,181	2,013	1,007	36,777	3,065	1,533	1,415	708
5	33,100	61,235	5,103	2,552	2,356	1,178	43,030	3,586	1,793	1,655	828
6	37,910	70,134	5,845	2,923	2,698	1,349	49,283	4,107	2,054	1,896	948
7	42,720	79,032	6,586	3,293	3,040	1,520	55,536	4,628	2,314	2,136	1,068
8	47,530	87,931	7,328	3,664	3,382	1,691	61,789	5,150	2,575	2,377	1,189
For each add'l family member, add	4,810	8,899	742	371	343	172	6,253	522	261	241	121

Dated: March 28, 2017.

Jessica Shahin,
Acting Administrator,
Food and Nutrition Service,
U.S. Department of Agriculture.

