



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, 2019 through June 30, 2020. 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: Implementation date: July 1, 2019.

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.

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 Assistance Listings (<https://beta.sam.gov/>) 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, 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 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, 2019 through June 30, 2020. The Department's guidelines for free meals and milk and reduced price meals were obtained by multiplying the year 2019 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 2.6 percent over last year's level for a family of the same size.

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

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

Effective from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020

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	12,490	23,107	1,926	963	889	445	16,237	1,354	677	625	313
2	16,910	31,284	2,607	1,304	1,204	602	21,983	1,832	916	846	423
3	21,330	39,461	3,289	1,645	1,518	759	27,729	2,311	1,156	1,067	534
4	25,750	47,638	3,970	1,985	1,833	917	33,475	2,790	1,395	1,288	644
5	30,170	55,815	4,652	2,326	2,147	1,074	39,221	3,269	1,635	1,509	755
6	34,590	63,992	5,333	2,667	2,462	1,231	44,967	3,748	1,874	1,730	865
7	39,010	72,169	6,015	3,008	2,776	1,388	50,713	4,227	2,114	1,951	976
8	43,430	80,346	6,696	3,348	3,091	1,546	56,459	4,705	2,353	2,172	1,086
For each add'l family member, add	4,420	8,177	682	341	315	158	5,746	479	240	221	111
ALASKA											
1	15,600	28,860	2,405	1,203	1,110	555	20,280	1,690	845	780	390
2	21,130	39,091	3,258	1,629	1,504	752	27,469	2,290	1,145	1,057	529
3	26,660	49,321	4,111	2,056	1,897	949	34,658	2,889	1,445	1,333	667
4	32,190	59,552	4,963	2,482	2,291	1,146	41,847	3,488	1,744	1,610	805
5	37,720	69,782	5,816	2,908	2,684	1,342	49,036	4,087	2,044	1,886	943
6	43,250	80,013	6,668	3,334	3,078	1,539	56,225	4,686	2,343	2,163	1,082
7	48,780	90,243	7,521	3,761	3,471	1,736	63,414	5,285	2,643	2,439	1,220
8	54,310	100,474	8,373	4,187	3,865	1,933	70,603	5,884	2,942	2,716	1,358
For each add'l family member, add	5,530	10,231	853	427	394	197	7,189	600	300	277	139
HAWAII											
1	14,380	26,603	2,217	1,109	1,024	512	18,694	1,558	779	719	360
2	19,460	36,001	3,001	1,501	1,385	693	25,298	2,109	1,055	973	487
3	24,540	45,399	3,784	1,892	1,747	874	31,902	2,659	1,330	1,227	614
4	29,620	54,797	4,567	2,284	2,108	1,054	38,506	3,209	1,605	1,481	741
5	34,700	64,195	5,350	2,675	2,470	1,235	45,110	3,760	1,880	1,735	868
6	39,780	73,593	6,133	3,067	2,831	1,416	51,714	4,310	2,155	1,989	995
7	44,860	82,991	6,916	3,458	3,192	1,596	58,318	4,860	2,430	2,243	1,122
8	49,940	92,389	7,700	3,850	3,554	1,777	64,922	5,411	2,706	2,497	1,249
For each add'l family member, add	5,080	9,398	784	392	362	181	6,604	551	276	254	127

Dated: March 7, 2019

Brandon Lipps

Administrator,

Food and Nutrition Service

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