



## 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, 2021 through June 30, 2022. 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, 2021.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** J. Kevin Maskornick, Program Monitoring and Operational Support Division, Child Nutrition Programs, Food and Nutrition Service, United States Department of Agriculture, 1320 Braddock Place, Suite 401, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, or call 703-305-2537.

**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, 2021 through June 30, 2022. The Department's guidelines for free meals and milk and reduced price meals were obtained by multiplying the year 2021 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 1.1 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, 2021 to June 30, 2022												
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	
<b>48 CONTIGUOUS STATES, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, GUAM, AND TERRITORIES</b>												
1 .....	12,880	23,828	1,986	993	917	459	16,744	1,396	698	644	322	
2 .....	17,420	32,227	2,686	1,343	1,240	620	22,646	1,888	944	871	436	
3 .....	21,960	40,626	3,386	1,693	1,563	782	28,548	2,379	1,190	1,098	549	
4 .....	26,500	49,025	4,086	2,043	1,886	943	34,450	2,871	1,436	1,325	663	
5 .....	31,040	57,424	4,786	2,393	2,209	1,105	40,352	3,363	1,682	1,552	776	
6 .....	35,580	65,823	5,486	2,743	2,532	1,266	46,254	3,855	1,928	1,779	890	
7 .....	40,120	74,222	6,186	3,093	2,855	1,428	52,156	4,347	2,174	2,006	1,003	
8 .....	44,660	82,621	6,886	3,443	3,178	1,589	58,058	4,839	2,420	2,233	1,117	
<b>For each add'l family member, add</b>	<b>4,540</b>	<b>8,399</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>5,902</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>114</b>	
<b>ALASKA</b>												
1 .....	16,090	29,767	2,481	1,241	1,145	573	20,917	1,744	872	805	403	
2 .....	21,770	40,275	3,357	1,679	1,550	775	28,301	2,359	1,180	1,089	545	
3 .....	27,450	50,783	4,232	2,116	1,954	977	35,685	2,974	1,487	1,373	687	
4 .....	33,130	61,291	5,108	2,554	2,358	1,179	43,069	3,590	1,795	1,657	829	
5 .....	38,810	71,799	5,984	2,992	2,762	1,381	50,453	4,205	2,103	1,941	971	
6 .....	44,490	82,307	6,859	3,430	3,166	1,583	57,837	4,820	2,410	2,225	1,113	
7 .....	50,170	92,815	7,735	3,868	3,570	1,785	65,221	5,436	2,718	2,509	1,255	
8 .....	55,850	103,323	8,611	4,306	3,974	1,987	72,605	6,051	3,026	2,793	1,397	
<b>For each add'l family member, add</b>	<b>5,680</b>	<b>10,508</b>	<b>876</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>7,384</b>	<b>616</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>142</b>	
<b>HAWAII</b>												
1 .....	14,820	27,417	2,285	1,143	1,055	528	19,266	1,606	803	741	371	
2 .....	20,040	37,074	3,090	1,545	1,426	713	26,052	2,171	1,086	1,002	501	
3 .....	25,260	46,731	3,895	1,948	1,798	899	32,838	2,737	1,369	1,263	632	
4 .....	30,480	56,388	4,699	2,350	2,169	1,085	39,624	3,302	1,651	1,524	762	
5 .....	35,700	66,045	5,504	2,752	2,541	1,271	46,410	3,868	1,934	1,785	893	
6 .....	40,920	75,702	6,309	3,155	2,912	1,456	53,196	4,433	2,217	2,046	1,023	
7 .....	46,140	85,359	7,114	3,557	3,284	1,642	59,982	4,999	2,500	2,307	1,154	
8 .....	51,360	95,016	7,918	3,959	3,655	1,828	66,768	5,564	2,782	2,568	1,284	
<b>For each add'l family member, add</b>	<b>5,220</b>	<b>9,657</b>	<b>805</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>6,786</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>131</b>	

Cynthia Long,  
Acting Administrator,  
USDA Food and Nutrition Service.