



ESTADO LIBRE ASOCIADO DE PUERTO RICO
DEPARTAMENTO DE EDUCACIÓN
Servicios de Alimento y Nutrición, Agencia Estatal

29 de mayo de 2008

A TODOS LOS AUSPICIADORES DEL PROGRAMA DE HEAD START


Zulma Y. Soliván Centeno
Directora

Elegibilidad Automática Gratis a todos los niños matriculados en el Programa de Head Start

La División de Nutrición del Niño del Servicio de Alimento y Nutrición, nos ha informado que la Ley Richard Russell National School Lunch Act (NSLA) fue enmendada. La enmienda extiende elegibilidad automática gratis a todos los niños matriculados en Head Start participantes de los Programas de Alimentos.

De acuerdo a la Ley Pública 110-134 cualquier niño matriculado en Head Start es elegible automáticamente para alimentos gratis sin requerir completar certificación alguna para determinar su elegibilidad. Esta enmienda tiene efectividad retroactiva a enero del 2008.

Los auspiciadores que reclamaron reembolsos de raciones servidas a niños clasificados reducido o pagando deben enviar una revisión de reclamación gratis retroactiva a enero del 2008. La Oficina de Servicios de Alimento y Nutrición y el Programa de Alimentos para el Cuidado de Niños y Adultos ofrecerá asistencia técnica para someter las reclamaciones correspondientes. Estas revisiones deben enviarlas a nuestra oficina antes del 30 de julio de 2008.

Los Centros de Cuido del Programa de Child Care del Departamento de la Familia que están bajo el auspicio de Head Start no le aplica esta enmienda. Realizarán una reclamación aparte para estos niños ya que se sigue el proceso establecido de llenar certificados y clasificarlos según su elegibilidad.

Se incluye nueva lista de matrícula para el Programa de Head Start.

Para información adicional favor comunicarse con la Sra. Aida L. Medina, Coordinadora del Programa al 759-2000 ext. 2737.

ZYS/mff
Anejos

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FYI

The attached memo, Automatic Eligibility for Free Meal Benefits Extended to All Children Enrolled in Head Start (SP 23-2008, CACFP 07-2008, SFSP 06-2008), was issued by FNS-HQ on May 16, 2008.

Retroactive reimbursement is authorized effective December 12, 2007. However, State agencies using a claiming percentage or blended rate reimbursement method for centers may use January 1 as the effective date.

The pdf files will be posted in three business days on the CND - Policy and Memoranda PartnerWeb.

We have also attached a PDF file containing SDM 75-99, which is referenced in the memo cited above. SDM 75-99 addresses categorical eligibility issues pertaining to State funded pre-k programs (aka head start clones).

If this policy currently applies to state funded pre-k programs in your State, please contact us to confirm and update the required waiver.

Thanks.

TOM LEVERICH
Senior Program Specialist
Child and Adult Care Food Program
FNS-MARO, USDA

From: Pham, Minh

Sent: Friday, May 16, 2008 3:31 PM

To: Adams, Jan; Brewer, Julie; Brownrigg, Marcus; Castillo, Georgina; Churchill, Keith; Churma, Jim; Coronado, Rosa; Crane, Alan; Daugherty, Rosie; Deegan, Robert; Eadie, Robert; Fabina, Janice; Figueroa, Rosemary; Halbrook, Brenda; HAMDAN, SAMIA; Harmon, James; Henson, Cecilia; Hirschman, Jay; Hogan, Katrina; Hortin, Steve; Howell, Gerry; JARKA, ELVIRA; Kirk, Lanna; Kuecks, Holly; Lapeze, Louise; Long, Cindy; Magnarelli, John; Mansfield, Debbie; Martin, Barbara; McQueen, Winnie; Mendoza, Jesus; Miller, Mary; Morawetz, Ed; Nigri, Debra; O'Connell, Rosemary; Pham, Minh; PIPITONE, JACQUELINE; Rothstein, Melissa; Sanchez, Darlene; Varney, Lynne; Vazquez, Tim; Veasley, Betty; Wagoner, William; Wahlberg, Ellen; WHITMORE, DAN

Cc: Ponemon, Susan; Quillen, Kathryn

Subject: SP 23-2008, CACFP 07-2008, SFSP 06-2008: Automatic Eligibility for Free Meal Benefits Extended to All Children Enrolled in Head Start

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6/2/2008



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Service

3101 Park
Center Drive
Alexandria, VA
22302-1500

MEMO CODE: SP #23-2008, CACFP #07 -2008, SFSP #06 -2008

DATE: May 16, 2008

SUBJECT: Automatic Eligibility for Free Meal Benefits Extended to All
Children Enrolled in Head Start

TO: State Agencies
Child Nutrition Programs
All States

Regional Directors
Special Nutrition Programs
All Regions

This memorandum provides guidance regarding amendments to the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (NSLA) that extend automatic eligibility for free meal benefits, including free milk, to all children enrolled in Head Start and participating in child nutrition programs.

On December 12, 2007, the President signed The Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-134) which contains several significant revisions to the Head Start program, including amendments to the eligibility criteria in section 645 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9840). Public Law 110-134 also amends sections 9(b)(12)(A)(iii) and 17(c)(5) of the NSLA to correspond with the new eligibility criteria.

Head Start serves primarily children from families with household incomes at or below the Federal poverty level. However a small proportion of children in families with household incomes above the poverty level may be served. In the past, only those children who were income eligible for Head Start were considered automatically eligible for free meals in the child nutrition programs.

Public Law 110-134 makes any child enrolled in Head Start automatically eligible for free meals without further application or eligibility determination. Therefore, even a child who is not from a household with an income at or below the poverty level is automatically eligible for free meals if they are enrolled in Head Start.

Institutions and school food authorities (SFA) may now establish eligibility of all Head Start enrollees through documentation provided by the Head Start program. We will be updating the relevant eligibility guidance to reflect this change.

All reimbursable meals served to children enrolled in Head Start may be claimed at the free rate. Institutions and SFAs may submit revised claims to claim all reimbursable meals served to Head Start enrollees that were not previously claimed at the free rate. All such reimbursable meals served on December 12, 2007, and beyond may be claimed. In order to retroactively claim meals at the free rate, SFAs must refund any money they received from the families of Head Start children who were not previously eligible for free meals. States should amend their FNS-10, FNS-44 and SF-269 reports, as necessary.

The new eligibility criteria also applies to children in State-funded pre-kindergarten programs which have been provided waivers under the authority of the memorandum dated July 22, 1999, *Automatic Eligibility of State-Funded Pre-Kindergarten Participants for Free Meals in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), and the School Breakfast Program (SBP)*. SFAs and institutions that have received waivers, and have the same or stricter income eligibility standards than Head Start, may also revise claims dating back to December 12, 2007, for those children enrolled in their programs who were not previously eligible for free meals.

Please work with Head Start and other institutions and SFAs in your States to fully implement these amendments. State agencies should direct any questions concerning this guidance to their Regional offices.



for

CYNTHIA LONG
Director
Child Nutrition Division