USDA
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Food and Nutrition Service

Park Office Center

3101 Park Center Drive
Alexandria
VA 22302

SUBJECT: Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP): Income Guidelines (IGs) for 2016

TO: Regional Directors
Special Nutrition Programs
MARO, MPRO, MWRO,
NERO, SERO, SWRO, and
WRO

State Directors
CSFP State Agencies
All Participating States

This memorandum transmits the 2016 IGs to be used by State agencies in determining the eligibility of individuals applying to participate in CSFP. These guidelines are to be used in conjunction with CSFP regulations, at 7 CFR Part 247. It is important to note that the Agricultural Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-79, the Farm Bill) amended CSFP's eligibility requirements to phase out the participation of women, infants, and children (w-i-c) participating in the program. Accordingly, the 2016 income guidelines are applicable only to those w-i-c participants who were certified and enrolled in CSFP as of February 6, 2014. Because all women and infants have transitioned off the program, the 2016 income guidelines forego reference to these individuals. Only children and elderly individuals 60 years of age and older remain on the program. Finally, the income guidelines for children are not applicable in those States that joined CSFP for the first time in 2015 or 2016, as they joined after enactment of the Farm Bill and must only serve eligible elderly individuals.

Section 247.9(b)(1) establishes that household income limits for children must be at, or below, 185 percent of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines (Poverty Guidelines) published annually by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), but not below 100 percent of these guidelines. Section 247.9(b)(1) further requires State agencies to consider certain children as income-eligible regardless of actual income, including those individuals who receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or Medicaid benefits. Section 247.9(c) requires that elderly persons have household income at or below 130 percent of the Poverty Guidelines in order to be eligible for the program. To establish annual income limits of 130 and 185 percent, the Poverty Guidelines are multiplied by 1.30 and 1.85, respectively, and the results are rounded up to the next whole dollar. From these results, weekly and monthly income limits are calculated.

The 2016 IGs in the attached tables contain the maximum income limits by household size to be used for eligibility determinations in CSFP. The first table contains the income limits for households residing in the 48 contiguous States and the District of Columbia. Separate income limits for Alaska and Hawaii are established and published annually by

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HHS. The second and third tables contain the income limits for CSFP households residing in Alaska and Hawaii. Please note that for households of seven members and above, there was no increase in the 2016 Poverty Guidelines over last year's level. Accordingly, for households at or above this threshold the 2016 IGs are the same as the 2015 IGs.

Pursuant to program regulations, the 2016 elderly income guidelines must be implemented immediately upon receipt of this memorandum, and will remain in effect until notification of the income guidelines for 2017.

Where applicable, CSFP State agencies must implement the 2016 children income guidelines at the same time that the State agency administering the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) implements the adjusted guidelines in WIC. These also remain in effect until notification of CSFP income guidelines for 2017.

CSFP regulations, at section 247.9(e)(1), define "income" as gross income before deductions for such items as income taxes, employees' social security taxes, insurance premiums, and bonds. Sections 247.9(e)(2) and (e)(3) list income exclusions, and other income exclusions are provided via policy memoranda available online at the Food and Nutrition Service's (FNS) website at http://www.fns.usda.gov/fdd.

State agencies should direct any questions they may have regarding the IGs to their FNS Regional Offices. Regional Offices should contact Erica Antonson or Carolyn Smalkowski at (703) 305-2680.

Laura Castro

Laura Castro
Director
Food Distribution Division

Attachment

ATTACHMENT
CSFP INCOME GUIDELINES--2016

48 CONTIGUOUS STATES AND DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA*								
	Federal Poverty Guidelines - 100%	**Children - 185%**			**Elderly - 130%**		
Household Size	Annual	Annual	Monthly	Weekly	Annual	Monthly	Weekly
1.....	$11,880	$21,978	$1,832	$423	$15,444	$1,287	$297
2.....	16,020	29,637	2,470	570	20,826	1,736	401
3.....	20,160	37,296	3,108	718	26,208	2,184	504
4.....	24,300	44,955	3,747	865	31,590	2,633	608
5.....	28,440	52,614	4,385	1,012	36,972	3,081	711
6.....	32,580	60,273	5,023	1,160	42,354	3,530	815
7.....	36,730	67,951	5,663	1,307	47,749	3,980	919
8.....	40,890	75,647	6,304	1,455	53,157	4,430	1,023
For each add'l household member, add...	4,160	7,696	642	148	5,408	451	104

ALASKA*							
	Federal Poverty Guidelines - 100%	**Children - 185%**			**Elderly - 130%**		
Household Size	Annual	Annual	Monthly	Weekly	Annual	Monthly	Weekly
1.....	$14,840	$27,454	$2,288	$528	$19,292	$1,608	$371
2.....	20,020	37,037	3,087	713	26,026	2,169	501
3.....	25,200	46,620	3,885	897	32,760	2,730	630
4.....	30,380	56,203	4,684	1,081	39,494	3,292	760
5.....	35,560	65,786	5,483	1,266	46,228	3,853	889
6.....	40,740	75,369	6,281	1,450	52,962	4,414	1,019
7.....	45,920	84,952	7,080	1,634	59,696	4,975	1,148
8.....	51,120	94,572	7,881	1,819	66,456	5,538	1,278
For each add'l household member, add...	5,200	9,620	802	185	6,760	564	130

Hawaii*				
	Federal Poverty Guidelines - 100%	**Elderly - 130%**		
Household Size	Annual	Annual	Monthly	Weekly
1.....	$13,670	$17,771	$1,481	$342
2.....	18,430	23,959	1,997	461
3.....	23,190	30,147	2,513	580
4.....	27,950	36,335	3,028	699
5.....	32,710	42,523	3,544	818
6.....	37,470	48,711	4,060	937
7.....	42,230	54,899	4,575	1,056
8.....	47,010	61,113	5,093	1,176
For each add'l household member, add...	4,780	6,214	518	120

*CSFP State agencies must implement the adjusted income guidelines for elderly applicants immediately upon receipt. For children applicants who were certified and enrolled as of Febuary 6, 2014, each CSFP State agency must implement the adjusted guidelines at the same time that the WIC State agency implements the adjusted guidelines in WIC. The guidelines for children are not applicable in those States new to CSFP in 2015 and 2016 - Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Maryland, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Virginia.