



Department of Education


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April 16, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Sponsors

FROM: Aimee F. Beam, MS, RD 
Director, Nutrition Programs

RE: **2026 Operational Memo # 14 Income Eligibility Guidelines for 2026 -2027**

On April 9, 2026, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) published its annual notice adjusting the Income Eligibility Guidelines for Free and Reduced-Price Meals. The annual adjustment of the guidelines will be **effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.**

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.

Use this chart for any Income Eligibility Form that is submitted from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact us at 302-857-3356.

Attachment: Income Eligibility Guidelines 2026-2027

cc: DDOE Nutrition Team



INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE MEALS

Effective Date: July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027

These are the income scales used by Child Nutrition Programs to determine eligibility for free and reduced-price meals.

Household Size	Free Meals – 130%					Reduced Meals – 185%				
	Yearly	Monthly	Twice per Month	Every two weeks	Weekly	Yearly	Monthly	Twice per Month	Every two weeks	Weekly
1	\$20,748	\$1,729	\$865	\$798	\$399	\$29,526	\$2,461	\$1,231	\$1,136	\$568
2	\$28,132	\$2,345	\$1,173	\$1,082	\$541	\$40,034	\$3,337	\$1,669	\$1,540	\$770
3	\$35,516	\$2,960	\$1,480	\$1,366	\$683	\$50,542	\$4,212	\$2,106	\$1,944	\$972
4	\$42,900	\$3,575	\$1,788	\$1,650	\$825	\$61,050	\$5,088	\$2,544	\$2,349	\$1,175
5	\$50,284	\$4,191	\$2,096	\$1,934	\$967	\$71,558	\$5,964	\$2,982	\$2,753	\$1,377
6	\$57,668	\$4,806	\$2,403	\$2,218	\$1,109	\$82,066	\$6,839	\$3,420	\$3,157	\$1,579
7	\$65,052	\$5,421	\$2,711	\$2,502	\$1,251	\$92,574	\$7,715	\$3,858	\$3,561	\$1,781
8	\$72,436	\$6,037	\$3,019	\$2,786	\$1,393	\$103,082	\$8,591	\$4,296	\$3,965	\$1,983
For each additional household member, add:	\$7,384	\$616	\$308	\$284	\$142	\$10,508	\$876	\$438	\$405	\$203