

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Summer Food Service Program for Children Program Reimbursement for 2001

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice informs the public of the annual adjustments to the reimbursement rates for meals served in the Summer Food Service Program for Children (SFSP). These adjustments reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index and are required by the statute governing the Program. In addition, further adjustments are made to these rates to reflect the higher costs of providing meals in the States of Alaska and Hawaii, as authorized by the William F. Goodling Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act of 1998.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Melissa A. Rothstein, Section Chief, Summer Food Service Program and Child and Adult Care Food Program, Child Nutrition Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 1007, Alexandria, Virginia 22302, (703) 305-2620.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This program is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under No. 10.559 and is subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372 which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials (7 CFR part 3015, subpart V, and final rule related notice published at 48 FR 29114, June 24, 1983).

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3518), no new recordkeeping or reporting requirements have been included that are subject to approval from the Office of Management and Budget.

This notice 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. Additionally, this notice has been determined to be exempt from review by the Office of Management and Budget under Executive Order 12866.

Definitions

The terms used in this Notice shall have the meaning ascribed to them in the regulations governing the Summer

Food Service Program for Children (7 CFR part 225).

Background

In accordance with section 13 of the National School Lunch Act (NSLA)(42 U.S.C. 1761) and the regulations governing the SFSP (7 CFR part 225), notice is hereby given of adjustments in Program payments for meals served to children participating in the SFSP in 2001. Adjustments are based on changes in the food away from home series of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for All Urban Consumers for the period November 1999 through November 2000.

Section 104(a) of the William F. Goodling Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-336) amended section 12(f) of the NSLA (42 U.S.C. 1760(f)) to allow adjustments to SFSP reimbursement rates to reflect the higher cost of providing meals in the SFSP in Alaska and Hawaii. Therefore, this notice contains adjusted rates for Alaska and Hawaii. This change was made in an effort to be consistent with other Child Nutrition Programs, such as the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program, which already had the authority to provide higher reimbursement rates for programs in Alaska and Hawaii.

The 2001 reimbursement rates, in dollars, for all States excluding Alaska and Hawaii:

MAXIMUM PER MEAL REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR ALL STATES (NOT AK OR HI)

	Operating costs	Administrative costs	
		Rural or self-preparation sites	Other types of sites
Breakfast	\$1.28	\$.1275	\$.1000
Lunch or Supper	2.23	.2325	.1925
Supplement52	.0625	.0500

The 2001 reimbursement rates, in dollars, for Alaska:

MAXIMUM PER MEAL REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR ALASKA ONLY

	Operating costs	Administrative costs	
		Rural or self-preparation sites	Other types of sites
Breakfast	\$2.07	\$.2050	\$.1625
Lunch or Supper	3.62	.3775	.3125
Supplement84	.1025	.0825

The 2001 reimbursement rates, in dollars, for Hawaii:

MAXIMUM PER MEAL REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR HAWAII ONLY

	Operating costs	Administrative costs	
		Rural or self-preparation sites	Other types of sites
Breakfast	\$1.49	\$.1475	\$.1175
Lunch or Supper	2.61	.2725	.2275
Supplement61	.0750	.0575

The total amount of payments to State agencies for disbursement to Program sponsors will be based upon these Program reimbursement rates and the number of meals of each type served. The above reimbursement rates, for both operating and administrative reimbursement rates, represent a 2.34 percent increase during 2000 (from 166.5 in November 1999 to 170.4 in November 2000) in the food away from home series of the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor. The Department would like to point out that the SFSP administrative reimbursement rates continue to be adjusted up or down to the nearest quarter-cent, as has previously been the case. Additionally, operating reimbursement rates have been rounded down to the nearest whole cent, as required by section 11(a)(3)(B) of the NSLA (42 U.S.C. 1759 (a)(3)(B)).

Authority: Secs. 9, 13 and 14, National School Lunch Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1758, 1761, and 1762a).

Dated: December 20, 2000.

George A. Braley,
Acting Administrator.

[FR Doc. 00-32991 Filed 12-26-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Food Stamp Program: Research Grants to Improve Food Stamp Program Access

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability of research grants to improve Food Stamp Program Access through Partnerships and New Technology.

SUMMARY: The Food and Nutrition Service, USDA, announces a program of competitively awarded grants and cooperative agreements for research that will improve the administrative effectiveness of the Food Stamp Program (FSP) in delivering nutrition related benefits. Of particular interest

are efforts that will assist potentially eligible customers in accessing the FSP. The grants will support research on the effects of community partnerships to reach underserved populations such as working families, children, immigrants, elderly and able-bodied adults without dependent children. This notice summarizes the objectives, the eligibility criteria, and the application procedures for these grants.

DATES: Applications must be received on or before 3:00 pm on January 5, 2001. Applications received after 3:00 pm, January 5, 2001, will not be considered for funding.

ADDRESSES: To obtain program grant application materials, and to submit completed applications, please contact the USDA, Food and Nutrition Service, Contract Management Branch, Room 220, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, Virginia 22302, Attn: Patsy Palmer. Grant application material can also be obtained at the Department's web site at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fsp/GRANTS/ProgramAccess.HTM>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patricia Seward, Food Stamp Program, at 703-305-2428, or via Internet mail at pat.seward@fns.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Legislative Authority

Under section 17(a)(1) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977, (the Act), 7 U.S.C. 2026(a)(1), the Food and Nutrition Service intends to make grants for research to improve FSP access and the education of potentially eligible non-participants about the nutrition and health benefits of the FSP. The Food and Nutrition Service expects to make available at least \$3,000,000 but no more than \$3,500,000 for Fiscal Year 2001 to fund competitive grants for research in the form of demonstration projects. The competitive grants will be awarded to encourage research by non-food stamp governmental authorities (e.g., State/local school districts, public health clinics), cooperating nonprofit grassroots customer organizations, institutions of higher education (e.g., 1890's Colleges and Universities), foundations and other non-profit research institutes. If a joint project is

awarded, the grant award will be made to the lead agency or organization. Current Food and Nutrition Service grantees may compete under the requirements of the solicitation but not for extensions of previously funded projects. This solicitation is not intended to extend or continue previously funded projects.

Description of Research Projects

Research is a systematic inquiry, including demonstration projects, into a subject—in this case, ways to facilitate participation in the Food Stamp Program among people eligible for its benefits. The Food and Nutrition Service will conduct a competition for grants for research on measures that may identify and educate food stamp eligibles not currently participating in the program—including, but not limited to, the working poor, children, immigrants, elderly and able-bodied adults without dependent children—about the nutrition benefits, eligibility requirements, and application procedures of the FSP. The Food and Nutrition Service is seeking research that will produce information on the effectiveness of FSP program delivery with special emphasis on methods used to improve access to low-income families and individuals to the nutrition benefits of the FSP. The Food and Nutrition Service will analyze the information collected and reported by grantees at the end of the project. Such research projects could include:

- Informational and educational projects about the nutrition benefits, eligibility rules, and application procedures of the program;
- Projects testing the effects of assistance with the application procedures, including eligibility pre-screening services; and,
- New approaches such as “one-stop shopping” or joint client-oriented service delivery strategies.

We expect to receive proposals at various funding levels and expect to make awards up to \$300,000 each, depending upon the number and quality of the proposals received. The duration of the research projects may be up to but may not exceed 24 months, depending upon the type and complexity of the