Reply to
Attn. of: CACFP-485

Subject: Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Means Test: Provision of School Data

To: STATE AGENCY DIRECTORS - Colorado DPHE, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri DH, (Child Nutrition Programs) Montana DPHHS, Nebraska ED, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming

Attached is preliminary information on the requirements pertaining to the provision of elementary school data to family day care home sponsors, which is a critical component of the new two-tier reimbursement system in CACFP. We are forwarding this information to give you as much lead time as possible in gathering the data that will be needed. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact our office at (303) 844-0359.

Ann C. Degroat
ANN C. DEGROAT
Regional Director
Child Nutrition Programs

Attachment

cc: Dan McMillan, CO Dept. of Education
    Bill Pohl, MO Dept. of Education
    Mary McAuley, MT OPI
Provision of Elementary School Data

This is to advise you of a requirement imposed by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, P.L. 104-193, in advance of publication of the interim regulation implementing one of its provisions. We are alerting you of this requirement now in order to provide you with sufficient time in which to comply.

As you are aware, P.L. 104-193 made changes to the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) to improve the targeting of day care home reimbursements. Under the two-tiered reimbursement structure established in the law, one of the methods by which day care homes may qualify for higher reimbursement rates is if they are located in low-income areas as determined by local elementary school free and reduced-price enrollment data.

To facilitate CACFP sponsoring organizations' access to local school data, section 708(e)(3) of the law added section 17(f)(3)(e) to the National School Lunch Act to require that each State agency that administers the National School Lunch or School Breakfast Programs annually provide a list of elementary schools in the State in which at least one-half of the enrolled children are certified to receive free or reduced-price meals. The law also directs State agencies which administer the school nutrition programs to collect the data necessary to comply with this requirement.

The law makes the two-tiered day care home reimbursement structure effective on July 1, 1997. In order to implement the provision by that date, the forthcoming interim regulation will require that, no later than February 15, 1997, each school food authority provide the NSLP State agency with a list of all elementary schools under its jurisdiction in which 50 percent or more of enrolled children have been determined eligible for free or reduced price meals as of the last operating day of the preceding October. If this information is not already available, the NSLP State agency should request this information from school food authorities in one of two ways. State agencies should either: (1) request the name and address of each school as well as the percentage of students in that school who are eligible to receive free and reduced price meals; or (2) request the name and address of each school, the number of children enrolled in that school, and the number of children eligible to receive free and reduced price meals. If selecting this second option, the State agency should then calculate the percentage of students that are eligible to receive free or reduced price meals.

No later than March 15, 1997, the NSLP State agency must consolidate the information provided by school food authorities and provide the State agency which administers the CACFP with a list of all elementary schools in the State in which 50 percent or more of the enrolled children are eligible for free or reduced price meals. The CACFP State Agency, in turn, will be required to provide sponsoring organizations with this information no later than April 1, 1997.

[Please note: CACFP State agencies may wish to request a complete listing of elementary schools from the NSLP State agency in order to facilitate identification of those schools which are near the 50 percent level, in order to facilitate identification of areas which might qualify for Tier I rates on the basis of census data. Additional information will be forwarded to you concerning the use of school and census data in a subsequent message to be sent to all regions within the next week].