Subject: Income Calculations for Determining Free and Reduced Price School Meal and Free Milk Eligibility

To: STATE AGENCY DIRECTORS (Special Nutrition Programs) - Colorado ED, Colorado DH, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri ED, Missouri DH, Montana OPI, Montana DHES, Nebraska ED, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming ED, and Wyoming DHSS

Periodically we are asked about the multiplication factor for converting weekly income to a monthly income figure when determining eligibility for free and reduced price meals and free milk. As you know, both the eligibility guidance and the application for free and reduced price meals and free milk indicate that the determining official or household should multiply weekly amounts by 4.33 to obtain monthly income. Nevertheless, some State Agencies and local entities (school food authorities, institutions, sponsors, etc.) are using a factor of 4.3. Although the number of households whose eligibility could be affected when weekly income is multiplied by 4.33 rather than 4.3 is small, we are concerned that uniform eligibility standards be maintained nationwide. Please reiterate to your local entities that they should use the 4.33 conversion factor when a weekly conversion to a monthly figure is necessary.

Please let us know if you have any questions on this issue.

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