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POLICY UPDATE



10.3.2019 USDA Requests Comments Regarding Food Program Reporting System

USDA has published a [Federal Register notice](#), inviting the general public to comment on the consolidation of reporting requirements for the Food Programs Reporting System (FPRS), an electronic reporting system for State agencies and Indian Tribal Organization (ITO) agencies. USDA is requesting comment concerning whether this collection is necessary for the agency to perform its functions and practical ways to enhance the quality and clarity of the information that is collected. Written and electronic comments were due on November 4, 2019.

10.15.2019 USDA Releases Analysis of School Meals Eligibility Under Proposed SNAP Rule, Reopens Comment Period

USDA has released an [analysis](#) of the potential impact of the proposed revision of Categorical Eligibility in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) on participants in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP). The analysis “shows that potentially as many as 982,000 children would no longer be directly certified for free school meals based on SNAP participation. Of the total number of impacted children, about 445,000 (or 45 percent) would be income eligible for free meals, and about 497,000 (or 51 percent) would be income eligible for reduced price meals. About 40,000 children (or 4 percent) would be required to pay at the ‘paid rate’ for a school meal if they chose to participate in the NSLP and SBP.” [Read USDA’s press release](#).

To allow the public to provide input specifically related to these new findings, USDA has [reopened](#) the comment period on the [proposed rule](#) to revise categorical eligibility. The proposed revisions would end SNAP enrollment for an estimated 1.7 million households and as a result, end direct certification for free meals for any students living in these households. All comments were due November 1, 2019.

11.1.2019 USDA Increases Guam and Virgin Islands Reimbursement Rates

In a [Federal Register notice](#), the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) established new reimbursement rates for Guam and the Virgin Islands. This rate adjustment is in effect beginning July 1, 2019 for SY 2019-20. This 17 percent increase in the reimbursement rate is based on data indicating that the costs of producing school lunches, breakfasts and snacks are higher than those in the continental United States, as well as other factors impacting both Guam and the Virgin Islands school meal programs.

11.5.2019 Meal Service During Unanticipated School Closures

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) released [updated guidance](#) on meal service during unanticipated school closures. School Food Authorities (SFAs) participating in the National School Lunch Program and/or the School Breakfast Program, institutions participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), and sponsors participating in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) are encouraged to use the flexibilities described in this memorandum to help ensure that children do not experience a lapse in food security when extreme weather or other events force area schools and child care facilities to close. For more information on

Questions or comments?

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this topic, don't miss the [Serving Students When the Lights Go Out: Disaster Preparedness & Response](#) pre-conference session at SNA's Legislative Action Conference in March.

11.13.2019 Proposed Rule: National Primary Drinking Water Lead and Copper Regulations

The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 requires schools to make water available during meal periods at no cost to students. The Act also mandates that childcare facilities provide free drinking water throughout the day. Among other provisions, the EPA is [proposing a new requirement](#) for Community Water Systems to provide public education on lead in drinking water and sample for lead at schools and childcare facilities within its distribution system every five years. The intent of the requirement is to inform users about risks from lead in premise plumbing at schools and childcare facilities.

Questions or comments?

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