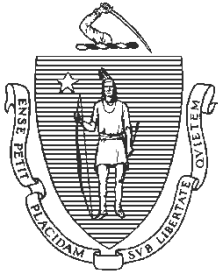


Meal Benefit Income Eligibility Application Packet
Child Care Institutions

Document Index

This document contains the following information:

1. Kathleen Millett Memo re: Meal Benefit Income Eligibility Applications
2. Instructions for Child and Adult Care Food Program Centers and Sponsoring Organizations.
3. Letter to Parent/Guardian
4. Instructions for Household
5. Meal Benefit Income Eligibility Application (Child Care)
6. Sharing Information with Medicaid/SCHIP
7. Mass Health Flyer



Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

75 Pleasant Street, Malden, Massachusetts 02148-4906

Telephone: (781) 338-3000
TTY: N.E.T. Relay 1-800-439-2370

MEMORANDUM

To: Child and Adult Care Food Program Sponsors and Institutions
From: Kathleen C. Millett, Administrator
Office for Nutrition, Health and Safety Programs
Subject: Meal Benefit Income Eligibility Applications

Attached are the updated prototype materials for households applying for free or reduced price meals in the Child and Adult Care Food Programs. The *Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010*, the child nutrition federal reauthorization law, made several changes to eligibility. Based on input from several sources, we have designed a Massachusetts Family Household application that streamlines the application and instructions. USDA application packages are available in multiple languages at http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/care/Benefit_Forms/Translations.htm

This package includes forms and letters for Sponsors and institutions to use.

The major changes are:

- Foster children are categorically eligible for free meal benefits. An application is not needed yet there does need to be documentation of status by a state or local entity familiar with the child's status.
- Foster children may be included in the household application as part of the household size.
- The last four digits of the social security number for the adult signing the application needs to be listed rather than the entire social security number. The need to collect additional adult social security numbers as part of the verification process has been eliminated.

Please note that the prototype application and letter to parents/participants includes the reduced price income eligibility guidelines chart. The current Income Eligibility Guidelines for determining eligibility for free or reduced price meals have been issued and is a separate document in the Online Document and Reference Library.

A flyer to be reproduced and distributed to households with information on the Child Health Insurance Program is a separate attachment. Income Guidelines are a separate document to be used by the sponsor.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please call Nutrition staff at 781-338-6499.

CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM

MEAL BENEFIT INCOME ELIGIBILITY FORM

Instructions for Child and Adult Care Food Program Centers and Sponsoring Organizations

This packet contains prototype forms:

Required information that *must* be provided to households:

- Letter to Households: Child Day Care
- Meal Benefit Income Eligibility Form: Child Day Care (with Instructions)

Additional application-related material that *must* be provided to households:

- Sharing Information With Medicaid and SCHIP

The pages are designed to be printed on 8½” by 11” paper. Some pages may be printed front and back. The **[bold bracketed fields]** indicate where you need to insert your specific information of whom to contact for assistance and where to submit the completed form(s).

This prototype package also includes information regarding the exclusion of housing allowance for those in the Military Housing Privatization Initiative and pricing programs. If these sections are not pertinent, you may remove them.

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
Office for Nutrition, Health and Safety Programs
75 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148





CACFP MEAL BENEFIT INCOME ELIGIBILITY FORM (Child Care)

Dear Parent/Guardian:

This letter is intended for parents or guardians of children enrolled in a child care center. **[Name of Center]** offers healthy meals to all enrolled children as part of our participation in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The CACFP provides reimbursements for healthy meals and snacks served to children enrolled in child care. Please help us comply with the requirements of the CACFP by completing the attached Meal Benefit Income Eligibility Form. In addition, by filling out this form, we will be able to determine if your child(ren) qualifies for free or reduced price meals.

1. Do I need to fill out a Meal Benefit Form for each of my children in day care? You may complete and submit one CACFP Meal Benefit Income Eligibility Form for all children enrolled in child care in your household **only** if the children in child care are enrolled in the same center. We cannot approve a form that is not complete, so be sure to read the instructions carefully and fill out all required information. **Return the completed form to: [(Name of Center, address, phone number)].**

2. Who can get free meals without providing income information? Children in households getting Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (formerly Food Stamps) or Temporary Assistance for Families of Dependent Children (TAFDC), benefits can get free meals. Foster children and children enrolled in Head Start are also eligible for free meals. Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free meals.

3. Who can get reduced price meals? Your children can get low cost meals if your household income is within the reduced price limits on the Federal Income Chart, shown on this application. Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for reduced price meals.

4. May I fill out a form if someone in my household is not a U.S. citizen? Yes. You or your children do not have to be U.S. citizens to qualify for meal benefits offered at the child care center.

5. Who should I include as members of my household? You must include everyone in your household (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends who live with you) who shares income and expenses. You must include yourself and all children who live with you. You also may include foster children who live with you.

6. How do I report income information and changes in employment status? The income you report must be the total gross income listed by source for each household member received last month. If last month's income does not accurately reflect your circumstances, you may provide a projection of your monthly income. If no significant change has occurred, you may use last month's income as a basis to make this projection. If your household's income is equal to or less than the amounts indicated for your household's size on the attached Income Chart, the center will receive a higher level of reimbursement. Once properly approved for free or reduced price benefits, whether through income or by providing a current SNAP, TANF, FDPIR case number, you will remain eligible for those benefits for 12 months. You should notify us, however, if you or someone in your household becomes unemployed and the loss of income causes your household income to be within the eligibility standards.

7. What if my income is not always the same? List the amount that you normally get. For example, if you normally get \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only got \$900, put down that you get \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but not if you only get it sometimes.

8. What if I have foster children? Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals. Any foster child in the household is eligible for free meals regardless of income. Households may include foster children on the Meal Benefit Form, but are not required to include payments received for the foster child as income. Households wishing to apply for such benefits for foster children should contact **[name, address, phone number]**.

9. We are in the military, do we include our housing and supplemental allowances as income? If your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative and you receive the Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance, do not include these allowances as income. Also, in regard to deployed service members, only that portion of a deployed service member's income made available by them or on their behalf to the household will be counted as income to the household. Combat Pay, including Deployment Extension Incentive Pay (DEIP) is also excluded and will not be counted as income to the household. All other allowances must be included in your gross income.

In the operation of child feeding programs, no person will be discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.

If you have other questions or need help, call **[phone number]**.

Sincerely,

[signature]



CACFP MEAL BENEFIT INCOME ELIGIBILITY FORM (Child Care)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE CACFP MEAL BENEFIT INCOME ELIGIBILITY FORM (Child Care)

If any member of the household gets SNAP or TAFDC, follow these instructions:

Part 1: List all enrolled children and household members. For any person, including children, with no income, you must check the “No Income Box”.

Part 2: List the case number for any household member receiving SNAP or TAFDC benefits.

Part 3: If any child you are applying for is homeless, migrant, or a runaway check the appropriate box and call your Child Care Sponsor for further instructions. If not, skip this part.

Part 4: Skip this part

Part 5: Sign the form. The last four digits of a Social Security Number are **not** necessary.

Part 6: Answer this question if you choose.

If you are applying on behalf of a FOSTER CHILD, follow these instructions:

If **all** children you are applying for are foster children, or if you are only applying for benefits for the foster child:

Part 1: List all foster children. Check the box indicating that the child is a foster child.

Part 2: Skip this part.

Part 3: Skip this part.

Part 4: Skip this part.

Part 5: Sign the form. A Social Security Number is **not** necessary.

Part 6: Answer this question if you choose to.

If some of the children in the household are foster children.

Part 1: List all enrolled children and household members. For any people, including children, with no income, you must check the “No Income Box.” Check the box if the child is a foster child.

Part 2: If the household does not have a case number, skip this part.

Part 3: If any child you are applying for is homeless, migrant, or a runaway check the appropriate box and call your Child Care Sponsor for further instructions. If not, skip this part.

Part 4: Follow these instructions to report total household income for this month or last month.

Column A – Name: List only the first and last name of **each** person living in your household who share income and expenses, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends who live with you) with income. Include yourself and all children living with you. Attach another sheet of paper if you need to.

Column B – Gross Income and How Often it was Received: For each household member, list each type of income received for the month. You must tell us how often the money is received – weekly, every other week, twice a month, or monthly.

Box 1: List the **gross income**, not the take-home pay. Gross income is the amount earned before taxes and other deductions. You should be able to find it on your stub or your boss can tell you.

Box 2: List the amount each person got for the month from welfare, child support, alimony.

Box 3: List retirement, Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Veteran’s (VA) benefits, disability benefits.

Box 4: List ALL OTHER INCOME SOURCES including Worker’s Compensation, unemployment, strike benefits, regular contributions from people who do not live in your household, and any other income. For **ONLY** the self-employed, report income after expenses in Box 1. Box 4 is for your business, farm or rental property. Do not include income from SNAP, FDPIR, WIC or Federal education benefits. If you are in the Military Housing Privatization Initiative or get combat pay, do not include this housing allowance as income.

Part 5: Adult household member must sign the form and list the last four digits of the Social Security Number or mark the box if s/he doesn’t have one.

Part 6: Answer this question if you choose.



CACFP MEAL BENEFIT INCOME ELIGIBILITY FORM (Child Care)

ALL OTHER HOUSEHOLDS, including WIC households, follow these instructions:

Part 1: List all enrolled children and household members. For any people, including children, with no income, you must check the “No Income Box.”

Part 2: Skip this part.

Part 3: If any child you are applying for is homeless, migrant, or a runaway check the appropriate box and call your Child Care Sponsor for further instructions. If not, skip this part.

Part 4: Follow these instructions to report total household income form this month or last month.

Column A – Name: List only the first and last name of **each** person living in your household who share income and expenses, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends who live with you) with income. Include yourself and all children living with you. Attach another sheet of paper if you need to.

Column B – Gross Income and How Often it was Received: For each household member, list each type of income received for the month. You must tell us how often the money is received – weekly, every other week, twice a month, or monthly.

Box 1: List the **gross income**, not the take-home pay. Gross income is the amount earned before taxes and other deductions. You should be able to find it on your stub or your boss can tell you.

Box 2: List the amount each person got from the month from welfare, child support, alimony.

Box 3: List retirement, Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Veteran’s (VA) benefits, disability benefits.

Box 4: List ALL OTHER INCOME SOURCES including Worker’s Compensation, unemployment, strike benefits, regular contributions from people who do not live in your household, and any other income. For ONLY the self-employed, report income after expenses in Box 1. Box 4 is for your business, farm or rental property. Do not include income from SNAP, FDPIR, WIC or Federal education benefits. If you are in the Military Housing Privatization Initiative or get combat pay, do not include this housing allowance as income.

Part 5: Adult household member must sign the form and list the last four digits of the Social Security Number or mark the box if s/he doesn’t have one.

Part 6: Answer this question if you choose.

Privacy Act Statement: This explains how we will use the information you give us.

Non-discrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly.



CACFP MEAL BENEFIT INCOME ELIGIBILITY FORM (Child Care)

Part 1. All Household Members

Name of Enrolled Child(ren):

Names of all household members (First, Middle Initial, Last)	CHECK IF A FOSTER CHILD (THE LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY OF A WELFARE AGENCY OR COURT) * IF ALL CHILDREN LISTED BELOW ARE FOSTER CHILDREN, SKIP TO PART 5 TO SIGN THIS FORM.	CHECK IF NO INCOME
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Part 2. Benefits: If any member of your household received SNAP or TAFDC cash assistance, provide the name and case number for the person who receives benefits. **If no one receives these benefits, skip to part 3.**

NAME: _____ CASE NUMBER: _____

Part 3. If any child you are applying for is homeless, migrant, or a runaway, check the appropriate box and call the Child Care Sponsor at Phone #: _____ Homeless Migrant Runaway

Part 4. Total Household Gross Income—You must tell us how much and how often

A. Name (List only household members with income) <i>(Example)</i> Jane Smith	B. Gross income and how often it was received			
	1. Earnings from work before deductions	2. Welfare, child support, alimony	3. Pensions, retirement, Social Security, SSI, VA benefits	4. All Other Income
	\$200/weekly	\$150/twice a month	\$100/monthly	\$_____/_____
	\$_____/_____	\$_____/_____	\$_____/_____	\$_____/_____
	\$_____/_____	\$_____/_____	\$_____/_____	\$_____/_____
	\$_____/_____	\$_____/_____	\$_____/_____	\$_____/_____
	\$_____/_____	\$_____/_____	\$_____/_____	\$_____/_____

Part 5. Signature and Last Four Digits of Social Security Number (Adult must sign)

An adult household member must sign this form. **If Part 4 is completed, the adult signing the form must also list the last four digits of his or her Social Security Number or mark the “I do not have a Social Security Number” box.** (See Privacy Act Statement on the back of this page.)

I certify that all information on this form is true and that all income is reported. I understand that the center or day care home will get Federal funds based on the information I give. I understand that CACFP officials may verify the information. I understand that if I purposely give false information, the participant receiving meals may lose the meal benefits, and I may be prosecuted.

Sign here: _____ Print name: _____

Date: _____

Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Last four digits of Social Security Number: * * * - * * - _____ I do not have a Social Security Number



CACFP MEAL BENEFIT INCOME ELIGIBILITY FORM (Child Care)

Part 6. Participant's ethnic and racial identities (optional)	
Mark one ethnic identity:	Mark one or more racial identities:
<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
Don't fill out this part. This is for official use only.	
Annual Income Conversion: Weekly x 52, Every 2 Weeks x 26, Twice A Month x 24, Monthly x 12 Total Income: _____ Per: <input type="checkbox"/> Week, <input type="checkbox"/> Every 2 Weeks, <input type="checkbox"/> Twice A Month, <input type="checkbox"/> Month, <input type="checkbox"/> Year Household size: _____ Categorical Eligibility: ____ Eligibility: Free ____ Reduced ____ Denied ____ Reason: _____ Temporary: Free ____ Reduced ____ Time Period: _____ (expires after ____ days) Determining Official's Signature: _____ Date: _____ Confirming Official's Signature: _____ Date: _____	

The participant in the day care facility may qualify for free or reduced price meals if your household income falls within the limits on this chart.

Household size	Yearly
1	20,665
2	27,991
3	35,317
4	42,643
5	49,969
6	57,295
7	64,621
8	71,947
Each additional person:	+7,326

Privacy Act Statement: The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires the information on this application. You do not have to give the information, but if you do not, we cannot approve the participant for free or reduced price meals. You must include the last four digits of the Social Security Number of the adult household member who signs the application. The Social Security Number is not required when you apply on behalf of a foster child or you list a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) case number for the participant or other (FDPIR) identifier or when you indicate that the adult household member signing the application does not have a Social Security Number. We will use your information to determine if the participant is eligible for free or reduced price meals, and for administration and enforcement of the Program.

Non-discrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly. "In accordance with Federal Law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call toll free (866) 632-9992 (Voice). Individuals who are hearing impaired or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."



SHARING INFORMATION WITH MEDICAID/SCHIP

Dear Parent/Guardian:

If your children qualify for free or reduced price meals, they may also be able to get free or low cost health insurance through Medicaid or the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). Children with health insurance are more likely to get regular health care and are less likely to become sick.

Because health insurance is so important to children's well-being, **the law allows us to tell Medicaid and SCHIP that your children are eligible for free or reduced price meals, unless you tell us not to.**

Medicaid and SCHIP only use the information to identify children who may be eligible for their programs. Program officials may contact you to offer to enroll your children in this health insurance program. Filling out the CACFP Meal Benefit Income Eligibility Forms does not automatically enroll your children in health insurance.

If you do not want us to share your information with Medicaid or SCHIP, fill out the form below and send it with your Income Eligibility Form to **[address] by [date]**. (Sending in this form will not change whether your children get free or reduced price meals.).

No! I DO NOT want information from my CACFP Meal Benefit Income Eligibility Form shared with Medicaid or the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

If you checked no, fill out the form below.

Child's Name: _____

Child's Name: _____

Child's Name: _____

Child's Name: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____

Today's Date: _____

Print Your Name: _____

Address: _____

For more information, you may call **[name]** at **[phone]**



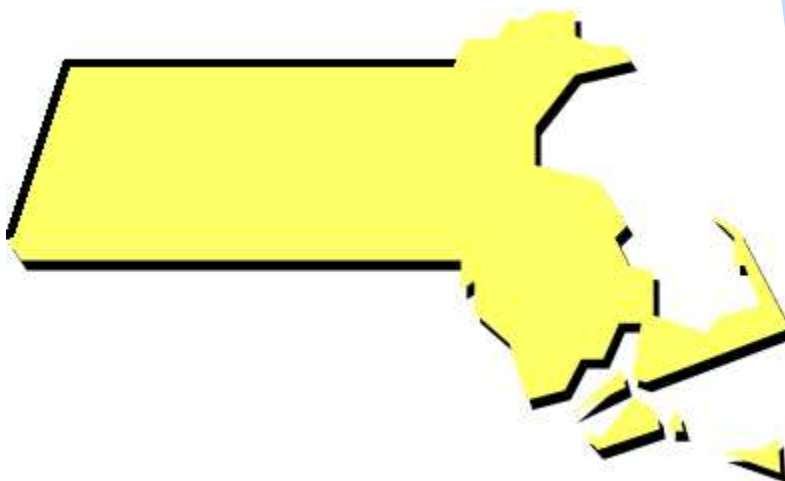
If your child is eligible for free or reduced school meals, your child may also be eligible for

free or low cost health insurance

through MassHealth.

To learn more call: 1-800-841-2900

MassHealth



Si su niño es eligible para almuerzo gratis o reducido, su niño pueda ser eligible para

seguro de salud gratis o de bajo costo

por medio de MassHealth.

Para saber mas, llame al: 1-800-841-2900

Covering Kids

