

The Nebraska Department of Education's Nutrition Services office has announced the income eligibility guidelines for free and reduced price meals for persons unable to pay the full price of meals served under the National School Lunch, Breakfast, Special Milk and Child and Adult Care Food Programs.

Participating schools, child care and adult care centers have a copy of the policy, which may be reviewed by any interested party.

Application forms are being given to all households with a letter to parents, guardians or adult participants. To apply for free or reduced price meals, households should fill out the application and return it to the school or agency.

Additional copies are available from the school principals or agency administrator. The information provided on the application will be used to determine eligibility and may be verified at any time during the year by school or other program officials.

For the school or agency officials to determine eligibility, the household must provide the following information on the application: names of all household members; social security numbers of an adult household member or a statement that the household member does not have one; total monthly household income by source; and the signature of an adult household member certifying that the information provided is correct.

Children who are members of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) assistance units or Food Stamp or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) households are automatically eligible to receive free meals.

Participants at adult care centers receiving Food Stamps, FDPIR, SSI or Medicaid are automatically eligible to receive free meals.

Applications may be submitted at any time during the year.

The same meals will be made available to all enrolled participants regardless of race, color, sex, age, national origin or disability, and there is no discrimination in the course of the meal service. Nonpricing programs provide meals at no separate charge.

Pricing programs provide free and reduced price meals to those meeting the approved eligibility criteria.

Persons who believe they have been treated unfairly in receiving food services for any of these reasons should write immediately to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.