



DATE: March 24, 2016

SUBJECT: Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP): Income Guidelines (IGs) for 2016

TO: Regional Directors
Special Nutrition Programs
MARO, MPRO, MWRO,
NERO, SERO, SWRO, and
WRO

State Directors
CSFP State Agencies
All Participating States

This memorandum transmits the 2016 IGs to be used by State agencies in determining the eligibility of individuals applying to participate in CSFP. These guidelines are to be used in conjunction with CSFP regulations, at 7 CFR Part 247. It is important to note that the Agricultural Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-79, the Farm Bill) amended CSFP's eligibility requirements to phase out the participation of women, infants, and children (w-i-c) participating in the program. Accordingly, the 2016 income guidelines are applicable only to those w-i-c participants who were certified and enrolled in CSFP as of February 6, 2014. Because all women and infants have transitioned off the program, the 2016 income guidelines forego reference to these individuals. Only children and elderly individuals 60 years of age and older remain on the program. Finally, the income guidelines for children are not applicable in those States that joined CSFP for the first time in 2015 or 2016, as they joined after enactment of the Farm Bill and must only serve eligible elderly individuals.

Section 247.9(b)(1) establishes that household income limits for children must be at, or below, 185 percent of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines (Poverty Guidelines) published annually by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), but not below 100 percent of these guidelines. Section 247.9(b)(1) further requires State agencies to consider certain children as income-eligible regardless of actual income, including those individuals who receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or Medicaid benefits. Section 247.9(c) requires that elderly persons have household income at or below 130 percent of the Poverty Guidelines in order to be eligible for the program. To establish annual income limits of 130 and 185 percent, the Poverty Guidelines are multiplied by 1.30 and 1.85, respectively, and the results are rounded up to the next whole dollar. From these results, weekly and monthly income limits are calculated.

The 2016 IGs in the attached tables contain the maximum income limits by household size to be used for eligibility determinations in CSFP. The first table contains the income limits for households residing in the 48 contiguous States and the District of Columbia. Separate income limits for Alaska and Hawaii are established and published annually by HHS. The second and third tables contain the income limits for CSFP households residing in Alaska and Hawaii. Please note that for households of seven members and above, there was no increase in the 2016 Poverty Guidelines over last year's level. Accordingly, for households at or above this threshold the 2016 IGs are the same as the 2015 IGs.

Pursuant to program regulations, the 2016 elderly income guidelines must be implemented immediately upon receipt of this memorandum, and will remain in effect until notification of the income guidelines for 2017.

Where applicable, CSFP State agencies must implement the 2016 children income guidelines at the same time that the State agency administering the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) implements the adjusted guidelines in WIC. These also remain in effect until notification of CSFP income guidelines for 2017.

CSFP regulations, at section 247.9(e)(1), define "income" as gross income before deductions for such items as income taxes, employees' social security taxes, insurance premiums, and bonds. Sections 247.9(e)(2) and (e)(3) list income exclusions, and other income exclusions are provided via policy memoranda available online at the Food and Nutrition Service's (FNS) website at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fdd>.

State agencies should direct any questions they may have regarding the IGs to their FNS Regional Offices. Regional Offices should contact Erica Antonson or Carolyn Smalkowski at (703) 305-2680.

/s/ Original Signature on file

Laura Castro

Director

Food Distribution Division

Attachment

**ATTACHMENT
CSFP INCOME GUIDELINES--2016**

| 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES AND DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA* | | | | | | | |
|---|--|------------------------|---------|--------|-----------------------|---------|--------|
| | Federal Poverty Guidelines - 100% | Children - 185% | | | Elderly - 130% | | |
| Household Size | Annual | Annual | Monthly | Weekly | Annual | Monthly | Weekly |
| 1..... | \$11,880 | \$21,978 | \$1,832 | \$423 | \$15,444 | \$1,287 | \$297 |
| 2..... | 16,020 | 29,637 | 2,470 | 570 | 20,826 | 1,736 | 401 |
| 3..... | 20,160 | 37,296 | 3,108 | 718 | 26,208 | 2,184 | 504 |
| 4..... | 24,300 | 44,955 | 3,747 | 865 | 31,590 | 2,633 | 608 |
| 5..... | 28,440 | 52,614 | 4,385 | 1,012 | 36,972 | 3,081 | 711 |
| 6..... | 32,580 | 60,273 | 5,023 | 1,160 | 42,354 | 3,530 | 815 |
| 7..... | 36,730 | 67,951 | 5,663 | 1,307 | 47,749 | 3,980 | 919 |
| 8..... | 40,890 | 75,647 | 6,304 | 1,455 | 53,157 | 4,430 | 1,023 |
| For each add'l household member, add... | 4,160 | 7,696 | 642 | 148 | 5,408 | 451 | 104 |

| ALASKA* | | | | | | | |
|--|--|------------------------|---------|--------|-----------------------|---------|--------|
| | Federal Poverty Guidelines - 100% | Children - 185% | | | Elderly - 130% | | |
| Household Size | Annual | Annual | Monthly | Weekly | Annual | Monthly | Weekly |
| 1..... | \$14,840 | \$27,454 | \$2,288 | \$528 | \$19,292 | \$1,608 | \$371 |
| 2..... | 20,020 | 37,037 | 3,087 | 713 | 26,026 | 2,169 | 501 |
| 3..... | 25,200 | 46,620 | 3,885 | 897 | 32,760 | 2,730 | 630 |
| 4..... | 30,380 | 56,203 | 4,684 | 1,081 | 39,494 | 3,292 | 760 |
| 5..... | 35,560 | 65,786 | 5,483 | 1,266 | 46,228 | 3,853 | 889 |
| 6..... | 40,740 | 75,369 | 6,281 | 1,450 | 52,962 | 4,414 | 1,019 |
| 7..... | 45,920 | 84,952 | 7,080 | 1,634 | 59,696 | 4,975 | 1,148 |
| 8..... | 51,120 | 94,572 | 7,881 | 1,819 | 66,456 | 5,538 | 1,278 |
| For each add'l household member, add... | 5,200 | 9,620 | 802 | 185 | 6,760 | 564 | 130 |

| Hawaii* | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|----------------|---------|--------|
| Household Size | Federal Poverty Guidelines - 100% | Elderly - 130% | | |
| | | Annual | Monthly | Weekly |
| 1..... | \$13,670 | \$17,771 | \$1,481 | \$342 |
| 2..... | 18,430 | 23,959 | 1,997 | 461 |
| 3..... | 23,190 | 30,147 | 2,513 | 580 |
| 4..... | 27,950 | 36,335 | 3,028 | 699 |
| 5..... | 32,710 | 42,523 | 3,544 | 818 |
| 6..... | 37,470 | 48,711 | 4,060 | 937 |
| 7..... | 42,230 | 54,899 | 4,575 | 1,056 |
| 8..... | 47,010 | 61,113 | 5,093 | 1,176 |
| For each add'l household member, add... | 4,780 | 6,214 | 518 | 120 |

*CSFP State agencies must implement the adjusted income guidelines for elderly applicants immediately upon receipt. For children applicants who were certified and enrolled as of February 6, 2014, each CSFP State agency must implement the adjusted guidelines at the same time that the WIC State agency implements the adjusted guidelines in WIC. The guidelines for children are not applicable in those States new to CSFP in 2015 and 2016 - Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Maryland, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Virginia.