



State of Arizona
Department of Education

CACFP CN# 010-12
USDA CACFP# 07-2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: Child and Adult Care Food Program, Family Childcare Home Sponsoring Organizations

FROM: Mary Szafranski, Deputy Associate Superintendent
Arizona Department of Education, Health and Nutrition Services

Melissa Conner, Director
Arizona Department of Education, Child and Adult Care Food Program

DATE: February 13, 2012

SUBJECT: Eligibility Based on Census Data: 2012 Data Release

Original Signed

Area Eligibility Policy

CACFP day care homes that establish eligibility using census data are required to use the most recent census data available (7 CFR 226.6(f); 7 CFR 225.6(c)). The Census Bureau will now estimate household income annually using the American Community Survey (ACS) and therefore, the Food and Nutrition Service will release these new estimates every year. However, in order to reduce burden and maintain consistency within the Programs, area eligibility determinations based on census data are now effective for five years (see CACFP 004-2012, *Eligibility Based on Census Data*, December 1, 2011).

Census Block Groups (CBGs) will continue to be the geographical unit used to assess eligibility for CACFP when using census data. In order for a CACFP day care home to be eligible, 50 percent or more of the children in a CBG must be eligible for free or reduced price school meals.

In the past, CACFP used different definitions of children in establishing whether an area is eligible using census data. However, since CACFP no longer establishes area eligibility based on elementary school data, CACFP day care homes will be considered area eligible if they are located in a CBG that qualifies



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under either CACFP. Therefore, our 2012 Data Release includes a column of CBGs for CACFP. USDA has included a column (with the heading “Eligible”) to indicate whether the CBG is eligible under CACFP.

Day Care Homes

Effective immediately, the 2000 census data may no longer be used to determine tier I eligibility status of a CACFP day care home; only the 2006-2010 ACS data may be used. Sponsors may reconsider the eligibility of all tier II day care homes based on the new census data. If a day care home is currently classified as tier II, but the CBG data demonstrates that the home is now tier I, then the sponsor may immediately change the status of that home to tier I and pay the higher rate of reimbursement for the current month and future months. Note, retroactive reimbursement at the higher tier I rates will not be provided for any previous month.

Sponsors must annually inform tier II day care home providers that the provider may ask for a reclassification to be considered when new census data become available each year and that reclassification may be made at any time for tier II homes. Additionally, sponsors must review all tier I day care homes currently eligible based on census data and make a new determination using the newly available census data, as well as other available methods. Sponsors may choose to reconsider day care home classification during the next scheduled on-site review. The review and reclassification of tier I day care homes must be completed by September 30, 2012.

Using the New Data

Instructions for using the 2006-2010 ACS CBG information to determine CACFP day care home eligibility are available on our website at: <http://www.azed.gov/health-nutrition/cacfp/family-daycare/>. This is a two step process: 1) become familiar with the Census data and formats; 2) determine which CBGs are eligible.

An individual.XLS (Excel) file containing eligibility information is also located on our website at: <http://www.azed.gov/health-nutrition/cacfp/family-daycare/>.

Please contact your CACFP specialist if you have additional questions.



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