

Determining Eligibility for Host Families

FNS's policy on certifying homeless children residing with another household and how it impacts the host family is as follows:

A child or family may temporarily reside with another household and still be considered homeless under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. In these cases the household size and income of the host family is not taken into consideration in determining the free meal eligibility for the child(ren) designated as homeless by the LEA's liaison. Additionally, when a host family applies for free and reduced price meals for their own children, the host family may include the homeless family as household members if the host family provides financial support to the homeless family, such as shelter, utilities, clothing or food. In such cases, the host family must also include any income received by the homeless family. The LEA, or the appropriate child care or summer institution, determines eligibility for the host family in the traditional manner. However, free meal eligibility for the homeless child is based on the documentation provided by the homeless liaison or other source, even when the child is included on the host family's free and reduced price meal application.

If you have questions concerning this policy, please contact your regional consultant.

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Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor

Lanier M. Cansler, Secretary

February 15, 2010

CACFP 10-02
SFSP 10-03

MEMORANDUM

To: Institutions Participating on the Child and Adult Care Food Program
Sponsors of the Summer Food Service Program

From: Arnette Cowan, Head
Special Nutrition Programs

Subject: Eligibility of Haitian Refugees for the Child Nutrition Programs

FNS has received inquiries about the eligibility of children who were evacuated to the United States as result of the earthquake in Haiti. The National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) do not require lawful presence in the United States prior to receiving a federal benefit and refugee children are eligible for meal benefits if they enroll in a participating school or institution.

Determining Eligibility for the CACFP and SFSP

Child and adult care and summer institutions that require eligibility information can receive certification of the child’s or adult’s homeless status from the agency that assisted with the evacuation or is providing shelter. If the child is not residing in an emergency shelter, the institution should have an adult living with the child complete an income eligibility form indicating that the child is homeless. No further information is required to certify that child’s eligibility.



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