

The changes in the national average payment rates for centers reflect a 2.64 percent increase during the 12-month period, May 2015 to May 2016, (from 255.322 in May 2015, as previously published in the **Federal Register**, to 262.074 in May 2016) in the food away from home series of the CPI for All Urban Consumers.

The changes in the food service payment rates for day care homes reflect a 0.69 percent decrease during the 12-month period, May 2014 to May 2015, (from 241.019 in May 2015, as previously published in the **Federal Register**, to 239.354 in May 2016) in the food at home series of the CPI for All Urban Consumers.

The changes in the administrative reimbursement rates for sponsoring organizations of day care homes reflect a 1.02 percent increase during the 12-month period, May 2015 to May 2016 (from 237.805 in May 2015, as previously published in the **Federal Register**, to 240.236 in May 2016) in the series for all items of the CPI for All Urban Consumers.

The total amount of payments available to each State agency for distribution to institutions participating in CACFP is based on the rates contained in this notice.

This action is not a rule as defined by the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601–612) and thus is exempt from the provisions of that Act. This notice has been determined to be exempt under Executive Order 12866.

CACFP is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under No. 10.558 and is subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials. (See 2 CFR 415.3–415.6).

This notice has been determined to be not significant and was reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in conformance with Executive Order 12866.

This notice imposes no new reporting or recordkeeping provisions that are subject to OMB review in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501–3518).

Authority: Sections 4(b)(2), 11, 17(c) and 17(f)(3)(B) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1753(b)(2), 1759a, 1766(f)(3)(B)) and section 4(b)(1)(B) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773(b)(1)(B)).

Dated: August 2, 2016.

Yvette S. Jackson,

Acting Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

National School Lunch, Special Milk, and School Breakfast Programs, National Average Payments/Maximum Reimbursement Rates

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This Notice announces the annual adjustments to the “national average payments,” the amount of money the Federal Government provides States for lunches, afterschool snacks and breakfasts served to children participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs; to the “maximum reimbursement rates,” the maximum per lunch rate from Federal funds that a State can provide a school food authority for lunches served to children participating in the National School Lunch Program; and to the rate of reimbursement for a half-pint of milk served to non-needy children in a school or institution which participates in the Special Milk Program for Children. The payments and rates are prescribed on an annual basis each July. The annual payments and rates adjustments for the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs reflect changes in the Food Away From Home series of the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers. Food and Nutrition Service has approved a 17-percent increase in school meal reimbursement rates for Puerto Rico to reflect their higher cost of providing school meals. The rate adjustment will take effect beginning July 1, 2016, for school year 2016–2017. This increase is based on data indicating that the cost of producing school lunches, breakfasts, and snacks are higher than those in the continental United States, as well as other factors impacting Puerto Rico’s school meal program. The annual rate adjustment for the Special Milk Program reflects changes in the Producer Price Index for Fluid Milk Products.

DATES: These rates are effective from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jessica Saracino, Branch Chief, Program Monitoring and Operational Support Division, Child Nutrition Programs, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 640, Alexandria, Virginia 22302–1594; phone 703–457–7743.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Special Milk Program for Children— Pursuant to section 3 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1772), the Department announces the rate of reimbursement for a half-pint of milk served to non-needy children in a school or institution that participates in the Special Milk Program for Children. This rate is adjusted annually to reflect changes in the Producer Price Index for Fluid Milk Products, published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor.

For the period July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017, the rate of reimbursement for a half-pint of milk served to a non-needy child in a school or institution which participates in the Special Milk Program is 19.75 cents. This reflects a decrease of .25 cents from the School Year (SY) 2015–16 level, based on the 1.32 percent decrease in the Producer Price Index for Fluid Milk Products from May 2015 to May 2016 (from a level of 219.0 in May 2015, as previously published in the **Federal Register**, to 216.1 in May 2016).

As a reminder, schools or institutions with pricing programs that elect to serve milk free to eligible children continue to receive the average cost of a half-pint of milk (the total cost of all milk purchased during the claim period divided by the total number of purchased half-pints) for each half-pint served to an eligible child.

National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs— Pursuant to sections 11 and 17A of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, (42 U.S.C. 1759a and 1766a), and section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773), the Department annually announces the adjustments to the National Average Payment Factors and to the maximum Federal reimbursement rates for lunches and afterschool snacks served to children participating in the National School Lunch Program and breakfasts served to children participating in the School Breakfast Program. Adjustments are prescribed each July 1, based on changes in the Food Away From Home series of the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor. The changes in the national average payment rates for schools and residential child care institutions for the period July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017 reflect a 2.64 percent increase in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers during the 12-month period May 2015 to May 2016 (from a level of 255.322 in May 2015, as previously published in the **Federal Register**, to

262.074 in May 2016). Adjustments to the national average payment rates for all lunches served under the National School Lunch Program, breakfasts served under the School Breakfast Program, and afterschool snacks served under the National School Lunch Program are rounded down to the nearest whole cent.

Lunch Payment Levels—Section 4 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1753) provides general cash for food assistance payments to States to assist schools in purchasing food. The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act provides two different section 4 payment levels for lunches served under the National School Lunch Program. The lower payment level applies to lunches served by school food authorities in which less than 60 percent of the lunches served in the school lunch program during the second preceding school year were served free or at a reduced price. The higher payment level applies to lunches served by school food authorities in which 60 percent or more of the lunches served during the second preceding school year were served free or at a reduced price.

To supplement these section 4 payments, section 11 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1759a) provides special cash assistance payments to aid schools in providing free and reduced price lunches. The section 11 National Average Payment Factor for each reduced price lunch served is set at 40 cents less than the factor for each free lunch.

As authorized under sections 8 and 11 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1757 and 1759a), maximum reimbursement rates for each type of lunch are prescribed by the Department in this Notice. These maximum rates are to ensure equitable disbursement of Federal funds to school food authorities.

Section 201 of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010—Section 201 of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 made significant changes to the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act. On January 3, 2014, the final rule entitled, “Certification of Compliance With Meal Requirements for the National School Lunch Program Under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010” (79 FR 325), was published and provides eligible school food authorities with performance-based cash reimbursement in addition to the general and special cash assistance described above. The final rule requires that school food authorities be certified by the State agency as being in

compliance with the updated meal pattern and nutrition standard requirements set forth in amendments to 7 CFR parts 210 and 220 on January 26, 2012, in the final rule entitled “Nutrition Standards in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs” (77 FR 4088). Certified school food authorities are eligible to receive performance-based cash assistance for each reimbursable lunch served (an additional six cents per lunch available beginning October 1, 2012, and adjusted annually thereafter).

Afterschool Snack Payments in Afterschool Care Programs—Section 17A of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1766a) establishes National Average Payments for free, reduced price and paid afterschool snacks as part of the National School Lunch Program.

Breakfast Payment Factors—Section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773) establishes National Average Payment Factors for free, reduced price and paid breakfasts served under the School Breakfast Program and additional payments for free and reduced price breakfasts served in schools determined to be in “severe need” because they serve a high percentage of needy children.

Revised Payments

The following specific section 4, section 11 and section 17A National Average Payment Factors and maximum reimbursement rates for lunch, the afterschool snack rates, and the breakfast rates are in effect from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. Beginning July 1, 2016, Puerto Rico will receive a 17-percent increase adjustment to these rates due to the higher cost of producing a meal in Puerto Rico. In addition, the average payments and maximum reimbursements for Alaska and Hawaii are higher due to the higher cost of living in these States. The District of Columbia, Virgin Islands, and Guam use the figures specified for the contiguous States.

National School Lunch Program Payments

Section 4 National Average Payment Factors—In school food authorities which served less than 60 percent free and reduced price lunches in School Year (SY) 2014–2015, the payments for meals served are: *Contiguous States*—paid rate—30 cents (1 cent increase from the SY 2015–2016 level), free and reduced price rate—30 cents (1 cent increase), maximum rate—38 cents (1 cent increase); *Alaska*—paid rate—49 cents (1 cent increase), free and reduced price rate—49 cents (1 cent increase),

maximum rate—60 cents (2 cent increase); *Hawaii* and *Puerto Rico*—paid rate—35 cents (1 cent increase), free and reduced price rate—35 cents (1 cent increase), maximum rate—44 cents (2 cent increase).

In school food authorities which served 60 percent or more free and reduced price lunches in School Year 2014–2015, payments are: *Contiguous States*—paid rate—32 cents (1 cent increase from the SY 2015–2016 level), free and reduced price rate—32 cents (1 cent increase), maximum rate—38 cents (1 cent increase); *Alaska*—paid rate—51 cents (1 cent increase), free and reduced price rate—51 cents (1 cent increase), maximum rate—60 cents (2 cent increase); *Hawaii* and *Puerto Rico*—paid rate—37 cents (1 cent increase), free and reduced price rate—37 cents (1 cent increase), maximum rate—44 cents (2 cent increase).

School food authorities certified to receive the performance-based cash assistance will receive an additional 6 cents (adjusted annually) added to the above amounts as part of their section 4 payments.

Section 11 National Average Payment Factors—*Contiguous States*—free lunch—286 cents (8 cent increase from the SY 2015–2016 level), reduced price lunch—246 cents (8 cent increase); *Alaska*—free lunch—463 cents (12 cent increase), reduced price lunch—423 cents (12 cent increase); *Hawaii* and *Puerto Rico*—free lunch—334 cents (8 cent increase), reduced price lunch—294 cents (8 cent increase).

Afterschool Snacks in Afterschool Care Programs—The payments are: *Contiguous States*—free snack—86 cents (2 cent increase from the SY 2015–2016 level), reduced price snack—43 cents (1 cent increase), paid snack—07 cents (no change); *Alaska*—free snack—140 cents (3 cent increase), reduced price snack—70 cents (2 cent increase), paid snack—12 cents (no change); *Hawaii* and *Puerto Rico*—free snack—101 cents (2 cent increase), reduced price snack—50 cents (1 cent increase), paid snack—09 cents (no change).

School Breakfast Program Payments

For schools “not in severe need” the payments are: *Contiguous States*—free breakfast—171 cents (5 cent increase from the SY 2015–2016 level), reduced price breakfast—141 cents (5 cent increase), paid breakfast—29 cents (no change); *Alaska*—free breakfast—273 cents (7 cent increase), reduced price breakfast—243 cents (7 cent increase), paid breakfast—44 cents (1 cent increase); *Hawaii* and *Puerto Rico*—free breakfast—199 cents (5 cent increase), reduced price breakfast—169 cents (5

³Beginning July 1, 2016, FNS approved Puerto Rico to receive a 17-percent increase in school meal reimbursement rates.

This action is not a rule as defined by the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601–612) and thus is exempt from the provisions of that Act.

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3507), no new recordkeeping or reporting requirements have been included that are subject to approval from the Office of Management and Budget.

This notice has been determined to be not significant and was reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget in conformance with Executive Order 12866.

National School Lunch, School Breakfast and Special Milk Programs are listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under No. 10.555, No. 10.553 and No. 10.556, respectively, and are subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials. (See 2 CFR 415.3–415.6).

Authority: Sections 4, 8, 11 and 17A of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, as amended, (42 U.S.C. 1753, 1757, 1759a, 1766a) and sections 3 and 4(b) of the Child Nutrition Act, as amended, (42 U.S.C. 1772 and 42 U.S.C. 1773(b)).

Dated: August 2, 2016.

Yvette S. Jackson,

Acting Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Information Collection; Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreements

AGENCY: Forest Service USDA, Bureau of Land Management DOI, Fish and Wildlife Service DOI, National Park Service DOI, and Bureau of Indian Affairs DOI.

ACTION: Notice and request for comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Forest Service is seeking comments from all interested individuals and organizations on the new information collection, Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreements.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing on or before October 4, 2016 to be assured of consideration. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: Comments concerning this notice should be addressed to Tim Melchert, Cooperative Fire Specialist, USDA Forest Service, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250.

Comments also may be submitted via facsimile to 208–387–5398 or by email to: CoopFire_Agreements@fs.fed.us.

The public may inspect comments received at Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250 during normal business hours. Visitors are encouraged to call ahead to 202–205–1637 to facilitate entry to the building.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tim Melchert, Cooperative Fire Specialist, at USDA Forest Service, 208–387–5887.

Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1–800–877–8339 twenty-four hours a day, every day of the year, including holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Forest Service will submit a request for a new information collection to Office of Management and Budget.

Title: Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreements.

OMB Number: 0596–NEW.

Type of Request: New.

Abstract: To allow the performance of specific activities in cooperation with Federal, State, local, and Tribal governments, Congress enacted authorities allowing the U.S.

Department of Agriculture (USDA) and U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) to enter into cooperative agreements with fire organizations to improve efficiency by facilitating the coordination and exchange of personnel, equipment, supplies, services, and funds among the parties in sustaining wildland fire management activities, such as prevention, preparedness, communication and education, fuels treatment and hazard mitigation, fire planning, response strategies, tactics and alternatives, suppression, and post-fire rehabilitation and restoration. In addition, agreements allow for the parties to respond to presidentially declared emergencies or disasters. The primary authorities allowing for the agreements are the Reciprocal Fire Protection Act, 42 U.S.C. 1856, and the Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121. The proposed Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement template will allow authorized agencies to streamline

coordination with other Federal, State, local, and Tribal governments in wildland fire protection activities, and to document in an agreement the roles and responsibilities among the parties, ensuring maximum protection of resources.

To negotiate, develop, and administer Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreements, the USDA Forest Service, DOI Bureau of Land Management, DOI Fish and Wildlife Service, DOI National Park Service, and DOI Bureau of Indian Affairs DOI must collect information from willing State, local, and Tribal governments from the pre-agreement to the closeout stage via telephone calls, emails, postal mail, and person-to-person meetings. There are multiple means for cooperators to communicate responses, which include forms, optional forms, templates, electronic documents, in person, telephone, and email. The scope of information collected includes the project type, project scope, financial plan, statement of work, and cooperator's business information. Without the collected information, authorized Federal agencies would not be able to negotiate, create, develop, and administer cooperative agreements with cooperators for to wildland fire protection, approved severity activities, and presidentially declared emergencies or disasters. Authorized Federal agencies would be unable to develop or monitor projects, make payments, or identify financial and accounting errors.

The regulations governing Federal financial assistance relationships are not applicable to agreement templates under this information collection request. The regulations in 2 CFR 200 set forth the general rules that are applicable to all grants and cooperative agreements made by the USDA and DOI. Because the Federal Government's use of Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreements entered into under cited Federal statutes are not financial assistance for the benefit of the recipient but instead are entered into for the mutual benefit of the Federal government and the non-Federal cooperators, the assistance regulations in 2 CFR 200, as adopted and supplemented by the USDA and DOI, are not applicable to such agreements.

This is a new information collection request. The Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement template can be viewed at www.fs.fed.us/managing-land/fire/master-agreement-template.

Estimate of Annual Burden: 4 to 24 hours annually per respondent.