## School Year 2023-2024

## Pricing Parent Packet NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM and SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM INCOME GUIDELINES, FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS, AND INSTRUCTIONS

These forms are to be used for programs that <u>charge students</u> for lunches, breakfasts, and /or snacks (pricing programs).

Use only the reduced-price income scale in the letter for free and reduced-price meal applications.

The prior school years student eligibility status for National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program are to be used for 30 operating days in the next school year or until direct certification or a new application is in and approved, whichever comes first. New applications for the School Year 23-24 must be gathered unless this is an approved special provision or approved community eligibility provision school. New applications can be sent to households after July 1, 2023.

Child & Adult Care Food Program applications are good for one year from the date the parent signed the application. Contact the CANS office as questions about this process arise.

## Required information that must be provided to households:

- Letter to Households (Frequently Asked Questions)
- Free and Reduced-Price School Meals Application including the section where families can indicate their racial/ethnic background
- Instructions (How to apply for free and reduced-price school meals)

Letters and applications are available from US Department of Agriculture in several languages at <a href="https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/translated-applications">https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/translated-applications</a>. Contact Child & Adult Nutrition Services for information.

Some changes to the application packet that the school/center may make without advance approval are:

- Filling in local agency name and other information in the "How to Apply" document
- · Indicate adult meal price if you so choose
- Deletion of references to breakfast or snack if these meals are not offered
- Adding letterhead to the documents
- Adding information to these forms explaining the school's/center's meal times, prices, charging policies, information about a la carte (seconds), and other information about the program; the maximum reduced prices by law are 40 cents for lunch, 30 cents for breakfast, and 15 cents for snack
- Adding a separate cover letter explaining the school's/center's, meal times, prices, charging policies, information about a la carte (seconds), and other information about the program; the maximum reduced prices by law are 40 cents for lunch, 30 cents for breakfast, and 15 cents for snack

Child and Adult Nutrition Services staff must <u>preapprove any other changes</u> prior to applications being distributed. In order to speed up the process, you can email the application and letter to <u>DOE.SchoolLunch@state.sd.us</u> with a subject line "F&RP Application for review and approval".

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE SCHOOL MEALS

## Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Freeman Academy offers healthy meals every school day. Lunch costs [4.25 your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced-price meals. Reduced-price is\$.40 for lunch. This packet includes an application for free or reduced-price meal benefits and a set of detailed instructions. Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

- 1. WHO CAN GET FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE MEALS?
  - All children in households receiving benefits from SNAP, the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), or TANF are eligible for free meals
  - Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals
  - Children participating in their school's Head Start program are eligible for free meals
  - Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals
  - Children may receive free or reduced-price meals if your household's income is within the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines; your children may qualify for free or reduced-price meals if your household income falls at or below the limits on this chart

| Household size          | Yearly   | Monthly | Weekly  |
|-------------------------|----------|---------|---------|
| 1                       | \$26,973 | \$2,248 | \$519   |
| 2                       | \$36,482 | \$3,041 | \$702   |
| 3                       | \$45,991 | \$3,833 | \$885   |
| 4                       | \$55,500 | \$4,625 | \$1068  |
| 5                       | \$65,009 | \$5,418 | \$1,251 |
| 6                       | \$74,518 | \$6,210 | \$1,434 |
| 7                       | \$84,027 | \$7,003 | \$1,616 |
| 8                       | \$93,536 | \$7,795 | \$1,799 |
| Each additional person: | \$9,509  | \$793   | \$183   |

- 2. HOW DO I KNOW IF MY CHILDREN QUALIFY AS HOMELESS, MIGRANT, OR RUNAWAY? Do the members of your household lack a permanent address? Are you staying together in a shelter, hotel, or other temporary housing arrangement? Does your family relocate on a seasonal basis? Are any children living with you who have chosen to leave their prior family or household? If you believe children in your household meet these descriptions and haven't been told your children will get free meals, please call or e-mail Freeman Academy, 605-925-4237, or email kschultz@freemanacademy.org.
- DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD? No. Use one Free and Reduced-Price School Meals Application for all students in your household. We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information. Return the completed application to: Freeman Academy/Karen Schultz, PO Box 1000, Freeman, SD 57029, call 605-925-4237, or email kschultz@freemanacademy.org.
- 4. SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE ALREADY APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS? No. But please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions. If any children in your household were missing from your eligibility notification, contact Freeman Academy/Karen Schultz, PO Box 1000, Freeman, SD 57029, call 605-925-4237, or email kschultz@freemanacademy.org right away so those children get benefits, too.
- 5. MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT A NEW ONE? <u>YES</u>. Your child's application is only good for that school year and for the first few days of this school year. You must send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year.

- 6. I GET WIC OR MEDICAID. CAN MY CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS? Children in households participating in WIC or Medicaid <u>may</u> be eligible for free or reduced-price meals. WIC and Medicaid are <u>not</u> automatic qualifications. Please send in an application.
- 7. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report.
- 8. IF I DON'T QUALIFY NOW, MAY I APPLY LATER? Yes. You may apply at any time during the school year. For example, children with a parent or guardian who becomes unemployed may become eligible for free and reduced-price meals if the household income drops below the income limit.
- 9. WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH THE SCHOOL'S DECISION ABOUT MY APPLICATION? You should talk to school officials by calling Karen Schultz, PO Box 1000, Freeman, SD 57029, call 605-925-4237, or email kschultz@freemanacademy.org. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: Brad Anderson, PO Box 1000, Freeman, SD 57029, call 605-925-4237, or email banderson@freemanacademy.org.
- 10. MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN? Yes. You, your children, or other household members do not have to be U.S. citizens to apply for free or reduced-price meals.
- 11. WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME? List the amount that you <u>normally</u> receive. For example, if you normally make \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only made \$900, put down that you made \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but do not include it if you only work overtime sometimes. If you have lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.
- 12. WHAT IF MY INCOME CHANGES DURING THE YEAR OR MY SNAP, TANF, OR FDPIR BENEFITS CHANGE? If your application for free or reduced-price benefits was properly approved, you will remain eligible for those benefits for a certain period of time. You may visit with a school/center official to get the exact date the meal benefits will expire.
- 13. WHAT IF SOME HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS HAVE NO INCOME TO REPORT? Household members may not receive some types of income we ask you to report on the application or may not receive income at all. When this happens, please write a 0 in the field. However, if any income fields are left empty or blank, those will also be counted as zeroes. Please be careful when leaving income fields blank, as we will assume you meant to do so.
- 14. WE ARE IN THE MILITARY. DO WE REPORT OUR INCOME DIFFERENTLY? Your basic pay and cash bonuses must be reported as income. If you get any cash value allowances for off-base housing, food, or clothing, it must also be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance (FSSA) payments and any additional combat pay resulting from deployment are also excluded from income.
  - IS COMBAT PAY COUNTED AS INCOME? No, if the combat pay is received in addition to the basic pay because of deployment and it was not received before deployment, combat pay is not counted as income. Contact your school for more information.
- 15. WILL YOU TELL ANYONE ELSE ABOUT THE INFORMATION ON MY FORM? We will use the information on your form to decide if your children should get free or reduced-price meals. We may inform officials associated with other child nutrition, health, and education programs of the information on your form to determine benefits for those programs or for funding and/or evaluation purposes.
- 16. WHAT IF THERE ISN'T ENOUGH SPACE ON THE APPLICATION FOR MY FAMILY? List any additional household members on a separate piece of paper and attach it to your application.
- 17. MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR? Contact your local Department of Social Services office to find out how to apply for SNAP or other assistance benefits.
- 18. WHAT IF MY CHILD NEEDS SPECIAL FOODS? The school/center will make substitutions to the regular school meal for children whose disability restricts their diet when a physician certifies that disability. If the parent requests changes, the staff <a href="may">may</a> choose to make substitutions for individual children who do not have a disability, but who cannot drink regular milk due to medical or other special dietary needs that are supported by a certified medical

authority. These requests will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Please call the school/center food service department for further information to request special meals or milk.

If you have other questions or need help, call 605-9258-4237.

Sincerely,

Karen Schultz

## INSERT COPY OF FREE and REDUCED-PRICE APPLICATION INTO YOUR PARENT PACKET IN THIS LOCATION

## **DELETE THIS STATEMENT IN RED**

You can find an Adobe PDF copy (this document cannot be edited) or Microsoft Word document (this document can be edited to add letter head) copy of the free and reduced-price household application at:

 iCAN Applications >> Download Forms >> SNP Free & Reduced-priced Application SY23-24

# 2023-2024 Application for Free and Reduced-Piœ School Meals or Free Milk Complete one application perhousehold. Please use apen (notapencil).

□New Applicant □ Previous Applicant

| Member. "Anyone who is Member." Anyone who is living with you & shares income and expenses, even if not related."  Children in Foster care and children who meet the definition of Homeless, Migrant, or Homeless, Migrant, or |  |   |   |  |   |
|--|--|---|---|--|---|
| ven if not related." hildren in Foster care nd children who meet e definition of omeless, Migrant, or  | Child's Name   | Age   | Write name of child's s   | Write name of child's school, or "not in school"   | If a student, Foster Migrant, write in the grade Child Runaway  |
| ildren in Foster care<br>d children who meet<br>e definition of<br>meless, Migrant, or   |  |   |   |  |   |
| meless, Migrant, or  |  |   |   |  | Vidde Jer   |
| free meals. Read How to  |  |   |   |  | Check all tr  |
| Apply for Free and<br>Reduced Price School<br>Meals for more<br>information.   |  |   |   |  |   |
|  |  |   |   |  |   |
| <b>EP 2:</b> Do any Household  | =  | ıtly participate in one or more of the fo   | lowing assistance proc  | more of the following assistance programs: SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR? (NOT Medicaid)  | Medicaid) Case Number   |
| iryod answered NO > Complete STEFS 3 and 4.  |  | if YES≻Write your 9-digit SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR case nun<br>( <u>Do not complete STEP 3)</u>   | FDPIR case number here then go to STEP 4                                    | 4  | Militar only one access numbers in this   |
| :P 3: Report Income fc   | STEP 3: Report Income for ALL Household Members  | (Skip this step if you answered 'Yes' to STEP 2)  | STEP 2)   |  | with only one case number in this space.  |
| Are you unsure what income to include  | A. Child Income<br>Sometimes children in the household ea<br>all children listed in STEP 1 here.   | A. Child Income<br>Sometimes children in the household earn or receive income. Please include the TOTAL income received by<br>all children listed in STEP 1 here. | income received by  | How often? Weekly B-Weekly Z-Ments Mentsly   | How often?  Weekly B-Weekly Zxboris Mentity   |
| nere:  | B. All Adult Household Members (including yourself)  | ncluding vourself)  |   | 0000   | 0 0 0   |
| rip the page and review the charts titled "Sources of Income" for more information   | List all Household Membersnot listed in whole dollars only. If they do not re  | in STEP1 (including yourself) even if they do ceive income from any source, write '0'. If y   | onotreceive income.Fore   | ach Household Memberlisted, if they do receive i<br>ields blank, you are certifying (promising) that th  | List all Household Members not listed in STEP 1 (including yourself) even if they do not receive income. For each Household Memberlisted, if they do receive income, report total gross income (before bace) for each source in whole dollars only. If they do not receive income from any source, write '0'. If you enter '0' or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report. |
| The "Sources of  | Name of Adult Household Members (First and Last)   | Last) Earnings from Work Weekly B-Weekly ZxMor  | How often?  Public Assistance/ B-Weeks 2xMonth Monthly Child SupportAlimony | stance/ How often? Farming/  | g) Pensions/  |
| Income for Children"<br>chart will help you with   |  |   | 49  | 0 0 0  | Hebrement/Other Income Weekly Bi-Weekly Zx.North Monthly Annually   |
| the Child Income section.  |  | 0   | \$ 00   | 0000   |   |
| The "Sources of  |  | 0   | •   | 0000   |   |
| Income for Adults"<br>chart will help you with   |  | 0   | \$  | 0000   | 0 0 0   |
| the All Adult Household<br>Members section.  | Total Household Members<br>(Children and Adults)   | \$ Last Four Digits of Social Security Number (SSN) of Primary Wage Earner or Other Adult Householl Mamber  |   | 9  |   |
| EP 4: Contact informa  | STEP 4 : Contact information and adult signature.  |   |   |  | Check if no SSN □   |
| certify (promise) that all<br>ay verify (check) the info   | "I certify (promise) that all information on this application is true and that all income<br>may verify (check) the information. I am aware that if I purposely give false informati | true and that all income is reported. I<br>osely give false information, my childre   | understand that this inf<br>n may lose meal benefi                          | is reported. I understand that this information is given in connection with the receipt of Federal funds, an ion, my children may lose meal benefits, and I may be prosecuted under applicable State and Federal laws. | is reported. I understand that this information is given in connection with the receipt of Federal funds, and that school officials<br>on, my children may lose meal benefits, and I may be prosecuted under applicable State and Federal Iaws."  |
| Office Address of australia)   |  |   |   |  |   |
| Address (Iravallable)  | Apt#   | City  | State   | Zip Daytime Phone an   | Daytime Phone and Email (optional)  |
| Printed name of adult completing the form  | theform  | Signature of adult completing the fam   | fecum   | Todav's Date   |   |

## **INSTRUCTIONS:** Sources of Income

| Sources  | Sources of Income for Children  | Source  | Sources of Income for Adults  |   |
|--|---|---|-------------------------------|---|
| Sources of Child Income                          | Example(s)  |   | Public Assistance / Alimony / | Pensions / Retirement /                                     |
| <ul> <li>Earnings from work</li> </ul>           | <ul> <li>A child has a regular full or part-time job</li> </ul>           | Earnings from Work  | Child Support                 | All Other Income  |
|  | where they earn a salary or wages   | Salary, wages, cash   | Unemployment benefits         | <ul> <li>Social Security (including railroad</li> </ul>     |
| <ul> <li>Social Security</li> </ul>              | <ul> <li>A child is blind or disabled and receives Social</li> </ul>      | pounses   | Worker's compensation         | retirement and black lung benefits)                         |
| <ul> <li>Disability Payments</li> </ul>          | Security benefits   | <ul> <li>Net income from self-</li> </ul>                           | Supplemental Security         | <ul> <li>Private pensions or disability benefits</li> </ul> |
| <ul> <li>Survivor's Benefits</li> </ul>          | <ul> <li>A Parent is disabled, retired, or deceased, and their</li> </ul> | employment (farm or business)                                       | Income (SSI)                  | <ul> <li>Regular income from trusts or estates</li> </ul>   |
|  | child receives Social Security benefits                                   | If you are in the U.S. Military:                                    | Cash assistance               | Annuities   |
| <ul> <li>Income from person outside</li> </ul>   | <ul> <li>A friend or extended family member</li> </ul>                    |   | from State or local           | Investment income   |
| the household                                    | regularly gives a child spending money                                    | Basic pay and cash bonuses (do NO I     Basic pay and cash bonuses) | government                    | <ul> <li>Earned interest</li> </ul>                         |
| <ul> <li>Income from any other source</li> </ul> | Income from any other source • A child receives regular income from a     | nivatized housing allowances)                                       | Alimony payments              | Rental income   |
|  | private pension fund, annuity, or trust                                   | Allowances for off-base housing, food                               | Veteran's henefits            | Regular cash payments from outside                          |
|  |   | and dothing   | Strike henefits               | piolegnoli  |

Strike benefits

## **OPTIONAL:** Children's Racial and Ethnic

We are required to ask for information about your children's race and ethnicity. This information is important and helps to make sure we are fully serving our community. Responding to this section is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced premeals.

☐ Hispanic or Latino ☐ Not Hispanic or Latino Ethnicity (check one):

□ American Indian or Alaskan Native □ Asian Race (check one or more):

Civil Rights: Information if you have a complaint

meals. You must include the last four digits of the social security number of the adult household member who signs the application. The last four digits of the social security number is not required when you apply on behalf of a foster child or you list a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) case number or other FDPIR identifier for your child or when you indicate that the adult household member signing the application does not have a social security number. We will use your information to determine if your child is eligible for free or reduced-price meals, and for administration and enforcement of the lunch and breakfast programs. We MAY share your eligibility information with education, health, and The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires the information on this application. You do not have to give the information, but if you do not, we cannot approve your child for free or reduced price nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund, or determine benefits for their programs, auditors for program reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into violations of program rules.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille,

large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

□ White

☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

Black or African American

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: How to File a Complaint, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW U.S. Department of Agriculture Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 program.intake@usda.gov (202) 690-7442; or fax: email: mail:

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

# Do Not Fill Out: FOR SCHOOL / CENTER USE ONLY

oct 1)

| Total income:                    | How    | How Offen?    |                                      |           | ¥            | Household Size: Categorical Free Eligibility: (Select 1) | Catego | rical Free E | ligibility: ( | Select 1)   | Ī                                      | ncome | Income Eligibility: (Sele | (Se |
|----------------------------------|--------|---------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|--|--------|--------------|---------------|-------------|--|-------|---------------------------|-----|
|                                  | Weekly | Bi-<br>Weekly | Bi-<br>Weekly 2xMonth Monthly Annual | Monthly   | Annual       |  | Foster | Homeless     | Runaway       | Migrant     | Foster Homeless Runaway Migrant /FDPIR | Free  | Free Reduced Deni         |     |
|                                  |        |               |                                      |           |              |  |        |              |               |             |  |       |                           |     |
| Determining Official's Signature |        | Date          |                                      | Confirmin | g Official's | Confirming Official's Signature                          |        | Date         | >             | erifying Of | Verifying Official's Signature         | e.    |                           | Dat |
|                                  |        |               |                                      |           |              |  |        |              |               |             |  |       |                           |     |

## HOW TO APPLY FOR FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE SCHOOL MEALS

19. Please use these instructions to help you fill out the application for free or reduced-price school meals. You only need to submit **one** application per household, even if your children attend more than one school in Freeman Academy. The application must be filled out completely to certify your children for free or reduced-price school meals. Please follow these instructions in order! Each step of the instructions is the same as the steps on your application. If at any time you are not sure what to do next, please contact Freeman Academy/Karen Schultz, PO Box 1000, Freeman, SD 57029, call **605-925-4237**, **or email kschultz@freemanacademy.org**.

PLEASE USE A PEN (NOT A PENCIL) WHEN FILLING OUT THE APPLICATION AND DO YOUR BEST TO PRINT CLEARLY.

## STEP 1: LIST ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS WHO ARE INFANTS, CHILDREN, AND STUDENTS UP TO AND INCLUDING GRADE 12.

Tell us how many infants, children, and school students live in your household. They do NOT have to be related to you to be a part of your household.

Who should I list here? When filling out this section, please include ALL members in your household who are:

- Children age 18 or under AND are supported with the household's income;
- In your care under a foster arrangement, or qualify as homeless, migrant, or runaway youth;
- Students attending Freeman Academy, regardless of age
- A) List each child's name. For each child, print their first name, middle initial and last name. Use one line of the application for each child. If there are more children present than lines on the application, attach a second piece of paper with all required information for the additional children.
- B) How old is the child? Is the child a student? What school/center does the child attend? Fill in the information for the center or school to use.
- C) Do you have any foster children? If any children listed are foster children, mark the "Foster Child" box next to the child's name. Foster children who live with you may count as members of your household and should be listed on your application. If you are only applying for foster children, after completing STEP 1, skip to STEP 4 of the application and these instructions. If you are applying for both foster and non-foster children, go to step 3.
- D) Are any children homeless, migrant, or runaway? If you believe any child listed in this section may meet this description, please mark the "Homeless, Migrant, and Runaway" box next to the child's name and complete all steps of the application.

## STEP 2: DO ANY HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS (INCLUDING YOU) CURRENTLY PARTICIPATE IN SNAP, TANF, OR FDPIR?

If anyone in your household participates in the assistance programs listed below, your children are <u>eligible</u> for free school meals:

- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- The Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)
- A) IF NO ONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD PARTICIPATES IN ANY OF THE ABOVE LISTED PROGRAMS:
  - Leave STEP 2 blank and go to STEP 3
- B) IF ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD PARTICIPATES IN ANY OF THE ABOVE LISTED PROGRAMS:
  - Write a case number for SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR. You only need to write one case number. If you participate in one of
    these programs and do not know your case number, contact your local assistance office. You must provide a case
    number on your application
  - Go to STEP 4

STEP 3: REPORT INCOME FOR ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS.

A) Use the charts titled "Sources of Income for Adults" and "Sources of Income for Children," printed on the back side of the application form to determine if your household has income to report.

## REPORT INCOME EARNED BY CHILDREN

- Report all income earned or received by children. Report the combined gross income for ALL children listed in STEP 1 in your household in the box marked "Child Income." Only count foster children's income if you are applying for them together with the rest of your household
- What is Child Income? Child income is money received from outside your household that is paid DIRECTLY to your children. Many
  households do not have any child income

## REPORT INCOME EARNED BY ADULTS

### Who should I list here?

- When filling out this section, please include ALL adult members in your household who are living with you and share income and expenses, even if they are not related and even if they do not receive income of their own
- Do NOT include:
  - People who live with you but are not supported by your household's income AND do not contribute income to your household Infants, children and students already listed in STEP 1
- a) List adult household members' names. Print the name of each household member in the boxes marked "Names of Adult Household Members (First and Last)." Do not list any household members you listed in STEP 1. If a child listed in STEP 1 has income, follow the instructions in STEP 3, part A.
- b) Report earnings from work. Report all income from work in the "Earnings from Work" field on the application. This is usually the money received from working at jobs. If you are a self-employed business or farm owner, you will report your net income.

What if I am self-employed? Report income from

that work as a net amount. This is calculated by

subtracting the total operating expenses of your

business from its gross receipts or revenue.

c) Report income from public assistance/child support/alimony. Report all income that applies in the "Public Assistance/Child Support/Alimony" field on the application. Do not report the cash value of any public assistance benefits NOT listed on the chart. If income is received from child support or alimony, only report court-ordered payments. Informal but regular payments should be reported as "other" income in the next part.

- d) Report income from pensions/retirement/all other income. Report all income that applies in the "Pensions/Retirement/ All Other Income" field on the application.
- e) Report total household size. Enter the total number of household members in the field "Total Household Members (Children and Adults)." This number MUST be equal to the number of household members listed in STEP 1 and STEP 3. If there are any members of your household that you have not listed on the application, go back and add them. It is very important to list all household members, as the size of your household affects your eligibility for free and reduced-price meals.
- f) Provide the last four digits of your Social Security Number. An adult household member must enter the last four digits of their Social Security Number in the space provided. You are eligible to apply for benefits even if you do not have a Social Security Number. If no adult household members have a Social Security Number, leave this space blank and mark the box to the right labeled "Check if no SSN."
- B) Report all amounts in **GROSS INCOME ONLY**. Report all income in whole dollars. Do not include cents.
  - Gross income is the total income received before taxes
  - Many people think of income as the amount they "take home" and not the total, "gross" amount. Make sure that the
    income you report on this application has NOT been reduced to pay for taxes, insurance premiums, or any other
    amounts taken from your pay.
- C) Write a "0" in any fields where there is no income to report. Any income fields left empty or blank will also be counted as a zero. If you write '0' or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report. If local officials suspect that your household income was reported incorrectly, your application will be investigated.
- D) Mark how often each type of income is received using the check boxes to the right of each field.

## What if I am self-employed?

If you are self-employed, report income from that work as a **net** amount. This is calculated by subtracting the total operating expenses of your business from its gross receipts or revenue.

E) To figure monthly income for self-employment/farming: The information to figure income from private business operation is to be taken from your U.S. Individual Income Tax Return – Schedule 1. Write the numbers from the corresponding tax form lines in the box below. Write it on the free/reduced-price meal application in the earnings column as annually. If it is a negative number, write it as zero on the application. All other income from the tax form must be listed separately for the person who earned it. Net loss carryover cannot be used to decrease the household income.

Line 1 of the IRS Form 1040 cannot be used to report income. Income from wages or salaries must be reported on the free/reduced price meal application for the most recent month by family member and frequency.

Line 7b (total income) and Line 8b (adjusted gross income) of the IRS Form 1040 cannot be used for the purpose of applying for free and reduced-price meals.

The line items below are used to determine allowable self-employment income. Refer to the US Individual Income Tax Return Form 1040 – Schedule 1 under Part I, Additional Income section.

| Line 3, Business Income (or loss) | \$                    | NOTE:  |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Line 4, Other Gains (or losses)   | \$                    | If any members of the household have income from wages or salary           |
| Line 5, Rental Real Estate, etc.  | \$                    | the gross income from last month must be reported on the application form. |
| Line 6, Farm Income (or loss)     | \$                    | This attachment is used only to  |
| Line 8, Other Income              | \$                    | report income from self-<br>employment and/or farming.                     |
| TOTAL OF ABOVE LINES:             | \$                    |  |
|                                   | Equals annual self-em | ployment income**  |

If the TOTAL OF THE ABOVE LINES is a negative number, it must be changed to zero before it is transferred to the free/reduced price meal application

- F) Report total household size. Enter the total number of household members in the field "Total Household Members (Children and Adults)." This number MUST be equal to the number of household members listed in STEP 1 and STEP 3. If there are any members of your household that you have not listed on the application, go back and add them. It is very important to list all household members, as the size of your household determines your income cutoff for free and reduced-price meals.
- G) Provide the last four digits of your Social Security Number. The household's primary wage earner or another adult household member must enter the last four digits of their Social Security Number in the space provided. You are eligible to apply for benefits even if you do not have a Social Security Number. If no adult household members have a Social Security Number mark the box to the right labeled "Check if no SSN."

## STEP 4: CONTACT INFORMATION AND ADULT SIGNATURE

All applications must be signed by an adult member of the household. By signing the application, that household member is promising that all information has been truthfully and completely reported. Before completing this section, please also make sure you have read the privacy and civil rights statements on the back of the application.

- A) Provide your contact information. Write your current address in the fields provided if this information is available. If you have no permanent address, this does not make your children ineligible for free or reduced-price school meals. Sharing a phone number, email address, or both is optional, but helps us reach you quickly if we need to contact you.
- B) Sign and print your name. Print your name in the box "Printed name of adult completing the form." Sign your name in the box "Signature of adult completing the form."
- C) Write Today's Date. In the space provided, write today's date in the box.
- D) Share children's Racial and Ethnic Identities (optional). On the back of the application, we ask you to share information about your children's race and ethnicity. This field is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced-price school meals; however, if you do not select a race/ethnicity, one will be selected for you based on visual observation.

<sup>\*\*</sup>Report this amount on the free and reduced-price meal application in the category labeled "Farming/Pensions/Retirement/Other Income."

The line items below are used to determine allowable self-employment income. Refer to the US Individual Income Tax Return 1040 – Schedule 1 under Part I, Additional Income section.

| Line 3, Business Income (or loss) | \$                    | NOTE:  |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Line 4, Other Gains (or losses)   | \$                    | If any members of the household have income from wages or salary.          |
| Line 5, Rental Real Estate, etc.  | \$                    | the gross income from last month must be reported on the application form. |
| Line 6, Farm Income (or loss)     | \$                    | This attachment is used only to  |
| Line 8, Other Income              | \$                    | report income from self-<br>employment and/or farming.                     |
| TOTAL OF ABOVE LINES:             | \$                    |  |
|                                   | Equals annual self-er | mployment income**   |

If the TOTAL OF THE ABOVE LINES is a negative number, it must be changed to zero before it is transferred to the free/reduced price meal application

- E) Report total household size. Enter the total number of household members in the field "Total Household Members (Children and Adults)." This number MUST be equal to the number of household members listed in STEP 1 and STEP 3. If there are any members of your household that you have not listed on the application, go back and add them. It is very important to list all household members, as the size of your household determines your income cutoff for free and reduced-price meals.
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- A) Provide your contact information. Write your current address in the fields provided if this information is available. If you have no permanent address, this does not make your children ineligible for free milk. Sharing a phone number, email address, or both is optional, but helps us reach you quickly if we need to contact you.
- B) Sign and print your name. Print your name in the box "Printed name of adult completing the form." And sign your name in the box "Signature of adult completing the form."
- C) Write Today's Date. In the space provided, write today's date in the box.
- D) Share children's Racial and Ethnic Identities (optional). On the back of the application, we ask you to share information about your children's race and ethnicity. This field is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free milk; however, if you do not select a race/ethnicity, one will be selected for you based on visual observation.

<sup>\*\*</sup>Report this amount on the free and reduced-price meal application in the category labeled "Farming/Pensions/Retirement/Other Income."