

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Consumer Service

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC): Poverty Income Guidelines

AGENCY: Food and Consumer Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department announces adjusted poverty income guidelines to be used by State agencies in determining the income eligibility of persons applying to participate in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC Program). These poverty income guidelines are to be used in conjunction with the WIC Regulations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Barbara Hallman, Branch Chief, Policy and Program Development Branch, Supplemental Food Programs Division, FCS, USDA, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, Virginia 22302, (703) 305-2730.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Regulatory Flexibility Act

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 this Act.

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995

This notice does not contain reporting or recordkeeping requirements subject

to approval by the Office of Management and Budget in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3507).

Executive Order 12372

This program is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Programs under No. 10.557 and is subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials (7 CFR part 3015, subpart V, 48 FR 29112 June 24, 1983).

Description

Section 17(d)(2)(A) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786 (d)(2)(A)) requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish income criteria to be used with nutritional risk criteria in determining a person's eligibility for participation in the WIC Program. The law provides that persons will be income eligible for the WIC Program only if they are members of families that satisfy the income standard prescribed for reduced price school meals under section 9(b) of the National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(b)). Under section 9(b), the income limit for reduced price school meals is 185 percent of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines, as adjusted.

Section 9(b) also requires that these guidelines be revised annually to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index. The annual revision for 1997 was published by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in the **Federal Register** on March 10, 1997 at 62 FR 10856. The guidelines published by DHHS are referred to as the poverty income guidelines.

Section 246.7(d)(1) of the WIC regulations specifies that State agencies may prescribe income guidelines either equaling the income guidelines established under section 9 of the National School Lunch Act for reduced price school meals or identical to State

or local guidelines for free or reduced price health care. However, in conforming WIC income guidelines to State or local health care guidelines, the State cannot establish WIC guidelines which exceed the guidelines for reduced price school meals, or which are less than 100 percent of the Federal poverty income guidelines. Consistent with the method used to compute eligibility guidelines for reduced price meals under the National School Lunch Program, the poverty income guidelines were multiplied by 1.85 and the results rounded upward to the next whole dollar.

At this time the Department is publishing the maximum and minimum WIC poverty income limits by household size for the period July 1, 1997 through June 30, 1998. Consistent with section 17(f)(17) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786(f)(17)), a State agency may implement the revised WIC income eligibility guidelines concurrently with the implementation of income eligibility guidelines under the Medicaid program established under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.). State agencies may coordinate implementation with the revised Medicaid guidelines, but in no case may implementation take place later than July 1, 1997. State agencies that do not coordinate implementation with the revised Medicaid guidelines must implement the WIC income eligibility guidelines July 1, 1997. The first table of this notice contains the income limits by household size for the 48 contiguous States, the District of Columbia and all Territories, including Guam. Because the poverty income guidelines for Alaska and Hawaii are higher than for the 48 contiguous States, separate tables for Alaska and Hawaii have been included for the convenience of the State agencies.

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

[Effective from July 1, 1997 to June 30, 1998]

Household size	Federal Poverty Guidelines			Reduced Price Meals—185%		
	Annual	Month	Week	Annual	Month	Week
48 CONTIGUOUS UNITED STATES, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, GUAM AND TERRITORIES						
1	7,890	658	152	14,597	1,217	281

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES—Continued

[Effective from July 1, 1997 to June 30, 1998]

Household size	Federal Poverty Guidelines			Reduced Price Meals—185%		
	Annual	Month	Week	Annual	Month	Week
2	10,610	885	205	19,629	1,636	378
3	13,330	1,111	257	24,661	2,056	475
4	16,050	1,338	309	29,693	2,475	572
5	18,770	1,565	361	34,725	2,894	668
6	21,490	1,791	414	39,757	3,314	765
7	24,210	2,018	466	44,789	3,733	862
8	26,930	2,245	518	49,821	4,152	959
For each add'l family member add	+2,720	+227	+53	+5,032	+420	+97

ALASKA

1	9,870	823	190	18,260	1,522	352
2	13,270	1,106	256	24,550	2,046	473
3	16,670	1,390	321	30,840	2,570	594
4	20,070	1,673	386	37,130	3,095	715
5	23,470	1,956	452	43,420	3,619	835
6	26,870	2,240	517	49,710	4,143	956
7	30,270	2,523	583	56,000	4,667	1,077
8	33,670	2,806	648	62,290	5,191	1,198
For each add'l family member add	+3,400	+284	+66	+6,290	+525	+121

HAWAII

1	9,070	756	175	16,780	1,399	323
2	12,200	1,017	235	22,570	1,881	435
3	15,330	1,278	295	28,361	2,364	546
4	18,460	1,539	355	34,151	2,846	657
5	21,590	1,800	416	39,942	3,329	769
6	24,720	2,060	476	45,732	3,811	880
7	27,850	2,321	536	51,523	4,294	991
8	30,980	2,582	596	57,313	4,777	1,103
For each add'l family member add	+3,130	+261	+61	+5,791	+483	+112

Dated: March 21, 1997.

William E. Ludwig,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 97-8096 Filed 3-28-97; 8:45 am]

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Food Safety and Inspection Service**[Docket No. 97-002N]****Solicitations for Bids on Proposals
Relating to FSIS's Farm to Table
Strategy****AGENCY:** Food Safety and Inspection
Service, USDA.**ACTION:** Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has announced in the Commerce Business Daily a series of solicitations for bids concerning animal production practices as they relate to food safety. Four of these solicitations consist of demonstrating voluntarily implemented pre-slaughter practices that reduce contaminants in or on food animals presented for slaughter and enhance the ability of slaughter establishments to meet pathogen reduction performance

standards and institute sound risk-based HACCP plans for incoming animals. The interest areas are pork, poultry, non-fed beef and sheep. A fifth project is to learn what training methodologies have been effective in improving food animal production safety practices. A sixth project is to support a survey of small producers to determine producer needs as slaughter establishments develop pathogen reduction HACCP systems.

ADDRESSES: Solicitation packages may be requested from Julie Adams, Head, Acquisition Agreements Section, Room 2161, South Agriculture Building, FSIS, USDA, Washington, DC 20250; FAX (202) 690-1814.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Refer to the Commerce Business Daily, dated 2/27/97, page 4.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

In the final rule, "Pathogen Reduction; Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Systems" (61 FR 38806), published on July 25, 1996, FSIS discussed its farm-to-table food safety strategy (61 FR 38810). This strategy focuses on the control of food

safety hazards throughout the continuum of animal production, slaughter and processing, distribution, and sale of meat and poultry products. FSIS has historically focused on the manufacturing of meat and poultry products through its inspection program; however, the Agency's public health mandate requires that it also consider the pre- and post-processing hazards as part of a comprehensive strategy to prevent foodborne illness.

The farm-to-table food safety strategy is founded on three principles:

- Hazards that could result in foodborne illness arise at each stage of the farm-to-table continuum: animal production and slaughter, and the processing, transportation, storage, and retail, restaurant, or food service sale of meat and poultry products. Each stage presents hazards of pathogen and other contamination and each provides opportunities for minimizing the effect of those hazards.

- Those in control of each segment of the farm-to-table continuum bear responsibility for identifying and preventing or reducing food safety hazards that are under their operational control.