



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Food and  
Nutrition  
Service

3101 Park  
Center Drive  
Alexandria, VA  
22302-1500

DATE: June 6, 2013  
MEMO CODE: SP 44-2013  
SUBJECT: CN Direct Certification Performance Awards - FY 2013 Guidance  
TO: Regional Directors  
Special Nutrition Programs  
All Regions  
  
State Directors  
Child Nutrition Programs  
All States

A provision of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 provides for performance awards to States that best ensure that children who are members of households receiving benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) are directly certified for free school meals. This provision was implemented by FNS Memorandum SP 33-2011 - *Child Nutrition Reauthorization 2010: Direct Certification Performance Awards and Use of Funds*, dated April 28, 2011, and can be found at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/governance/Policy-Memos/2011/SP33-2011.pdf>.

Attached are Questions and Answers on the awards process for fiscal year (FY) 2013 (see Attachment A). FNS will be awarding up to 15 States in September 2013 and intends to make the awards based on school year (SY) 2012-2013 direct certification data. FNS plans to award a total of \$4 million (\$2 million in **Outstanding Performance Awards** and \$2 million in **Substantial Improvement Awards**).

Last year, Alaska, Delaware, Nebraska, North Dakota, West Virginia, and Wyoming received Outstanding Performance Awards, and Georgia, Idaho, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, Ohio, and Utah received Substantial Improvement Awards.

State agencies must submit a "Letter of Intent to Compete" to be considered for the FY 2013 Substantial Improvement Awards (but, no such letter is required for the FY 2013 Outstanding Performance Awards). See Attachment B for a sample template for the "Letter of Intent to Compete." This year, the "**Letter of Intent to Compete**" for the Substantial Improvement Awards is due to FNS no later than **Friday, July 12, 2013**.

State agencies should direct their questions to the appropriate FNS Regional Office. Regional Offices may direct questions to Patricia von Reyn or Vivian Lees at [cnstatesystems@fns.usda.gov](mailto:cnstatesystems@fns.usda.gov).

**Original Signed**

Cynthia Long  
Director  
Child Nutrition Division

Attachments:

Attachment A – FY 2013 Direct Certification Performance Awards - Q and As  
Attachment B – FY 2013 Direct Certification Performance Awards - Sample Letter of Intent  
Attachment C – FY 2013 Direct Certification Performance Awards – Reference Rate Chart