



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Service

3101 Park
Center Drive
Alexandria, VA
22302-1500

DATE : December 6, 2013

MEMO CODE: SP 12-2014

SUBJECT: Request for Applications for Participation in Demonstration
Projects to Evaluate Direct Certification with Medicaid in School
Year (SY) 2014-2015

TO: Regional Directors
Special Nutrition Programs
All Regions

State Directors
Child Nutrition Programs
All States

The USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) invites State agencies (SAs) that administer the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) to apply to participate in demonstration projects that will evaluate the effectiveness of conducting direct certification with the Medicaid program. Under the demonstration and pilot project authorities in Sections 9(b)(15) and 18(c) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (NSLA), FNS is conducting and evaluating demonstration projects in selected States and local educational agencies. During the projects, eligible children are directly certified for free school meals based on income and participation information received from Medicaid agencies through automated data matching processes, with no further action required of the household. Currently six States—Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Massachusetts, New York, and Pennsylvania—are participating in the demonstrations. FNS plans to expand the projects and seeks applications from NSLP SAs that would like to participate, or expand their participation, in the direct certification with Medicaid demonstrations beginning in SY 2014-2015.

Purpose of the Demonstration Projects

The purpose of the demonstration and evaluation projects is to:

- Determine the potential of direct certification with Medicaid to reach children who are eligible for free school meals but are not certified to receive meals;
- Determine the potential of direct certification with Medicaid to directly certify eligible children who are enrolled for free school meals based on a household application; and
- Provide an estimate of effect on Federal costs and on participation in the school lunch and breakfast programs.

Application Process

The attached Request for Applications (RFA) includes complete instructions on the demonstration project application process, including information about data sharing agreements with Medicaid SA's, cooperation with evaluation studies, and requirements that SA's must be able to meet to be considered for participation. Appendix A of the RFA contains an application template which must be completed by each applicant and submitted along with other required documents, as instructed. For convenience, a Microsoft Word version of the RFA, the application template (Appendix A) and other application documents will be available on the CND PartnerWeb. Notifications to FNS of the SA's intent to apply are due by **January 21, 2014**, and applications must be received by FNS no later than **March 5, 2014**.

Applications may be submitted by email or regular mail, as follows:

Email: **ATTN:** Vivian Lees, Branch Chief
CNStateSystems@fns.usda.gov

Mail to: Vivian Lees, Branch Chief
Operational Support Branch
Child Nutrition Programs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
3101 Park Center Drive, Suite 640
Alexandria, VA 22302

Webinar

On January 8, 2014, FNS will host a webinar for SAs to provide information on the direct certification with Medicaid demonstration projects and the application process for participation. Information about the webinar will be distributed via the CND PartnerWeb in advance.

Please direct questions concerning the RFA and the application process to Jacqueline Mitchell at (703)305-2744 or by email to Jacqueline.Mitchell@fns.usda.gov .

Sincerely,



Cynthia Long
Deputy Administrator
Child Nutrition Programs

Attachments