



CHILD NUTRITION: SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (SBP)

DESCRIPTION:

Provides federal cash assistance for elementary and secondary schools that provide breakfast to school children. Federal subsidies currently range from about 30 cents to \$2.00 per meal (depending on the type of meal/snack and the income of the recipient, with subsidies higher in Alaska and Hawaii). Total amount of assistance is based on the number of free, reduced-price, and paid lunches served.

AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION & U.S. CODE CITATION:

- Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-296)
- Child Nutrition Act, Section 4 (42 U.S.C. 1773)/ Administered by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food Nutrition Service (FNS)

CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES OF JURISDICTION:

- House Committee on Agriculture
- Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
- House Committee on Appropriations
- Senate Appropriations Committee
- House Committee on Education and the Workforce
- Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

ELIGIBILITY:

Pregnant, postpartum and breastfeeding women, infants, and children up to age five with household income at or below 185% of the federal poverty guidelines may be Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) eligible. Applicants must be individually determined to be at "nutritional risk" by a health professional and must meet state residency requirements. Applicants may also be categorically eligible based on receipt of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) cash assistance, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), or Medicaid. [States are prohibited from allowing dual participation in both the WIC and Child and Adult Care Food Program (CSFP)].

KEY COMPONENTS:

- The SBP operates in the same manner as the National School Lunch Program (NSLP).
- School districts and independent schools that choose to take part in the breakfast program receive cash subsidies from the USDA for each meal they serve, in return, they must serve breakfasts that meet Federal requirements, and they must offer free or reduced priced breakfasts to eligible children.
- Public or nonprofit private residential child care institutions may participate.
- The SBP's meal pattern and nutritional standards are based on the latest Dietary Guidelines for Americans, developed by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee.

SCHOOL REIMBURSEMENT:

The USDA reimburses schools in the SBP in the form of a cash reimbursement for each breakfast served. The current (July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015) basic cash reimbursement rates for non0-severe need are:

SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM		NON-SEVERE NEED	SEVERE NEED
Contiguous States	Paid	0.28	0.28
	Reduced Price	1.32	1.63
	Free	1.62	1.93
Alaska	Paid	0.42	0.42
	Reduced Price	2.29	2.80
	Free	2.59	3.10
Hawaii	Paid	0.32	0.32
	Reduced Price	1.58	1.95
	Free	1.88	2.25

These rates exclude the additional six cents made available to schools certified to be in compliance with the requirements of the meal pattern. Schools may qualify for higher “severe need” reimbursements if 40% or more of their lunches are served free or at a reduced price in the second preceding year. Severe need payments are up to 30 cents higher than the normal reimbursements for free and reduced-price breakfasts. About 77 percent of the breakfasts served in the SBP receive severe need payments. Higher reimbursement rates are in effect for Alaska and Hawaii.

DATA:

In FY2014, an average monthly total of approximately 8.3 million individuals (down from 8.7 million in FY2013) participated in WIC. This includes an average monthly total of 4.3 million (52%) children, 2.0 million (24%) infants, and 2.0 million (24%) women.

NCSL STAFF CONTACTS:

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