

## APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

To apply for free and reduced price meals, submit a Direct Certification letter received from the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance OR complete only one application for your household using the instructions. Sign the application and return the application to \_\_\_\_\_. Please complete a separate application for each foster child. Call the school if you need help: \_\_\_\_\_. Ensure that all information is provided. Failure to do so may result in denial of benefits for your child or unnecessary delay in approving your application.

### PART 1 ALL HOUSEHOLDS MUST COMPLETE STUDENT INFORMATION. DO NOT FILL OUT MORE THAN ONE APPLICATION FOR YOUR HOUSEHOLD.

- (1) Print the names of the children for whom you are applying on one application. (For Foster Children, see Part 2)
- (2) List their grade and school.

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### PART 2 HOUSEHOLDS WITH A FOSTER CHILD SHOULD COMPLETE THIS PART AND SIGN PART 5. A foster child is the legal responsibility of a welfare agency or court. A separate application must be completed for each foster child.

- (1) List the foster child's monthly "personal use" income. ("Personal Use" income is money given by the welfare office identified by category for the child's personal use, such as an allowance, and all other money the child gets, such as money from his/her family or money from the child's employment.) Write "0" if the foster child does not get "personal use" income. SKIP PART 4. Do not list any other children, household members or income, or a social security number.
- (2) A foster parent or other official representing the child must sign the application in PART 5.

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### PART 3 HOUSEHOLDS GETTING FOOD STAMPS, TANF OR FDPIR SHOULD COMPLETE THIS PART AND SIGN PART 5. COMPLETE A SEPARATE APPLICATION FOR A CHILD/CHILDREN WITH A DIFFERENT CASE NUMBER.

- (1) List a current Food Stamp case number, TANF or FDPIR (Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations) number. Do not use the number on your benefit card. The case number is provided on your benefit letter.
- (2) An adult household member must sign the application in PART 5. SKIP PART 4. Do not list names of household members or income if you list a food stamp case number, TANF or FDPIR number.

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### PARTS 4 & 5 ALL OTHER HOUSEHOLDS MUST COMPLETE THESE PARTS AND ALL OF PART 5.

- (1) Write the names of everyone in your household, whether or not they get income. Include yourself, the children you are applying for, all other children, your spouse, grandparents, and other related and unrelated people in your household. Use another piece of paper if you need more space.
- (2) Write the amount of current income each household member receives, before taxes or anything else is taken out, and indicate where it came from, such as earnings, welfare, pensions and other income. If the current income was more or less than usual, write that person's usual income. Specify how often this income amount is received: weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, 2 x per month. Changes in income during the school year no longer need to be reported.
- (3) The value of any child care provided or arranged, or any amount received as payment for such child care or reimbursement for costs incurred for such care under the Child Care and Development Block Grant, TANF and At Risk Child Care Programs should not be considered as income for this program.
- (4) The application must include the social security number of the adult who signs PART 5 if Part 4 is completed. If the adult does not have a social security number, write "none". If you listed a food stamp, TANF or FDPIR number, or if you are applying for a foster child, a social security number is not needed.

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**OTHER BENEFITS:** Your child may be eligible for benefits such as Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). In order to determine if your child is eligible, program officials need information from your free and reduced price meal application. Your written consent is required before any information may be released. Please refer to the attached parent Disclosure Letter and Consent Statement for information about other benefits.

### PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

Section 9 of the National School Lunch Act requires that unless your children's food stamp, TANF or FDPIR case number is provided, you must include the social security number of the adult household member signing the application, or indicate that the household member does not have a social security number. The disclosure of a social security number is voluntary. However, if a social security number is not given or an indication is not made that the signer does not have such a number, the application cannot be approved. The social security number may be used to identify the household member in carrying out efforts to verify the correctness of information stated on the application. These verification efforts may be carried out through program reviews, audits and investigations and may include contacting employers to determine income, contacting a food stamp or welfare office to determine current certification for receipt of food stamps or other benefits, contacting the State employment security office to determine the amount of benefits received and checking the documentation produced by household members to prove the amount of income received. These efforts may result in a loss or reduction of benefits, administrative claims, or legal actions if incorrect information is reported.

### DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINTS

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, gender, or disability. To file a complaint, write to *USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410* or call (800) 795-3272 or (202) 720-6382 (TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.