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Food and Nutrition NEWSLETTER

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT...

[04]

New Lunch Regulations

REVISIONS IN NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM REGULATIONS to guide and assist the Nation's schools in providing free and reduced price lunches to all needy children on a uniform, anonymous basis have been proposed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The proposed revisions will implement new legislation passed by Congress and approved by the President on May 14, 1970.

The principal changes would --

. Require schools in the lunch program to serve free or reduced price meals to children determined eligible under publicly announced criteria based on family income, size, and number of children in school and preschool institutions. By January 1, 1971, the family size-income levels to be used by the schools shall not be lower than those set forth as a national standard by the Secretary of Agriculture. If States choose to do so, they may set their income standard higher than the national scale.

. Require schools that receive only USDA-donated foods for their non-profit service -- so called "commodity-only schools" -- to serve nutritionally balanced lunches free or at reduced prices to eligible needy youngsters.

. Provide for special payments out of Federal funds, based upon the financial need of the school, for lunches served free or at a reduced price to children meeting the schools' publicly announced criteria.

The proposed regulations were published in the Federal Register on July 17, 1970.

Comments, suggestions, or objections are invited and may be mailed, postmarked within 20 days after publication in the Federal Register to Herbert D. Rorex, Director, Child Nutrition Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. If delivered by hand, delivery should be made to Room 560, 500 12th Street, S.W. (Continued on page 2)

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Food Help Expands

AS OF JULY 10th, 2,965 counties and independent cities were operating a family food program; 134 areas were planning to, as soon as local arrangements are completed. Twenty-nine counties and one independent city had not made a decision to have either a commodity distribution or food stamp program. Areas uncommitted are: 2 counties in Colorado; 7, Florida; 7, Kansas; 3, Louisiana; 1, Nebraska; 1, Ohio; 2, Oklahoma; 1, Pennsylvania; and, 5 counties and 1 independent city in Virginia. SOME STATISTICS about uncommitted areas: Present population is around 1,000,000; 19 are rural counties, 12 are urban counties and independent cities.

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT...

REVISIONS IN LUNCH REGULATIONS

(Continued from page 1)

Provisions affecting the School Breakfast, the non-food assistance and the Special Food Service Programs will be incorporated in respective program regulations as soon as possible.

Among other revisions required by PL 91-248, the proposed regulations require that each State educational agency submit a State plan of child nutrition operations to USDA's Food and Nutrition Service by January 1 each year.

The plan will include an action program under which the State agency proposes to:

1. Extend the lunch program to every school in the State.
2. Furnish a free or reduced price lunch to all children eligible for such lunches.
3. Extend the benefits of the School Breakfast Program and the Special Food Service Program for Children to children in need of such benefits.

The proposed regulations also require schools to provide simple application forms for free or reduced price lunches, and set up procedures for appeals from decisions on eligibility under a fair hearing procedure.

Children eligible for a free or reduced price lunch, in accordance with the new law, shall not be required to work for their lunch, use a separate lunchroom, use special tokens or tickets, or be identified or discriminated against in any way.

To provide a basis for comparison on how well the schools are progressing in meeting need, the new law and the proposed regulations require that the schools' claims for reimbursement for October and March of each year must be accompanied by an estimate of the number of children in the school that are eligible for free or reduced price lunches.

CHILD NUTRITION BUDGET AMENDMENT.

The President has transmitted to the Congress a budget amendment of an additional \$216,579,000 for the school lunch and child nutrition programs in fiscal 1971, bringing total Federal funding for these programs to \$900 million. The amendment is necessary "to properly fund this legislation." (H.R. 515, which improved the National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act.)

SPECIAL MILK PROGRAM--H. R. 5554, extending the authorization for the Special Milk Program, became law on June 30, without the signature of the President, who stated: "I have not signed this measure. . . I firmly believe the major portion of the funds authorized in this bill should have been authorized for more effective nutritional programs to benefit children from poor families and on a basis which includes milk as part of the balanced, nutritious school lunch program . . . It should be clearly understood that whatever funds I use for this program I intend to use for the school lunch and child nutrition and milk programs for children from poverty families, and not for those who are in no need of such a subsidy."

AROUND THE NATION...

SCHOOL LUNCH SEMINARS for supervisory food service personnel from schools around the country are updating their training and studying new methods of serving breakfast and/or lunch to more children -- especially needy children -- at three regional seminars this summer.

The seminars, developed cooperatively by the land grant colleges and universities, the State departments of education, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service were held June 15-26 at the University of Tennessee, June 22-July 2 at Oklahoma State University, and July 12-25 at the University of Massachusetts.

A MAIL-ISSUANCE SYSTEM for food stamps is under way in Jefferson County, Ala. Recipients receive through the mail an Authorization to Purchase card which they must sign and return to the issuance office along with their purchase requirements. Their food stamps are then mailed to them. On July 15, the County will also begin a mobile issuance unit to serve 25 to 30 small communities. HINDS COUNTY, MISS., outfitted a trailer to reach concentrated areas of eligible households. Aside from the initial cost of the trailer, the county spends \$500 per month for salaries and maintenance expenses. Los Angeles County uses Brink's armored trucks to cash welfare checks and sell food stamps. On the two heaviest sales day of the month, the trucks reach several areas that do not have an issuance office. An armed guard and two cashiers man each truck; bilingual signs direct the customers. Expenses are paid by a 25-cent check-cashing fee and a 67-cent transaction fee charged to the county.

PUBLIC-ASSISTANCE FAMILIES, in tests now underway in California and Washington State, can request the State to withhold the purchase requirement for food stamps from their welfare checks. The State then mails the food stamps to the households. Although Social Security regulations do not permit food stamp deductions from welfare checks, HEW is making an exception to allow California and Washington to test this procedure. Six counties in California and 21 in Washington are participating in the test.

QUALITY OF PROGRAMS. Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Richard Lyng, in a statement to the Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs, on June 19, emphasized that: "While we have concentrated much effort during the past year in getting family food programs into the reluctant counties, we have also devoted positive attention to making the programs more fully effective-- to try to meet the needs of all of the poor in each of the Nation's 3,129 counties and independent cities."

MILITARY COMMISSARIES, as of July 1, are authorized to accept food stamps. Military personnel and their families who are eligible to participate in the Food Stamp Program will be able to use stamps in over 300 commissaries in this country. These families will now get the added buying power of food stamps.

THE SCORECARD...

NUMBER OF PEOPLE getting family food help reached an estimated 10 million in May, with 5.9 million taking part in the Food Stamp Program and 4.1 million in the Commodity Distribution Program. IMPROVEMENTS IN THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM have resulted in increased participation and benefits to low-income families. Comparing the base of December 1969 (before the improvements) with the first five months of 1970 indicated these marked changes:

Month	People	
	Participating	Comparison
Dec. 1969	3,645,202	100.0%
Jan. 1970	3,795,455	104.1%
Feb. 1970	4,416,450	121.2%
Mar. 1970	5,100,000	139.9%
Apr. 1970	5,600,000	153.6%
May 1970	5,900,000	161.9%
	Bonus	
	<u>Food Stamps</u>	
Dec. 1969	\$24,604,685	100.0%
Jan. 1970	26,873,101	109.2%
Feb. 1970	54,856,541	223.0%
Mar. 1970	71,000,000	288.6%
Apr. 1970	80,100,000	325.5%
May 1970	84,200,000	342.2%

10,000 CHILDREN OF MIGRATORY WORKERS are getting hot meals every noon in 90 feeding centers located in New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Connecticut, Delaware, and Maryland. Over 250,000 children from low-income families will attend 4-H Nutrition Day Camps this summer. Recommended by 4-H Nutrition Aides working in poorer neighborhoods, the campers will participate in 4-H camps in almost every State. Most of the camps will receive funds and food from the Special Food Service Program.



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CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

EXPERIMENTAL FOOD CERTIFICATE PROGRAM for low-income mothers and infants will begin in Brazos County, Texas, on July 20 and on August 3 in St. Johnsbury and Newport Welfare Districts in Vermont. By early June the pilot program was reaching 4,500 mothers, expectant mothers, and infants in Chicago; 760 in Bibb County, Georgia; and 1,500 in Yakima County, Wash. Eligible families get free books of 25-cent certificates, which can be spent at authorized local food and drug stores for milk, baby formula, and instant baby cereal. A mother or expectant mother can get \$5 worth of free food certificates monthly to buy milk for herself--starting whenever she is eligible and continuing until her child is one year old. In addition, she can get \$10 worth of free certificates monthly to buy formula or milk or instant baby cereal for the baby, from birth until one year of age. No further expansion of the program will be made until the pilot project is evaluated. THE SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM also is being evaluated.

This program provides selected, nutritious foods such as evaporated milk and enriched farina to mothers, infants, and young children. During May, 141,000 received these foods in 34 States and the Nation's Capital.

MENDOCINO, CALIFORNIA, opened a second donated-food distribution center June 16. As a result, the number of persons getting foods jumped from 400 to 4,500.

SUMMER FEEDING PROGRAMS are swinging into operation widely across the country, under the Special Food Service Program for Children, which picks up the ball where school lunches leave off. Estimates run up to 500,000 of the number of children who will take part--in such places as Albuquerque, N.M.; every city with a population over 25,000 in Georgia; Bangor and Portland, Me.; Charleston, W. Va.; Chicago; Cleveland; Detroit; Eagle Pass, Texas; Evangeline Parish, La.; Jacksonville, Fla.; Jersey City, N.J.; Memphis, Tenn.; Portland, Ore.; New Orleans; Norfolk, Va.; Omaha; Philadelphia; San Antonio, Tex.; and the District of Columbia.

INFO AND EDUCATION...

NEW PUBLICATIONS:

HANDBOOK FOR VOLUNTEERS - CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS (FNS-10). An illustrated booklet of information and ideas for volunteers and community organizations who want to help support and expand school breakfast and lunch and out-of-school food service for children. Copies are available from the Information Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. FAMILY FARE (HG-1), 1970 edition, sub-headed "A Guide to Good Nutrition" is off the press. Copies are 45 cents each from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.