

Income Guidelines for Determining Eligibility for Free and Reduced-Price Meals in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

The income guidelines below are from the USDA’s annual adjustments to the Income Guidelines (7CFR Part 245.3(a)). They are used in Connecticut to determine the eligibility of participants for free and reduced-price meals in the USDA Child Nutrition Programs from **July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021**. These income guidelines must be used by all individuals who review applications, and should be distributed to all schools/sites for use by determining officials.

Income Guidelines for Child Nutrition Programs: July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021 *											
Free meals						Reduced-price meals					
Number in family	Annual gross income	Monthly gross income	Twice Per month	Every two weeks gross income	Weekly gross income	Number in family	Annual gross income	Monthly gross income	Twice per month	Every two weeks gross income	Weekly gross income
1	16,588	1,383	692	638	319	1	23,606	1,968	984	908	454
2	22,412	1,868	934	862	431	2	31,894	2,658	1,329	1,227	614
3	28,236	2,353	1,177	1,086	543	3	40,182	3,349	1,675	1,546	773
4	34,060	2,839	1,420	1,310	655	4	48,470	4,040	2,020	1,865	933
5	39,884	3,324	1,662	1,534	767	5	56,758	4,730	2,365	2,183	1,092
6	45,708	3,809	1,905	1,758	879	6	65,046	5,421	2,711	2,502	1,251
7	51,532	4,295	2,148	1,982	991	7	73,334	6,112	3,056	2,821	1,411
8	57,356	4,780	2,390	2,206	1,103	8	81,622	6,802	3,401	3,140	1,570
Each additional family member	+ 5,824	+ 486	+ 243	+ 224	+ 112	Each additional family member	+ 8,288	+ 691	+ 346	+ 319	+ 160

* Income means income before deductions such as income taxes, Social Security taxes, insurance premiums, charitable contributions, and bonds. It includes the following: 1) Monetary compensation for services, including wages, salary, commissions, or fees; 2) net income from non-farm self-employment; 3) net income from farm self-employment; 4) Social Security; 5) dividends or interest on savings or bonds or income from estates or trusts; 6) net rental income; 7) public assistance or welfare payments; 8) unemployment compensation; 9) government civilian employee or military retirement, or pensions or veterans’ payments; 10) private pensions or annuities; 11) alimony or child support payments; 12) regular contributions from persons not living in the household; 13) net royalties; and 14) other cash income. Other cash income includes cash amounts received or withdrawn from any source including savings, investments, trust accounts, and other resources. “Income” as used here does not include any income or benefits received under any Federal programs, which are excluded from consideration as income by any legislative prohibition, for example, the value of benefits received under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

If a household has only one source of income, or if all sources of income are the same frequency, do **not** use conversion factors. Compare the income or sum of the incomes to the chart above for the appropriate frequency and household size to make the eligibility determination.

Income Guidelines for the CACFP and SFSP

Many households have different sources of income coming into the home at different frequencies, such as weekly or bi-weekly wages and monthly social security benefits. In these situations, all sources of income must be converted to an annual amount using the calculations below.

- Multiply **weekly** income by 52
- Multiply income received **every two weeks** by 26
- Multiply income received **twice a month** by 24
- Multiply **monthly** income by 12

In applying the guidelines, the school food authority/institution **must** compare the household's size and total household income to the income guidelines to determine eligibility for free or reduced-price meals. Children of parents or guardians who become unemployed may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals during the period of unemployment.



For information on the CACFP and SFSP, visit the Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) [CACFP](#) and [SFSP](#) webpages or contact the [CACFP staff](#) and [Summer Meals](#) staff in the Connecticut State Department of Education, Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 504, Hartford, CT 06103-1841. This document is available at <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/CACFP/Forms/IncElig/IncomeGuidelinesCACFPSFSP.pdf>.

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