



Qualifying Under Free and Reduced Lunch Program /USDA Guidelines

Effective from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	ANNUALLY	MONTHLY	TWICE PER MONTH	EVERY TWO WEEKS	WEEKLY
1	23,828	1,986	993	917	459
2	32,227	2,686	1,343	1,240	620
3	40,626	3,386	1,693	1,563	782
4	49,025	4,086	2,043	1,886	943
5	57,424	4,786	2,393	2,209	1,105
6	65,823	5,486	2,743	2,532	1,266
7	74,222	6,186	3,093	2,855	1,428
8	82,621	6,886	3,443	3,178	1,589
For each additional family member, add	8,399	700	350	324	162

Reminder: Total income before taxes, social security, health benefits, union dues, or other deductions must be reported.

Income Guidelines provided by USDA.gov

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Determining TSIC Eligibility

- The student applicant must be claimed as a dependent on the tax return provided to verify income eligibility.
- The total number of dependents listed on the tax return provided should be used to verify income eligibility.

Definition of Income: In accordance with the Department's policy as provided in the Food and Nutrition Service publication Eligibility Manual for School Meals, "income," as the term is used in this notice, means income before any 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 nonfarm 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 Other cash income would include cash amounts received or withdrawn from any source including savings, investments, trust accounts and other resources that would be available to pay the price of a child's meal.

The image shows a 2020 U.S. Individual Income Tax Return form. A red arrow points from a text box to the 'Dependents' table, specifically to the 'Relationship to you' column. Another red arrow points from a text box to Line 9 of the tax return, which is highlighted in green.

Find Student applicant's name on the tax return. Calculate total number of dependents

Find total family income on Line 9.

Take Stock in Children requires that every student's financial situation be examined closely at the time the student's application is evaluated. All applicants should provide their most current year filed IRS Tax Form 1040 as verification of income showing total income. The tax return provided must include the student as a dependent

In the instance the student's parents/guardian **does not** file Federal income taxes, the following documents **can be used** to verify income eligibility for the Take Stock in Children program:

1. Qualified applicants can be a recipient of Florida Medicaid services. Medicaid eligibility in Florida is determined either by the Department of Children and Families (DCF) or the Social Security Administration (for SSI recipients). To qualify under this standard, students must currently be receiving services (through a review of their Florida Medicaid benefits) and must provide official documentation for eligibility from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) or the Social Security Administration (for SSI recipients).
2. Qualified applicants can be a SNAP recipient. SNAP eligibility is determined by the State of Florida through the Department of Children and Families. To qualify under this standard, students must currently be receiving services and must provide official documentation for eligibility from the Department of Children and Families.
3. TANF – Letter from State of Florida indicating that family has been approved to receive TANF benefit and names of household beneficiaries (the student applicant's name should be listed as part of household on the document). The date of eligibility for benefits indicated on the letter should align with the application date for the TSIC program (i.e., the student should be eligible to receive TANF benefits at the time of TSIC application).
4. Proof that the student is in Foster Care (currently active as a foster care student during the application period of TSIC).
5. Signed document on school district letterhead, from the School district's Homeless Liaison, verifying in writing that the student is homeless and qualifies for free/reduced lunch. The document date should align with the date of the TSIC application.

*The following documentation **IS NOT** acceptable to verify eligibility for Take Stock in Children: *

1. W-2s/ Social Security Statement alone – May not reflect all income and does not verify that it is same household as student.
2. Disability – May not reflect all income for household and does not verify that it is same household as student.
3. Statement of non-filing of taxes through IRS – Does not indicate that income was below the need to file, just verifies that they did not file.
4. The free/reduced lunch screen in the School District's student profile program (i.e., FOCUS). Direct Certification letter from State of Florida – The letter may not be issued by all school or districts where FRL is available to all students/schools.
5. Students who qualify to receive Direct Certification from the state (i.e.- SNAP/TANF recipients, Foster Care or Homeless youth) should be able to prove eligibility for TSIC as outlined above.