

What is the Department of Human Services?

The Department of Human Services (DHS) is Michigan's public assistance, child and family welfare agency. DHS directs the operations of public assistance and service programs through a network of over 100 county department of human service offices around the state.

Applications for assistance can be made in person, by mail, by fax or over the Internet, depending on the program. See our [Customer Application Process](#) for more details.

Local offices administer the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families grant (Family Independence Program) and Food Assistance program and take applications for Medicaid which is administered by the Michigan Department of Community Health. Other assistance programs DHS administers are medical assistance jointly funded by the federal government and the state; state disability assistance and state medical services program, which are funded by the state and State Emergency Relief Program; and food stamps, a federally funded program. The agency administers the child support collection and client welfare fraud investigation programs. In addition, the agency provides other services to children, adults, and families in the state.

Services to adults include protective services, adult placement services, home help services, and assistance with health, housing, transportation, and educational needs.

Family services include referral for employment and training, independent living services providing housing assistance, family planning, counseling, health-related services, volunteer services, refugee assistance, foster family care, transitional services to youth exiting foster care/out-of-home placements, child day care, migrant services, Native American services, and domestic violence prevention and treatment programs. These services are provided to help maintain and strengthen family life and to help families become self-sufficient.

A wide range of service programs is available for the families and children of Michigan. They include protective and preventive services for children who are neglected, abused, or exploited, including foster care placement. The agency also provides a wide range of institutional and non-institutional social services for the care, training, and treatment of neglected and delinquent children committed to the agency as state wards and temporary court wards. Such services include casework and counseling, adoption, foster care, and the operation of centers for institutional residential care and group homes. In addition, it offers consultation on general child welfare problems to private and public agencies throughout the state and offers services through the Interstate Compact.

The Department of Human Services also administers a number of special and autonomous entities including the Michigan Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board, and the Children's Trust Fund.

Commodities for Schools and Institutions

Overview

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is charged with administering the Food Distribution Program which is one of USDA's nutrition assistance programs offering donated commodity meats, vegetables, fruits, grains and dairy products.

Through the Food Distribution Program, USDA purchases foods through direct appropriations from Congress, and under surplus removal and price support activities. The foods are distributed to State agencies for use by eligible local outlets, including schools.

Programs

Several programs are available through the Food Distribution Program:

Schools

- [National School Lunch Program \(NSLP\)](#)
- [School Breakfast Program \(SBP\)](#)

Recipes

The [Commodity Recipe Exchange](#) is an interactive resource for school food service personnel to find new and different ways to prepare commodities and other foods. It is also a place for schools to share creative and innovative recipes that have been well-received by their students.

Some recipes are ideal for new or hard-to-use commodities, while others introduce regional tastes and new creations for familiar foods to schools across the country. Every recipe contains at least one USDA commodity offered to States for schools and institutions participating in USDA's food assistance programs.

THE SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM

1. What is the School Breakfast Program?

The School Breakfast Program is a federally assisted meal program operating in public and nonprofit private schools and residential child care institutions. It began as a pilot project in 1966, and was made permanent in 1975. The School Breakfast Program is administered at the Federal level by the Food and Nutrition Service. At the State level, the program is usually administered by State education agencies, which operate the program through agreements with local school food authorities in more than 87,000 schools and institutions.

2. How does the School Breakfast Program work?

The School Breakfast Program operates in the same manner as the National School Lunch Program. Generally, public or nonprofit private schools of high school grade or under and public or nonprofit private residential child care institutions may participate in the School Breakfast Program. School districts and independent schools that choose to take part in the breakfast program receive cash subsidies from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for each meal they serve. In return, they must serve breakfasts that meet Federal requirements, and they must offer free or reduced price breakfasts to eligible children.

3. What are the nutritional requirements for school breakfasts?

School breakfasts must meet the applicable recommendations of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans which recommend that no more than 30 percent of an individual's calories come from fat, and less than 10 percent from saturated fat. In addition, breakfasts must provide one-fourth of the Recommended Dietary Allowance for protein, calcium, iron, Vitamin A, Vitamin C and calories. The decisions about what specific food to serve and how they are prepared are made by local school food authorities.

4. How do children qualify for free and reduced price breakfasts?

Any child at a participating school may purchase a meal through the School Breakfast Program. Children from families with incomes at or below 130 percent of the Federal poverty level are eligible for free meals. Those with incomes between 130 percent and 185 percent of the poverty level are eligible for reduced-price meals. (For the period July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2010, 130 percent of the poverty level is \$28,665 for a family of four; 185 percent is \$40,793.) Children from families over 185 percent of poverty pay full price, though their meals are still subsidized to some extent.

5. How much reimbursement do schools get?

Most of the support USDA provides to schools in the School Breakfast Program comes in the form of a cash reimbursement for each breakfast served. The current (July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010) basic cash reimbursement rates for non-severe need are:

Free breakfasts	\$1.46
Reduced-price breakfasts	\$1.16
Paid breakfasts	\$0.26

Schools may qualify for higher "severe need" reimbursements if 40% of their lunches are served free or at a reduced price in the second preceding year. Severe need payments are up to 28 cents higher than the normal reimbursements for free and reduced-price breakfasts. About 74 percent of the breakfasts served in the School Breakfast Program receive severe need payments. Higher reimbursement rates are in effect for Alaska and Hawaii.

Schools may charge no more than 30 cents for a reduced-price breakfast. Schools set their own prices for breakfasts served to students who pay the full meal price (paid), though they must operate their meal services as non-profit programs.

For the latest reimbursement rates visit FNS website at

www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Governance/notices/naps/NAPs.htm

6. What other support do schools get from USDA?

Through Team Nutrition, USDA provides schools with technical training and assistance to help school food service staffs prepare healthy meals, and with nutrition education to help children understand the link between diet and health.

7. How many children have been served over the years?

In Fiscal Year 2007, over 10.1 million children participated every day. That number grew to 10.6 million in Fiscal Year 2007. Of those, 8.5 million received their meals free or at a reduced-price.

Participation has slowly but steadily grown over the years: 1970: 0.5 million children; 1975: 1.8 million children; 1980: 3.6 million children; 1985: 3.4 million children; 1990: 4.0 million children; 1995: 6.3 million children; 2000: 7.5 million children.

8. How much does the program cost?

For Fiscal Year 2008, the School Breakfast Program cost \$2.4 billion, up from \$1.9 billion in Fiscal Year 2005. The cost in previous years was in 1970, \$ 10.8 million; in 1980, \$287.8 million; in 1990, \$ 599.1 million; and in 2000, \$1.39 billion.

For more information:

For information on the operation of the School Breakfast Program and all the Child Nutrition Programs, contact the State agency in your state that is responsible for the administration of the programs. A listing of all our State agencies may be found on our web site at www.fns.usda.gov/cnd, select "Contact Us" then select "Child Nutrition Programs."

You may also contact us through the office of USDA, Food and Nutrition Service, Public Information Staff at 703-305-2286, or by mail at 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 914, Alexandria, Virginia 22302.

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NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

1. What is the National School Lunch Program?

The National School Lunch Program is a federally assisted meal program operating in over 101,000 public and non-profit private schools and residential child care institutions. It provides nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free lunches to more than 30.5 million children each school day in 2008. In 1998, Congress expanded the National School Lunch Program to include reimbursement for snacks served to children in afterschool educational and enrichment programs to include children through 18 years of age.

The Food and Nutrition Service administers the program at the Federal level. At the State level, the National School Lunch Program is usually administered by State education agencies, which operate the program through agreements with school food authorities.

2. How does the National School Lunch Program work?

Generally, public or nonprofit private schools of high school grade or under and public or nonprofit private residential child care institutions may participate in the school lunch program. School districts and independent schools that choose to take part in the lunch program get cash subsidies and donated commodities from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for each meal they serve. In return, they must serve lunches that meet Federal requirements, and they must offer free or reduced price lunches to eligible children. School food authorities can also be reimbursed for snacks served to children through age 18 in afterschool educational or enrichment programs.

3. What are the nutritional requirements for school lunches?

School lunches must meet the applicable recommendations of the 1995 Dietary Guidelines for Americans, which recommend that no more than 30 percent of an individual's calories come from fat, and less than 10 percent from saturated fat. Regulations also establish a standard for school lunches to provide one-third of the Recommended Dietary Allowances of protein, Vitamin A, Vitamin C, iron, calcium, and calories.

School lunches must meet Federal nutrition requirements, but decisions about what specific foods to serve and how they are prepared are made by local school food authorities.

4. How do children qualify for free and reduced-price meals?

Any child at a participating school may purchase a meal through the National School Lunch Program. Children from families with incomes at or below 130 percent of the poverty level are eligible for free meals. Those with incomes between 130 percent and 185 percent of the poverty level are eligible for reduced-price meals, for which students can be charged no more than 40 cents. (For the period July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2010, 130 percent of the poverty level is \$28,665 for a family of four; 185 percent is \$40,793.)

Children from families with incomes over 185 percent of poverty pay a full price, though their meals are still subsidized to some extent. Local school food authorities set their own prices for full-price (paid) meals, but must operate their meal services as non-profit programs.

Afterschool snacks are provided to children on the same income eligibility basis as school meals. However, programs that operate in areas where at least 50 percent of students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals may serve all their snacks for free.

5. How much reimbursement do schools get?

Most of the support USDA provides to schools in the National School Lunch Program comes in the form of a cash reimbursement for each meal served. The current (July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010) basic cash reimbursement rates if school food authorities served less than 60% free and reduced price lunches during the second preceding school year are:

Free lunches:	Reduced-price lunches:	Paid lunches:
\$2.68	\$2.28	\$0.25
Free snacks:	Reduced-price snacks:	Paid snacks:
\$0.74	\$0.37	\$0.06

Higher reimbursement rates are in effect for Alaska and Hawaii, and for schools with high percentages of low-income students. For the latest reimbursement rates visit FNS website at www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Governance/notices/naps/NAPs.htm.

6. What other support do schools get from USDA?

In addition to cash reimbursements, schools are entitled by law to receive USDA foods, called "entitlement" foods, at a value of 19.50 cents for each meal served in Fiscal Year 2009-2010. Schools can also get "bonus" USDA foods as they are available from surplus agricultural stocks.

Through Team Nutrition USDA provides schools with technical training and assistance to help school food service staffs prepare healthful meals, and with nutrition education to help children understand the link between diet and health.

7. What types of foods do schools get from USDA?

States select entitlement foods for their schools from a list of various foods purchased by USDA and offered through the school lunch program. Bonus foods are offered only as they become available through agricultural surplus. The variety of both entitlement and bonus USDA foods schools can get from USDA depends on quantities available and market prices.

A very successful project between USDA and the Department of Defense (DoD) has helped provide schools with fresh produce purchased through DoD. USDA has also worked with schools to help promote connections with local small farmers who may be able to provide fresh produce.

8. How many children have been served over the years?

The National School Lunch Act in 1946 created the modern school lunch program, though USDA had provided funds and food to schools for many years prior to that. About 7.1 million children were participating in the National School Lunch Program by the end of its first year, 1946-47. By 1970, 22 million children were participating, and by 1980 the figure was nearly 27 million. In 1990, over 24 million children ate school lunch every day. In Fiscal Year 2007, more than 30.5 million children each day got their lunch through the National School Lunch Program. Since the modern program began, more than 219 billion lunches have been served.

9. How much does the program cost?

The National School Lunch Program cost \$9.3 billion in FY 2008. By comparison, the lunch program's total cost in 1947 was \$70 million; in 1950, \$119.7 million; in 1960, \$225.8 million; in 1970, \$565.5 million; in 1980, \$3.2 billion; in 1990, \$3.7 billion; and in 2000, 6.1 billion.

For more information:

For information on the operation of the National School Lunch Program and all the Child Nutrition Programs, contact the State agency in your state that is responsible for the administration of the programs. A listing of all our State agencies may be found on our web site at www.fns.usda.gov/cnd, select "Contact Us", then select "Child Nutrition Programs."

You may also contact us through the office of USDA, Food and Nutrition Service, Public Information Staff at 703-305-2286, or by mail at 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 914, Alexandria, Virginia 22302.

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Project FRESH - Farm Market Produce

The Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) is associated with the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), administered in cooperation with the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) of USDA. WIC provides supplemental foods, health care referrals and nutrition education at no cost to low-income pregnant, breastfeeding and non-breastfeeding post-partum women, and to infants and children up to 5 years of age, who are found to be at nutritional risk.

The WIC FMNP, Project FRESH, was established by Congress in July 1992. It was created to accomplish two goals:

- To provide fresh, nutritious, unprepared foods (such as fruits and vegetables) from farmers' markets to women, infants and children who are nutritionally at risk.
- To expand the awareness and use of farmers' markets by consumers.

Who can participate?

Women and children (ages 1-5) who are currently enrolled in the WIC program can get coupons for fresh fruits and vegetables. Women who are either pregnant or breastfeeding are targeted to help meet their special nutritional needs.

More Information

See the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) [Project FRESH](#) web site for:

- how to receive and use Project FRESH coupons
- participating farmers
- the kind of fruits and vegetables that may be purchased with Project FRESH coupons

Food Assistance Program (FAP) Overview

The Food Assistance Program supplements the food purchasing power of low-income individuals and families. The U.S. Department of Agriculture funds 100 percent of this program. The state and federal governments share administrative costs. The Department of Human Services (DHS) determines eligibility for food assistance.

Generally, eligibility for food assistance depends on the financial situation of all members of the household group. All persons who live together and purchase and prepare food together are considered to be members of the same food assistance group.

FAP benefits can be used to buy eligible food at any [Food and Nutrition Service](#) (FNS) authorized retail food store or approved meal provider.

Eligible food includes:

- **Any food or food product intended for human consumption except alcoholic beverages, tobacco, and foods prepared for immediate consumption.**
- **Seeds and plants to grow food for personal consumption.**
- **Meals prepared by organizations approved by FNS as specified below.**
- **Meals prepared and served to eligible residents by a shelter for battered women and children, certain adult foster care (AFC) homes and substance abuse treatment centers.**

Retail food stores include:

- **Recognized grocery stores.**
- **House-to-house grocery vendors, such as milk and milk product deliverers, but not ice cream vendors.**
- **Nonprofit food purchasing ventures - private nonprofit associations of consumers whose members pool their resources to buy food.**

Approved meal providers may include:

- **Communal dining facilities. (example: certain homeless shelters, group homes)**
- **[Certain restaurants](#) which provide low cost meals if you or your spouse are 60 years of age or older or blind, disabled and receive SSI or are homeless.**
- **Meal delivery services - public or private nonprofit organizations which prepare and deliver meals to elderly persons (60 years of age or over), physically or mentally impaired persons, and their spouses, who are unable to adequately prepare all of their meals.**