Community Eligibility Provision and Direct Certification

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CEP Basics

- New provision available in SY 2014–15

- 4-year reimbursement option for eligible high-poverty LEAs and schools

- Individual schools, group(s) of schools, or entire LEAs may apply

- Schools must serve breakfast & lunch at no cost to all students

CEP Benefits

- Never collect meal applications

- Never perform Verification activities

- Increased revenue and guaranteed reimbursement percentages

- Overt identification and unpaid meal fees are eliminated

- All students receive two meals a day

CEP Qualifications

LEAs or schools must:

- ISP of at least 40 percent, based on prior April 1 SY enrollment

- Cannot round up to reach the 40 percent

- Agree to serve breakfast and lunch at no cost to students

- History of following the NSLP or SBP program regulations

CEP Reimbursement

- Reimbursement based on the ISP, and calculated by the USDA Multiplier

- ISP multiplied by the Multiplier equals the percentage of meals claimed at the free rate

- Claim the remaining percentage of meals at the paid rate

Additional Information

- ISP will never decrease once established in first year

- LEAs may apply to use the higher ISP in the following school year

- LEAs or schools cover the cost difference between serving meals at no charge to all students and reimbursement rates

Household Income Data Collection Form

- Schools participating in the CEP must collect the individual socioeconomic status of each student for LCFF purposes

- Sample household income data collection forms are available to use in calculating the school's LCFF and eligibility for other non-nutrition programs

Household Income Data Collection Form (continued)

- Sample forms: http://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/aa/lc/lcfffaq.asp#PROV2and3

- Costs associated with income forms cannot be paid for with cafeteria funds

- No reference can be made to nutrition programs on the income form

- Sign up for LCFF Listservs at join-LCFF-list@mlist.cde.ca.gov

CEP Updates

- LEAs may **opt in** during the 2016–17 school year

- SP 15-2016: CEP: State Agency Procedures to Ensure ISP Accuracy

- Located in CNIPS Download Forms:
    - SNP 19 CEP
    - SNP 55 CEP

- Final rule released July 2016

- Contact your SNP county analyst with questions

Direct Certification

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Direct Certification

What is Direct Certification (DC)?

- The process in which all program operators must use to certify children receiving certain types of public assistance for free meals without further application

- Mandatory

- Must be completed a minimum of three times per school year

Direct Certification

Programs that can directly certify students for free meals:

- SNAP (CalFresh)

- TANF (CalWORKs)

- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

- Homeless, Migrant, Runaway

- Foster

- Head Start

- Medicaid (Medi-Cal) (coming SY 2017–18)

Direct Certification – Advantages

- Ensures that most needy children are provided free meals

- Fewer meal applications to process

- Fewer applications to verify

Direct Certification Through CALPADS

Program operators of school districts, county offices of education, and public charter schools can directly certify students through CALPADS

- CALPADS contains CalFresh, CalWORKs, and foster student eligibility

- CALPADS information is updated monthly

Direct Certification Through Local Information

All program operators can obtain info from local county health and social services offices to directly certify students

- Information required to directly certify students includes: name, another identifier such as birthdate, benefit type, certification from official, and certification date

- Establish an MOU to share data with the county offices

- DC costs associated with obtaining local lists can be paid with cafeteria fund

Direct Certification Through Local Information

Local CalFresh agencies are **required** to provide CalFresh and CalWORKs info to program sponsors to assist with DC

- All county letter number 07-16 at the CDSS Web site at http://www.cdss.ca.gov/lettersnotices/entres/getinfo/acl07/pdf/07-16.pdf

- A list of county DC specialists can be found on the CDE's Web site at http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu/sn/directcertcountycontacts.asp

Direct Certification Through Local Information

All program operators can use lists from homeless and migrant liaisons to directly certify students

- A list of homeless liaisons can be found on the CDE's Homeless Education Web site at http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/hs/

- Regional contacts for migrant education can be found on the CDE's Migrant Education Web site at http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/me/mt/regions.asp

Direct Certification – Categorical Eligibility

There are two types of eligibility based on the type of public assistance benefits a student or household receives

- Categorical eligibility through CalFresh, CalWORKS, or FDPIR

- Eligibility extends to other school age children in the household

Direct Certification – Other Source Categorical Eligibility

Other source eligibility through homeless, foster, migrant, runaway, and Head Start programs

- Eligibility does not extend to other household members

Direct Certification – Medicaid

- The CDE has been selected to participate in a USDA Medicaid DC Demonstration Project

- The DC results for the Medicaid will be available statewide through CALPADS beginning SY 2017–18

Direct Certification – Medicaid

- The Medicaid project will directly certify students for free and reduced-price meals and benefits will extend to the household

Direct Certification – Medicaid

- CALPADS codes will be updated in SY 2017-18 to reflect new codes for Medicaid free and reduced-price

- Program Operators will be notified of the new codes in Winter 2017

- Program Operators should work with Point of Service vendors to ensure system compatibility

Direct Certification – Medicaid

- Children directly certified for reduced-price meals may still qualify for free meals

- CDE will update prototype notification letters of Direct Certification eligibility

Direct Certification – Spring 2017 Training

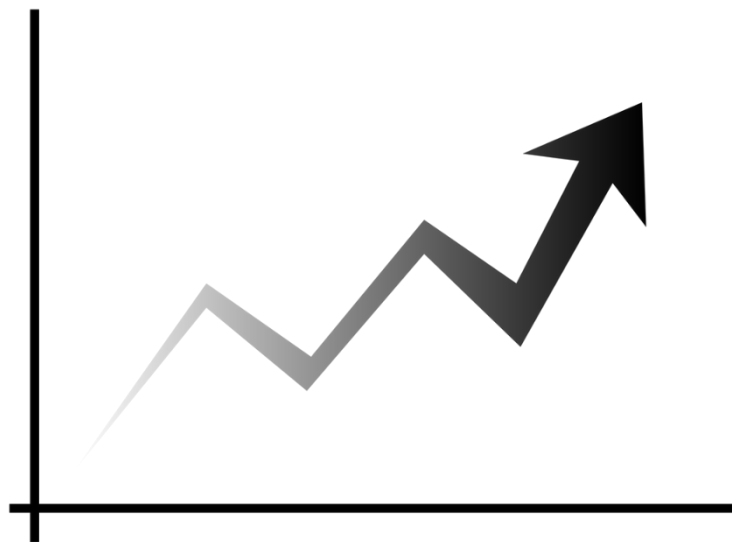The CDE will be providing training on DC best practices in Spring of 2017

- The Spring 2017 training will include the following topic areas:
  - New Medicaid DC program
  - CALPADS best practices
  - Best practices for matching through local lists
  - Extending meal benefits to household and siblings
  - Reporting verification results for new DC programs
  - CEP

Direct Certification – Increase Match Results

Maximize the number of Direct Certification lists you receive

- CALPADS
- County offices
- Other liaisons

Direct Certification – Increase Match Results

Invest the time into maximizing DC results now

- Ensures your neediest children are provided with meal benefits

- Could qualify schools for CEP and increase LCFF

- Saves time and resources

Direct Certification – Increase Match Results

- Perform DC monthly

- Extend benefits when possible

- Take ownership over the DC data

- Get to know your enrollment policies

- Attend CDE DC training in Spring 2017

Questions???

Thank you

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Professional Standards Crediting Information

- Key Area: Administration (code 3000)

  – Key Topic: Community Eligibility Provision and Direct Certification (code 3120)

- Total Instructional Hours: 1.0

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