



CDSS

WILL LIGHTBOURNE
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.cdss.ca.gov



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

February 7, 2012

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-58-11

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- State Law Change
- Federal Law or Regulation Change
- Court Order
- Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- Initiated by CDSS

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS
ALL FOSTER FAMILY AGENCIES
ALL LOCAL EDUCATION ADMINISTRATORS
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (CDE)

SUBJECT: CATEGORICAL ELIGIBILITY OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE FOR SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMS

REFERENCE: WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE (W&IC) SECTION (§) 10850(b); HEALTHY, HUNGER-FREE KIDS ACT OF 2010, SECTION 102, PUBLIC LAW 111-296.

The purpose of this notice is to inform county departments that provide child welfare services and local education agencies (LEAs) of the categorical eligibility of children in foster care for school nutrition programs.

Effective October 1, 2010, Section 102 of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, Public Law 111-296, extended categorical eligibility for free meals, without further application, to foster children whose care and placement is the responsibility of the state or court. Pursuant to the Act, certification of a foster child for free meals, without application, is authorized if the LEA or other child nutrition program institution obtains documentation from an appropriate state or local child welfare department. The documentation must show the status of the child as a foster child whose care and placement is the responsibility of the state or that the foster child has been placed in a caretaker household by a court.

The Child Welfare Data Analysis Bureau and the Office of Systems Integration have developed a county-specific report in Business Objects that identifies children in CWS/CMS who are placed within zip codes served by the school districts within county boundaries. The child welfare departments are encouraged to generate and share the reports as needed or requested by the LEAs for their service areas, or pursuant to local agreements, to exchange information for purposes of certifying qualified children. The report is published in Business Objects InfoView at the following location:

Public Folders >> County Reports >> HEP >> 99 Free Lunch Certification

The "99" is the originating identification. Counties are 01-58, the CWS/CMS Office is 00 and CDSS is 99. The counties are to print the report and provide it to the LEA School District Office.

W&IC §10850 generally prohibits the disclosure of the identities of recipients of public social services. However, W&IC §10850(b) states:

[T]his section shall not prohibit the furnishing of this information to other public agencies to the extent required for verifying eligibility or for other purposes directly connected with the administration of public social services, or to county superintendents of schools or superintendents of school districts only as necessary for the administration of federally assisted programs providing assistance in cash or in-kind or services directly to individuals on the basis of need.

Child Welfare Department Single Point of Contacts (SPOCs):

CDSS is in the process of developing a list of child welfare department Education SPOC list for LEAs that have questions regarding foster children in their district. The list of the child welfare departments Education SPOCs can be found at the following link:

<http://www.childsworld.ca.gov/PG2864.htm>

Local Educational Agency (LEA) SPOCs:

The California Department of Education (CDE) provided a SPOC of LEAs to assist child welfare departments to coordinate the documentation needed for categorical eligibility. A downloadable list of the LEA SPOCs can be accessed at: <http://www.childsworld.ca.gov/PG2864.htm>

CWDs and LEAs can submit their SPOC contact information, updates, or changes to CMSAdminSvcsUnit@dss.ca.gov.

CDE Contact Information for LEAs:

For questions regarding foster care eligibility for free school meals, LEAs can request to speak to their respective School Nutrition Program County Analyst at the CDE by calling (800) 952-5609, and selecting option 7; or by e-mailing Mr. Manuel Martinez at MMartine@cde.ca.gov. Local county office staff can contact Ms. Amy Carson at (916) 324-0578 or at ACarson@cde.ca.gov.

If you have any questions or need additional guidance regarding the information in this notice, please contact the CMS Support Branch at (916) 651-7884 or CMSAdminSvcsUnit@dss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT SIGNED BY:

KEVIN GAINES
Assistant Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division