



BRIGHT FROM THE START
Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
10 Park Place, Suite 200, Atlanta, Georgia 30303
(404) 656-5957

Sonny Perdue
GOVERNOR

Marsha H. Moore
COMMISSIONER

Memorandum

To: All CACFP Participants

From: Jackie Romain, Director
Nutrition Services Division

Date: July 19, 2006

Re: Free and Reduced Price Meal Eligibility Determinations

The Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 (Reauthorization Act) modified the requirements for the duration of applications for free or reduced price meals referred to by Bright from the Start as the Income Eligibility Statement (IES form) in child and adult nutrition programs authorized by the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, as well as requirements related to reporting changes in income during the period of eligibility covered by the IES form.

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide guidance on the impact of these modifications on the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). In accordance with the Reauthorization Act, **households are no longer required to report changes in circumstances, such as an increase in income (currently \$50 per month, or \$600 annually), a decrease in household size, or when the household is no longer certified eligible for food stamps or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families during the period covered by the eligibility statement.**

Therefore, effective immediately, once correctly approved for free or reduced price benefit, a household will remain eligible for those benefits for a period of no more than 12 months.

Also, please be advised that this guidance does not modify the requirement to obtain an updated IES form after 45 days for those households using income to qualify for which they have indicated "no" or "zero" income. Institutions must still follow-up on any income eligibility statement that has been temporarily approved for free benefits based on the family having no income.

For questions concerning this memorandum, please contact Marissa L. Hamm, Policy Administrator at (404) 651-7181.