USDA

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food and
Consumer
Service

Mountain Plains
Region

1244 Speer Blvd
Denver, CO
80204-3581

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Reply to
Attn. of: SP 97-27
CACFP-532
SFSP-322

Subject: Foreign Exchange Students from the Former Soviet Union and Free and Reduced Price Eligibility

To: STATE AGENCY DIRECTORS (Child Nutrition Programs) - Colorado ED, Colorado DPHE, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri ED, Missouri DH, Montana OPI, Montana DPHHS, Nebraska ED, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming ED and Wyoming DHSS

As you are aware, for the purpose of determining eligibility for free and reduced price Child Nutrition Program meals, and free milk, foreign exchange students are considered part of the household with whom they reside, i.e., the host family. Thus, the total household size and income of the host family must be taken into consideration when they apply for free and reduced price meals or free milk for the foreign exchange student.

Through the Office of Citizen Exchanges of the U.S. Information Agency (USIA), thousands of students from the New Independent States, formerly part of the Soviet Union, are brought to the U.S. under the Freedom Support Act. USIA has confirmed to our Agency that host families are responsible for providing shelter and three meals a day for the students. There are no legislative or other provisions which make these or other foreign exchange students automatically eligible for free or reduced price meals or free milk, or which exclude the host family's income from consideration when applying for Program benefits.

If households are participating in a foreign exchange program which they believe has a legislative provision that excludes the host family's income from consideration as income in the eligibility determination for free and reduced price meals, or free milk, please obtain as much information about the program as possible, such as the agency responsible for the program. You may then contact us and we will research the matter.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.

Please contact our office if you have any questions.

Edward F. Campbell

for ANN C. DEGROAT
Regional Director
Child Nutrition Programs