

1. Slide Welcome to the Webinar “Using Medicaid Data to Connect to Free and Reduced Priced School Meals through Direct Certification”. My name is Eva Shepherd, I am a data analyst working with the Nutrition Services team at the Nebraska Department of Education. I have with me today the assistant director of Nutrition Services, Shannon Fowler and School Lunch Specialists Mary Ann Brennen, Beth Haas, and Michelle Stephens.

2. Slide In the webinar, we will be discussing the Direct Certification with Medicaid Demonstration project and the partnerships that facilitate and monitor the project. We will also talk about the purpose of the demonstration project and the key policies and definitions that School Food Authorities or SFAs must be familiar with to administer the project. Next, we will present information about reporting the direct certification data during verification and the Annual Notification for Community Eligibility Provision. We will also discuss the challenges with updating local student information systems and reporting Medicaid –Reduced data from two SFA staff members who have been reviewing test data and documentation. Finally, we will provide information about updates to the CNP system for the inclusion of the Direct Certification with Medicaid data, the Verification report, and a future webinar. Then, we will take questions.

3. Slide The demonstration project began with state agencies applying to participate back in April of this year. Nebraska was accepted and approved to conduct the demonstration project and, by late June, NDE participated in a kick off meeting with 6 other states, including California, Florida, Massachusetts, Utah, Virginia, and West Virginia. The demonstration project using Medicaid data begins this school year, 2016-17 and will remain a part of the direct certification process for the following school years, 2017-18,

2018-19, and so on. School Food Authorities or SFAs with access to the CNP System will be able to view the students matched with Medicaid starting tomorrow, August 9th. Prior direct certification lists will not contain Medicaid data. SFAs will see a list students matched with Medicaid that qualify for both free and reduced priced school meals.

4. Slide Partnerships at the Federal and State level have initiate and provided a foundation for the demonstration project. At the federal level, the Food and Nutrition Services has been coordinating with the Medicare and Medicaid Services to provide technical assistance and guidance for state agencies. At a state level, Nutrition Services has contact the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care to participate in the demonstration project by agreeing to share Medicaid data and testing the data file to ensure the automated process remains robust, stable, and meets the demonstration project's policy guidelines. NDE extends this partnership to SFAs as we implement the demonstration project and incorporate the Medicaid data into Direct Certification. As the SFA staff reviews the data in the CNP system, please feel free to contact our office about questions if you are working with the data or trying reporting the data. The demonstration project is a collaborative effort between the state agency team and staff from the school food authorities that manage the school food lunch program.

5. Slide As part of the demonstration project, the Federal level will be conducting an evaluation of the affects Medicaid on Direct Certification. They will be collecting information on identifying students matched with Medicaid who are eligible for free, as identified in the CNP system with the M-F and reduced priced school meals, with the M-R, as well as, the household matches associated DC matches. The evaluation includes determining the impact of demonstration project with completed household applications,

which may reduce the number of applications received by the SFA. FNS plans to examine the cost of implementing the demonstration project to the benefits of reducing applications, improving access to meals, and increasing student meal participation.

6. Slide In the demonstration project application, the definition for an eligible child must receive Medicaid, or live in a household with a child who received Medicaid, and have a family income that meets the NSLP income standards applicable to the family size.

Remember, Medicaid is not categorically eligible program but based on income standards.

7. Slide The income standards for the Direct Certification with Medicaid are displayed on the screen; children qualify for free meals if the family income falls at or below 130% of the Federal Poverty Level compared to children that qualify for reduced meals if the family income falls between 131 and 185% of the Federal Poverty Level.

8. Slide In the previous slides, we have defined the child who qualifies for Medicaid and the income standards based on the Federal Poverty Level. Now let's review the information about the key demonstration policies of the direct certification with Medicaid project. The SFA will access the direct certification list in the CNP system and review the list for students who qualify for both free and reduced priced school meals. The SFA will need to conduct a match with households associated with students match with Medicaid at a district or system level. Children directly certified with Medicaid are not required to submit application for free and reduced priced meals, and are not subject to verification procedures. The potential affects from the direct certification with Medicaid may reduce household applications and decrease the number of applications subject to verification.

- 9. Slide** In addition to the key demonstration policies from the previous slide, the households directly certified for reduced priced meals must receive a notification letter and offered an opportunity to apply if they think their income is within the standard for free meals. The Nutrition Service team has created a template letter, Attachment D, Notice of Approval/Denial Letter that can be used to notify households. This letter can be found at the website displayed on the screen.
- 10. Slide** As part of the demonstration project, the children matched with Medicaid are eligible for free meal but are not categorically eligible for benefits. The SFA staff can access the CNP system and view the “Qualified Student List Directly Certified”. Each row contains a “Q” field that identifies the program matched with the student. As previously mentioned –M-F indicates, a student qualified for free meals with Medicaid; M-R indicates a student qualified for reduced meals with Medicaid. Children’s eligibility for free or reduced meals cannot be certified/approved based on Medicaid case number or a letter from the Medicaid agency.
- 11. Slide** During the Direct Certification with Medicaid project, the children matched with Medicaid must not be negatively impacted if they already qualify for free meals based on direct certification with another program or free meals based on an application. The SFA staff must allow the maximum meal benefit for the student.
- 12. Slide** The direct certification with Medicaid will affect direct certification reporting and the verification report. First, let’s discuss the priority order for direct certification reporting. As you are probably are aware, children can participate in more than one program to receive meal benefits but you need to identify the appropriate Direct Certification program. Remember---SNAP, identified with an S in the Directly Certified

List, supersedes all other programs. A child receiving meal benefits with Medicaid should only be reported if the child does not match with any other direct certification program.

The other direct certification programs include TANF, identified with a T, FDPIR, Migrant, Homeless and Runaway, Headstart, and Foster Children, identified with a C in the CNP system. If you receive a master case number on an application, the student would not be considered directly certified. SFA staff can complete the Verification report with accuracy if they understand the priority for reporting of the Direct Certification programs.

13. Slide This slide offers the audience an overview of the direct certification programs.

The table illustrates the direct certification programs in Nebraska and the values that denote the program in the CNP system; if the direct certification program is matched at a state or local level, along with the frequency of the match; if the meal benefit is extended to the household; and if the student record can be added to the Identified Student Percentage (ISP) to determine the eligible for the Community Eligibility Program (CEP).

14. Slide Now that we covered the direct certification programs and the priority for reporting, let's test your knowledge. You are reviewing the records on Qualified Student List Direct Certified screen in the CNP system and you find a student with a S T and M-F value in the Q column. How would you report the DC program for the student?

15. Slide Ok, let's try another one, you are reviewing the records on Qualified Student List Direct Certified screen in the CNP system and you find a student with a T C and M-R value in the Q column. How would you report the DC program for the student?

16. Slide SFA staff members are a critical role in the success of the direct certification with Medicaid project. We have contacted Misty Horn from Brady Public School and Sue

Sucha from Papillion-La Vista School to discuss their work with vendors and the direct certification with Medicaid data---specifically, the Medicaid with reduced records.

---Misty and Sue, Thank you for your time and assisting with the testing. Your involvement, and the involvement of all SFA staff, is important in the success of this project.

17. Slide By participating the demonstration program and starting in the 2016-17 school year, the CEP program will have a positive impact on the student list that the SFA staff collects for the ISP and the eligibility for CEP. SFA staff can include the students who qualify for free meals with Medicaid, identified with M-F but they can **not** include the students who qualify for reduced meals with Medicaid, denoted with the M-R.

18. Slide The direct certification with Medicaid will also affect the CNP system. SFA staff can access the CNP system at the URL located on the slide. Starting in 2016-17, you will see two new values; M-F that will denote students who qualify for free meals with Medicaid and M-R that will denote students who qualify for reduced meals with Medicaid. The screen title will change to Qualified Student List Directly Certified because the list may contain students who qualify for both free and reduced priced meals.

19. Slide Another change to the CNP system is additional text to remind SFA staff to send a notification letter to students who qualify for reduced priced meals with Medicaid. Further information can be found at the URL presented on the screen.

20. Slide Just a reminder, SFA staff can find a template of the Notice of Approval or Denial Letter on the Forms and Resources webpage at the URL presented on the slide.

21. Slide The CNP system also includes the Verification report that is due Nov 15. The SFA staff will aggregate the count of Medicaid – Free into section 3-3. The USDA will

provide more information in a future webinar on how to report Medicaid-Reduced counts, so at this time, we recommend collecting the records on a separate excel spreadsheet.

22. Slide A future webinar is scheduled for Wednesday, September 7th from 9:30 to 10:30 CST to discuss the Verification report and the Direct Certification with Medicaid in further detail. Please add this webinar to your calendar.

23. Slide For additional information, NDE will be updating our direct certification and Direct Verification webpage. Please visit the URL on the screen frequently for updates on instructions and guidance documentation.

24. Slide Finally, please type in your question into the chat box.