



Using Medicaid Data to Connect to Free and Reduced Price School Meals through Direct Certification (DC)

Date: Monday, August 8, 2016

Time: 10:00 – 11:00 am CST

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Agenda

- Demonstration Overview
- Agency Partnerships
- Purpose and Definitions for the Demonstration
- Key Demonstration Policies
- Direct Certification (DC) Overview
- Local Software Programs
- Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)
- CNP System
- Verification Report
- Future Webinar

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Demonstration Overview

- DC using Medicaid data begins SY 2016-2017 - available by August 9th
- ***Both free and reduced price school meals***
- Nebraska, one of 7 states

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Agency Partnerships

- **Federal Level**

USDA Food & Nutrition Service (FNS) (lead **Federal agency**) and Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) provide technical assistance

- **State Level**

NDE - Nutrition Services (NS) (lead **State agency**) and DHHS - Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care

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Purpose of Demonstration

To evaluate DC with Medicaid data by—

- Identifying students who are eligible for **free (M-F) & reduced (M-R) priced** school meals.
- Determining if the number of completed household applications decreases.
- Considering the costs/benefits and students' meal participation.

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Definitions in Demonstrations

Eligible child(ren) must —

1. Receive Medicaid, or live in household with a child who receives Medicaid, and
2. Have family income **as measured by the Medicaid Program in the demonstration project, before application of any expense, block, or other disregard**, that does not exceed National School Lunch Program (NSLP)'s income standards applicable to family size.

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Definitions in Demonstrations

NSLP income eligibility standards used in the demonstrations—

- **130%** Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for **free (M-F)** meal eligibility.
- **131 to 185%** FPL for **reduced (M-R)** priced meal eligibility.

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Key Demonstration Policies

- Conduct DC for both **free and reduced price** school meals.
- Children directly certified with Medicaid are **not** required:
 - to submit applications for free and reduced price meals, and
 - are not subject to verification procedures.

Potential affect may reduce household applications and decrease the number of applications subject to verification.

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Key Demonstration Policies

- Households directly certified for **reduced (M-R) priced meals** must be:
 - notified of the income level used (as mentioned above) and
 - offered the opportunity to apply if they think their income is within the standard for free meals.
- Use **“Attachment D (Notice of Approval/Denial Letter)”** template letter found on the Nutrition Services’ webpage:

<https://www.education.ne.gov/ns/forms/nslpforms/Attachments/attachments.html>

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Key Demonstration Policies

Children’s eligibility for free meals met Medicaid income standards but are **not categorically eligible** for meal benefits --

- State agencies/LEAs **must** use the **“Qualified Student List Directly Certified”** (see column “Q”) in the Child Nutrition (CNP) system for Medicaid eligibility records.
- Child **cannot** be certified/approved based on:
 - **Medicaid case number** or
 - **letter from Medicaid agency.**

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Key Demonstration Policies

Children matched with Medicaid **must not be negatively impacted** if they already qualify for:

- Free meals based DC with another program, or
- Free meals based on an application.

Maximum benefit **must** be provided for the student.

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Verification-DC Overview

Priority order for DC reporting—

SNAP ➡ TANF/Foster Child/Other DC ➡ Medicaid

- Children can participate in **more than one** program to receive meal benefits.
- SNAP (S) supersedes all other programs:
 - Identify as Medicaid match **only** when child does not match with any other DC programs.
 - Other DC programs include TANF (T), FDPIR, Migrant, Homeless and Runaway, Head Start, and Foster Children (C).

Master Case numbers reported on application are not students who are directly certified.

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Verification - DC Overview

Program Description (The programs are listed in the order of reporting)	Value in CNP System (Q field)	State (S) or LEA (L) Matching	Electronic Matching in CNP System (Frequency)	Eligibility extended to Household ?	Applied to ISP for CEP?
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	S	S	Y (nightly)	Y	Y
Temporary Assistance For Needy Families (TANF)	T	S	Y (nightly)	Y	Y
Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)		L	N	Y	Y
Foster Child	C	S	Y (nightly)	N	Y
Migrant		L	N	N	Y
Homeless/Runaway		L	N	N	Y
HeadStart/EvenStart		L	N	N	Y
Medicaid - Free	M-F	S	Y (nightly)	Y	Y
Medicaid - Reduced	M-R	S	Y (nightly)	Y	N ¹³



DC Overview –Question 1

You are reviewing records in the “Qualified Student List Directly Certified” Screen and discover a record for student with a “S T M-F” values in the “Q” column.

How would you report the DC program for the student?

S

T

M-F

Next Question



DC Overview – Question 2

You are reviewing records in the “Qualified Student List Directly Certified” Screen and discover a record for student with a “T C M-R” values in the “Q” column.

How would you report the DC program for the student?

T

C

M-R

Finish

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Local Software Programs

Misty Horn - Brady Public School

Sue Sucha – Papillion-La Vista School

Working with Vendors

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Community Eligibility Provision

Impact on Identified Student Percentage (ISP) for Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) —

- **Do** include **free** (M-F) meals.
- **Do not** include **reduced** (M-R) priced meals.

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CNP System

Starting SY 2016-17 –

CNP System located at:

<https://nutrition.education.ne.gov/>

- The "Q" field new values: **M-F** = Medicaid-Free, **M-R** = Medicaid-Reduced.
- Screen page update:

Applications | Claims | Compliance | Reports | Security | Search

Direct Certification / Direct Verification > View Direct Certification >

Qualified Student List Directly Certified as

Student Name	Q
[blurred]	[blurred]

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CNP System

Additional text under the NOTICE statement:

If a student's record is reported with only the "M-R" value on the directly certified list in the CNP system, then these households must be notified. If the parents or guardians believe the household qualifies for free meals based on household size and income, they may complete an application.

For information on Direct Certification, click on:

<https://www.education.ne.gov/ns/forms/nslpforms/DirectCert.html>

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CNP System

The “**Notice of Approval/Denial Letter (Attachment D)**” template, for the child reported on the DC list, can be found on the Nutrition Services’ - *Forms & Resources* webpage:

<https://www.education.ne.gov/ns/forms/nslpforms/DirectCert.html>

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Verification Report

Section 3 - Students approved as FREE eligible NOT subject to verification

All SFAs must report Section 3 or check box 3-1 if applicable. Report students approved FREE eligible as of the **last operating day in October**.

	B. Number of FREE Students
3-1 Check the box only if all schools and/or RCCIs in the SFA were not required to perform direct certification with SNAP (i.e. NON BASE year Provision 2/3 for all schools) <input type="checkbox"/>	
3-2 Students directly certified through Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): Do not include students certified with SNAP through the letter method.	183
3-3 Students directly certified through other programs: Include those directly certified through Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), or Medicaid (if applicable); those documented as homeless, migrant, runaway, foster, Head Start, Pre-K Even Start, or non-applicant but approved by local officials. DO NOT include SNAP students already reported in 3-2.	923
3-4 Students certified categorically FREE eligible through SNAP letter method. Include students certified for free meals through the family providing a letter from the SNAP agency.	0

USDA will provide more information in a future webinar on how to report Medicaid – Reduced counts.

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Future Webinar

Verification Report and the Direct Certification with Medicaid

- **Date:** Wednesday, September 7, 2016
- **Time:** 9:30 - 10:30 am CST
- **URL:** nde.adobeconnect.com/nutrition

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Additional Information

Visit the DC and Direct Verification webpage -
Frequently

<https://www.education.ne.gov/ns/forms/nslpforms/DirectCert.html>

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Questions

Please Submit Questions

Nebraska Department of Education
Nutrition Services Office

800-731-2233 (Nebraska only)

402-471-2488

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