Community Eligibility Provision

Overview

- What is CEP?
- Benefits of CEP
- What You Need to Know
- Factors in Determining CEP Status
- Things to Think About
- Demo of Online Application

What is the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)?

- Section 104a of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act
  - Provides an alternative to household applications for free and reduced price meals
  - Offers all students free meals in high poverty local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools.

Benefits of CEP

- Increases access to school meals for children in high poverty areas
- No household applications
- Reduces the burden of verification
- Compared to other special provisions: no base year

What Do You Need to Know?

- If you choose to participate in CEP
  - Participation is required for the entire school year (June 30 cutoff)
  - All schools participating in CEP must serve breakfast and lunch to all students at no charge
  - All schools participating in CEP will not collect USDA Income Applications
  - Any financial loss must be reimbursed using non-federal funds
  - Identified Student Percentage of at least 40%

CEP by the Numbers

- Enrollment
- # of Identified Students (DC Count)
- Identified Student Percentage
- Multiplier
- Free and Paid Claiming Percentages

Enrollment

- Students who are enrolled in and attending schools participating in the community eligibility provision and who have access to at least one meal service daily

Identified Students

- Identified students are defined as the students certified for free meals without the use of a household application.
- By definition this includes students directly certified through SNAP, TANF and Foster participation as well as Homeless, Head Start, Pre-K, Even Start, Migrant and Runaway students.
  - Identified Students are NOT the same as your Free & Reduced Eligibility numbers.
  - Identified Students are NOT those that were certified for free or reduced meals on a Household Eligibility Application

Identified Student Percentage

$$\% \text{ of identified students} = \frac{\text{Number of identified students}}{\text{Total enrollment}} \times 100$$

- Individual sites need at least a 40% identified student percentage to participate in CEP
- The percentage may be determined school-by-school, by a group of schools within the LEA or in the aggregate for an entire LEA.

What is the Multiplier?

- Analysis showed that on average for every 10 identified students there were 6 more students certified based on an income application
- If you multiply the identified student percentage by 1.6 you are approximating the free and reduced price percentage
- Based on USDA regulations, the multiplier can change each year and can fluctuate between 1.6 and 1.3

Multiplier/Reimbursements

- The percentage of identified students as of April 1st of the prior year is multiplied by 1.6 to determine the percentage of meals reimbursed at the federal free rate.
- The remaining percentage of meals not covered under the provision will be reimbursed at the federal paid rate.
- Any meal costs in excess of the total federal reimbursement must be covered through non-federal sources.

CEP Claiming Percentages

Example:

Identified Student % = 50%

Free claiming percentage = 80% (50% X 1.6)
Paid claiming percentage = 20% (100% - 80%)

Total meals = 1,000

Number of free meals = 800 (1,000 X 80%)

Number of paid meals = 200 (1,000 – 800)

**62.5% Identified Student Percentage (before the multiplier) = 100% Free Claiming Percentage

Examples of Non-Federal Sources for the Community Eligibility Provision

- Any portion of state revenue matching funds that exceeds the minimum requirement established in 7 CFR 210.17.
- Profits from a la carte sales.
- Contributions from outside sources such as volunteer services or a cash donation.

Things to Think About

- Financial status of each school in your district
- Breakfast and Lunch participation
- Anticipated level of Federal Reimbursement
- Are Non-Federal resources available?
- Is school meal application data used to distribute other sources of funding? (Title I, E-rate, Accountability, State, Local, etc.)

Demo of Online Application

- Site grouping feature
- Monthly Claim for Reimbursement
- Plate Cost Calculator