



State of Arizona  
Department of Education

**SFSP CN# 10-12**  
USDA SFSP 09-2012

MEMORANDUM

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**To:** Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Sponsors  
National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Sponsors

**From:** Mary Szafranski, Deputy Associate Superintendent  
Arizona Department of Education, Health & Nutrition Services

Cara Peczkowski, Director  
Arizona Department of Education, School Nutrition Programs

**Date:** March 13, 2012

**RE:** Eligibility Based on Census Data: 2012 Data Release

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*Original Signed*

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide guidance regarding the use of census data for area eligibility determinations in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). This memorandum supersedes the following memoranda, which discussed the use of 2000 census data to determine area eligibility: *Summer Food Service Program (SFSP): Using 2000 Census Data*, May 5, 2003, and *Summer Food Service Program (SFSP): Revised 2000 Census Data*, June 30, 2003.

**Area Eligibility Policy**

SFSP sites that establish eligibility using census data are required to use the most recent census data available (7 CFR 226.6(f); 7 CFR 225.6(c)). The Census Bureau will now estimate household income annually using the American Community Survey (ACS); therefore, the Food and Nutrition Service will release these new estimates every year. However, in order to reduce burden and maintain consistency within the Program, area eligibility determinations based on census data are now effective for five years (see SFSP CN# 03-12 *Eligibility Based on Census Data*, November 18, 2011).

Census Block Groups (CBGs) will continue to be the geographical unit used to assess eligibility for SFSP when using census data. In order for a SFSP site to be eligible, 50 percent or more of the children in a CBG must be eligible for free or reduced price school meals. The 2012 Data

Release includes a column of CBGs for SFSP. USDA has included a column (with the heading “Eligible”) to indicate whether the CBG is eligible under either Program.

**Using the New Data**

Instructions for using the 2006-2010 ACS CBG information to determine SFSP site eligibility are provided. This is a two step process: 1) become familiar with the Census data and formats; 2) determine which CBGs are eligible.

The file containing eligibility information and the instructions for determining which CBGs are eligible can be found at: <http://www.azsummerfood.gov/sponsors> under Download manuals and memos link.

If you have any questions on these requirements, please contact your School Nutrition Programs Specialist at 602-542-8700.

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