

## How to Complete the Application for Educational Benefits

Complete the Application for Educational Benefits form for school year 2020-21 if any of the following applies to your household:

- Any household member currently participates in the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP), or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) or
- The household includes one or more foster children (a welfare agency or court has legal responsibility for the child) or
- The total income of household members is within the guidelines shown below (**gross earnings before deductions**, not take-home pay). Do not include as income: foster care payments, federal education benefits, MFIP payments, or value of assistance received from SNAP, WIC, or FDPIR. Military: Do not include combat pay or assistance from the Military Privatized Housing Initiative. The income guidelines are effective from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

### Maximum Total Income

| Household size                 | \$ Per Year | \$ Per Month | \$ Twice Per Month | \$ Per 2 Weeks | \$ Per Week |
|--------------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------|
| 1                              | 23,606      | 1,968        | 984                | 908            | 454         |
| 2                              | 31,894      | 2,658        | 1,329              | 1,227          | 614         |
| 3                              | 40,182      | 3,349        | 1,675              | 1,546          | 773         |
| 4                              | 48,470      | 4,040        | 2,020              | 1,865          | 933         |
| 5                              | 56,758      | 4,730        | 2,365              | 2,183          | 1,092       |
| 6                              | 65,046      | 5,421        | 2,711              | 2,502          | 1,251       |
| 7                              | 73,334      | 6,112        | 3,056              | 2,821          | 1,411       |
| 8                              | 81,622      | 6,802        | 3,401              | 3,140          | 1,570       |
| Add for each additional person | 8,288       | 691          | 346                | 319            | 160         |

### Step 1: Children

List all infants and children in the household, their school and grade if applicable, and birthdate. Attach an additional page if needed to list all children. Check the box if a child is in foster care (a welfare agency or court has legal responsibility for the child).

### Step 2: Case Number

If any household member currently participates in SNAP, MFIP or FDPIR, write in the case number and then go to Step 4. If you do not participate in any of these programs, leave Step 2 blank and continue on to Step 3.

### Step 3: Adult and Child Incomes / Last 4 Digits of Social Security Number

- **Social Security Number/Total Household Members.** An adult household member must provide the last four digits of their Social Security number or check the box if they do not have a Social Security number. Report the total number of household members and ensure all household members are listed individually on the application in the child or adult section as applicable.
- **Child Income.** If any children in the household have regular income, such as SSI or part-time jobs, list the total amount of regular incomes received by all children, and check the box for the frequency: weekly, bi-weekly, twice a month, or monthly. Do not include occasional earnings like babysitting or lawn mowing.
- **Adult income.** Report the names of adult household members and income earned in this section.
  - List all adults living in the household not listed in Step 1, whether related or not, such as grandparents, relatives, or friends.
  - **Gross Earnings from Work.** This is usually the money received from working at jobs where a paycheck is received. For each income, check the box to show how often the income is received: weekly, bi-weekly, twice per month, or monthly.
  - List gross incomes before deductions, not take-home pay. Do not list an hourly wage rate. For adults with no income to report, enter a '0' or leave the section blank. For seasonal work, write in the total annual income.
  - **Are you Self-Employed or a Farmer?** List the net income per month or year after business expenses. Do not list the same income twice on the application. A loss from farm or self-employment must be listed as 0 income and does not reduce other income.
  - **Any Other Gross Income.** List gross incomes before deductions from all other sources, such as SSI, unemployment, child support, public assistance, social security, rental income or annuities.

**Step 4: Signature and Contact Information** An adult household member must sign the form. If you do not want your information to be shared with Minnesota Health Care Programs, check the "Don't share" box in Step 4.

**Optional:** Please provide the information on ethnicity and race that is requested on the second page of the form. This information is not required and does not affect approval for school meal benefits. The information helps to ensure we are meeting civil rights requirements and fully serving our community.

## 2020-21 Application for Educational Benefits

Complete one application per household for all children. Please use pen (not a pencil). **Mail or return completed form to: (School/District Information)** \_\_\_\_\_

**STEP 1: List ALL Household Members who are infants, children, and students** up to and including grade 12 (if more spaces are required for additional names, attach another sheet of paper).

**Definition:** A Household Member is "Anyone living with you and shares income and expenses, even if not related." Children in Foster care are eligible for free meals. Read *How to Complete the Application for Educational Benefits* for more information. Adults over grade 12 living in the same household should be reported in Step 3. If your children attend different districts or charter/nonpublic schools, return an application at each one.

| Child's First Name (list all children in household) | MI | Child's Last Name | School | Grade | Birthdate | Foster Child (v)         |
|---|----|-------------------|--------|-------|-----------|--------------------------|
|   |    |                   |        |       |           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|   |    |                   |        |       |           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|   |    |                   |        |       |           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|   |    |                   |        |       |           | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**STEP 2:** Do Any Household Members (including you) currently participate in one or more of the following assistance programs: SNAP, MFIP or FDPIR? Medical assistance **does not** qualify. If **NO** > Go to STEP 3.

If **YES** > Enter SNAP, MFIP or FDPIR Case Number (between 4-9 digits, do not report EBT card number) \_\_\_\_\_ then go to STEP 4 (Do not complete STEP 3)

**STEP 3:** Report Income for ALL Household Members (Skip this step if you answered 'Yes' to STEP 2)

**A. Last Four Digits of Social Security Number (SSN)** of Adult Household Member: XXX-XX-     Or Check if Adult has **No SSN:**  **Total Number of All Household Members** (Children + Adults)

**B. Child Income.**

Sometimes children in the household earn or receive income, such as from a part time job or SSI. Please include the TOTAL income received by all children listed in STEP 1. Do not include income received by adults in the box to the right.

| Total Income Received by All Children | Weekly                   | Bi-weekly                | 2x Month                 | Monthly                  |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| \$                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**C. All Adult Household Members (including yourself).** For each Household Member listed, if they do receive income, report total gross income only. If they do not receive income from any source, write '0' or leave any fields blank. You are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report. Not sure what income to include here? Flip the page and review "Sources of Income" for information. "Sources of Income" will help you with the Child Income section and All Adult Household Members section.

| Names of All Adult Household Members (First and Last)   | Gross Earnings from Working at Jobs |                          |                          |                          |  | Are you Self-Employed or a Farmer? |                          |  | Any Other Gross Income   |           |                          |                          |   |                          |                          |                          |    |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----|
| List all Household members not listed in STEP 1 (including yourself) even if they do not receive income. Include children who are temporarily away at school or in college. | Weekly                              | Bi-weekly                | 2x Month                 | Monthly                  | Report income <b>before deductions or taxes</b> in whole dollars (no cents). | Monthly                            | Yearly                   | Net income from Farm or Self-Employment. Do not duplicate elsewhere. | Weekly                   | Bi-weekly | 2x Month                 | Monthly                  | SSI, Unemployment, Public Assistance, Child Support, and others on Page 2 |                          |                          |                          |    |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |  | \$                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> |  | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$                       |    |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |  | \$                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> |  | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$ |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |  | \$                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> |  | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$ |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |  | \$                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> |  | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$ |

**STEP 4: Contact information and adult signature.** "I certify (promise) that all information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that this information is give in connection with the receipt of Federal funds, and that school officials may verify (check) the information. I am aware that if I purposely give false information, my children may lose meal benefits, and I may be prosecuted under applicable State and Federal laws."  I have checked this box if I *do not* want my information shared with Minnesota Health Care Program as allowed by state law.

Printed name of adult signing form \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address (if available) \_\_\_\_\_ Apt# \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

| Do Not Fill Out: For School Office Use<br>Conversions to Annualize All Income: | X52   | X26                      | X24                      | X12                      | X1                       | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Verified? Attach Tracker</b><br><small>No chang e</small><br><small>Free After Verified</small><br><small>Reduced After Verified</small><br><small>Denied After Verified</small> | Free                     | Reduced                  | Denied                   |                          |                          |
|--|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
|  | All Total Income (Include child and adult income) | Weekly                   | Bi-weekly                | 2X Month                 | Monthly                  |  | Annualize                | Household Size:          | Categorical Eligibility  | Free                     | Reduced                  |
| \$   | <input type="checkbox"/>                          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Determining Official Signature:</b>   |   |                          |                          |                          |                          |  | <b>Date:</b>             |                          |                          |                          |                          |
| <b>Confirming Official Signature:</b>  |   |                          |                          |                          |                          |  | <b>Date:</b>             |                          |                          |                          |                          |

**SIGN HERE: Signature of Household Adult**

Date

**OPTIONAL: Children's Racial and Ethnic Identities**

We are required to ask for information about your children's race and ethnicity. This information is important and helps to make sure we are fully serving our community. Responding to this section is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price meals. Respond to both Step One, *Ethnicity* and Step Two, *Race*.

**Step One: Ethnicity (check one):**  Hispanic or Latino  Not Hispanic or Latino

**Step Two: Race (check one or more):**  American Indian or Alaskan Native  Asian  Black or African American  Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander  White

**INSTRUCTIONS: Sources of Income**

**Sources of Income for Children**

| Sources of Child Income   | Examples   |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Earnings from work</li><li>Social Security<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Disability Payments</li><li>Survivor's Benefits</li></ul></li><li>Income from person outside the household</li><li>Income from any other source</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A child has a regular full or part-time job where they earn a salary or wages</li><li>A child is blind or disabled and receives Social Security</li><li>A Parent is disabled, retired, or deceased, and their child receives Social Security benefits</li><li>A friend or extended family member regularly gives a child spending money</li><li>A child receives regular income from a private pension fund, annuity, or trust</li></ul> |

**Sources of Income for Adults**

| Earnings from Work   | Public Assistance / Alimony / Child Support  | All Other Income   |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Salary, wages, cash bonuses (before deductions or taxes)</li><li>Net income from self-employment (farm or business)</li><li>If you are in the U.S. Military:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Basic pay and cash bonuses (do NOT include combat pay, FSSA or privatized housing allowances)</li><li>Allowances for off-base housing, food and clothing</li></ul></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Cash Assistance from State or local government</li><li>Supplemental Security Income</li><li>Unemployment benefits</li><li>Worker's compensation</li><li>Alimony payments</li><li>Child support payments</li><li>Veteran's benefits</li><li>Strike benefits</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Social Security</li><li>Disability benefits</li><li>Regular income from trusts or estates</li><li>Annuities</li><li>Investment income</li><li>Rental income</li><li>Regular cash payments from outside household</li></ul> |

The **Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act** requires the information on this application. You do not have to give the information, but if you do not, we cannot approve your child for free or reduced price meals. You must include the last four digits of the social security number of the adult household member who signs the application. The last four digits of the social security number is not required when you apply on behalf of a foster child or you list a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) case number or other FDPIR identifier for your child or when you indicate that the adult household member signing the application does not have a social security number. We will use your information to determine if your child is eligible for free or reduced price meals, and for administration and enforcement of the lunch and breakfast programs. We MAY share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund, or determine benefits for their programs, auditors for program reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into violations of program rules.

At public school districts, each student's school meal status also is recorded on a statewide computer system used to report student data to MDE as required by state law. MDE uses this information to: (1) Administer state and federal programs, (2) Calculate compensatory revenue for public schools, and (3) Judge the quality of the state's educational program.

**Nondiscrimination statement:** In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, you have two options: 1. Complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#), (AD-3027) found online at [Filing a Program Discrimination Complaint as a USDA Customer](#), [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) and at any USDA office; or, 2. Write a letter addressed to USDA; provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call 866-632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by one of the following methods:

- (1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) Fax: 202-690-7442; or
- (3) Email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).