

DIRECT CERTIFICATION WITH MEDICAID DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

January 6, 2022 Webinar Follow Up

Q1. Are students who are certified for free school meals through the Direct Certification with Medicaid Demonstration Project included in a school's identified student percentage (ISP) count?

Yes. Students who are certified to receive free school meals through data matching with Medicaid must be included in the school's/local education agency's (LEA) Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) ISP. However, students who are certified as eligible to receive reduced price school meals through data matching with Medicaid must not be included in the ISP, since the ISP is defined the percentage of students certified for free meals without an application.

Q2. Must a National School Lunch Program (NSLP) State agency receive pre-approval/review from FNS before entering into a direct certification data sharing partner agreement/memorandum of understanding with another State agency?

No. States do not need to receive pre-approval/review prior to executing those agreements. However, as stated in the *Request for Applications to Participate in Demonstration Projects to Evaluate Direct Certification Data with Medicaid Section H. Requirements and Considerations for Demonstration Project Participation*, NSLP State agencies will need to provide a copy of the signed agreement to the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) as a component of "readiness".

Q3. Are examples of Direct Certification with Medicaid household notification letters used by other State agencies available for reference?

Yes. Please contact us for further information.

Q4. May the NSLP State agency use the most recent Medicaid data available in determining a student's eligibility for free or reduced price school meals or must State Medicaid agencies recalculate each child's Medicaid eligibility?

State Medicaid agencies are not required to recalculate each child's Medicaid eligibility determination for purposes of the demonstration project. In determining students' eligibility for free and reduced price school meals for school year 2022-2023, the NSLP State agency may rely on the most recent determination of eligibility by the State Medicaid agency.

The Medicaid participant records provided to the NSLP State agency for matching should include only children (1) who receive Medicaid or live in a household with another child who receives Medicaid and are certified to participate and (2) whose family income as measured by the Medicaid Program, before application of any disregard, including an expense-related, block, or other disregard, does not exceed NSLP income standards applicable to family size.

Q5. May software vendor(s) working on our Direct Certification with Medicaid demonstration project participate in our meetings with FNS?

Yes. States are encouraged to invite all engaged partners, including State Medicaid agencies, software vendors and consultants, etc., to participate in demonstration project meetings with FNS.