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wvde.us

May 15, 2026

Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Sponsors

2026-2027 West Virginia Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals

Enclosed you will find the 2026-2027 Free and Reduced-Price Meals Family Application for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). This mailing also includes the following documents:

- Prototype Letter to Households
- Instructions for Applying
- 2026-2027 Free and Reduced-Price Meals Application

Additional copies of the application may be reproduced from the enclosed materials or accessed online through the Office of Child Nutrition (OCN) website at:

<https://wvde.us/student-support-wellness/child-nutrition/child-adult-care-food/forms-reference-tools>

Please note that once eligibility for free or reduced-price meals is determined, it may remain in effect for the entire program year, regardless of any changes in household income status. Participants are always at liberty to apply for benefits at any time during the year.

We would like to remind all participants that maintaining confidentiality of eligibility information is essential and must be protected. Such information may only be disclosed for purposes permitted under federal regulations or with authorization provided by a parent or guardian.

The 2026-2027 application is effective beginning **July 1, 2026**.

If you have any questions or require additional assistance, please contact Tracy Sayre, CACFP Coordinator, at (304) 558-3396 or via email at trcsayre@k12.wv.us.

Thank you for your attention to this important program.

Sincerely,

Anthony Crago, Director
West Virginia Department of Education
Office of Child Nutrition

AC/TS/ja

Attachments

Dear Parent or Guardian:

This center participates in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Please help us comply with the requirements of the CACFP by completing, signing and returning the attached statement as soon as possible. The statement will be filed as confidential information. The names of the participants for which free or reduced price meals may be claimed shall not be published, posted or announced in any manner; this information is necessary to determine the amount of federal funding received by our center for the meal served to children. Higher reimbursement will contribute to the overall quality of care your provider maintains.

If you received Food Stamps or benefits under the West Virginia Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) on behalf of your child, then please list either your 10 digit Food Stamp case number or your TANF case number in Section 2 and sign and date the statement in Section 5. This means that your child is " categorically eligible' and will automatically qualify for reimbursement.

If a Food Stamp or TANF case number is not reported, Section 4 must be completed. You must include your total current household income by source and the names of all household members. CACFP defines a household as a group of related or unrelated individuals who are living as one economic unit (i.e. sharing living expenses). The reported income should be what each member received last month. If last month's income does not accurately reflect your circumstances, provide a projection of your income using last year's income as a basis. Please remember to put the name and social security number of the primary wage earner underneath the chart. You must also sign and date Section 5.

If this application is for a foster child, please read carefully the directions found on the "Instructions For Applying" sheet. If you have a foster child and have further questions, please contact our office for additional information before completing the application.

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, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

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 State or local Agency that administers the program or contact USDA through the Telecommunications Relay Service at 711 (voice and TTY). Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at <https://www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint> and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and 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:

- (1) **MAIL:** U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or call (833) 632-9992
- (2) **FAX:** (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) **EMAIL:** program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Thank you for your cooperation: _____

Institution Representative

How To Apply for Free and Reduced Price Meals

Please use these instructions to help you fill out the application for free and reduced-price meals. You only need to submit one application per household.

The application must be filled out completely to determine the eligibility of your child(ren) for free or reduced-price meals. Please follow these instructions, in order! Each step of the instructions is the same as the steps on your application. If at any time you are not sure what to do next, please contact [Insert school/school district contact here; phone and email preferred].

Please use a pen (not a pencil) when filling out the application and do your best to print clearly.

Step 1: List **ALL** children, infants, and students up to and including grade 12

Tell us how many infants/toddlers, children not in school, and elementary/middle/high school students live in your household. They do NOT have to be related to you to be a part of your household.

Who should I list here? When filling out this section, please include ALL members in your household who are:

- Children age 18 or under AND are supported with the household's income;
- In your care under a formal foster arrangement through a court or state/local agency, or qualify as homeless, migrant, or runaway youth;
- Students attending (regardless of age) [school/school system here].

A) List each child's name. Print each child's name. Use one line of the application for each child. When printing names, write one letter in each box. Stop if you run out of space. If there are more children present than lines on the application, attach a second piece of paper (or a second application if completed electronically) with all required information for the additional children. This also applies to adults in Step 3. "MI" is short for middle initial. Print the first letter of each child's middle name in the box.

B) Is the child a student? If "Yes," write the grade level of the student in the "Grade" column to the right.

C) Do you have any foster children? If any children listed are foster children, mark the "Foster Child" box next to the child's name. If you are **ONLY** applying for foster children, after finishing **Step 1**, go to **Step 4**.

Foster children who live with you may count as members of your household and should be listed on your application. If you are applying for both foster and non-foster children, go to Step 3. Note: Adopted children are not considered foster children. A foster child is a minor child who has been taken into state custody and placed with a state-licensed adult, who cares for the child in place of their parent or guardian.

D) Are any children homeless, migrant, or run away? If you believe any child listed in this section meets this description, mark the "Homeless, Migrant, Runaway" box next to the child's name and complete all steps of the application. Homeless, Migrant, Runaway status must be confirmed with the appropriate program staff. If the school district cannot confirm your student's homeless, migrant, or runaway status, then the school district will contact you to complete an income-based application. You may choose to provide income information now in order to prevent the school district from potentially needing to contact you later.

Step 2: Do any household members currently participate in SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR?

If anyone in your household (including you) currently participates in one or more of the assistance programs listed below, your children are eligible for free school meals:

- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or [Insert State SNAP here].
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or [Insert State TANF here].
- The Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR).

A) If no one in your household participates in any of the above listed programs:

- Check “No” in **Step 2** and go to **Step 3**.

B) If anyone in your household participates in any of the above listed programs:

- Write a case number for SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR. You only need to provide one case number. If you participate in one of these programs and do not know your case number, contact:
[Insert State/local agency contacts here].
- Go to **Step 4**.

Step 3: List ALL household members and income for each member

How do I report my income?

- Use the lists titled “**Sources of Income**” & “**Examples of Income for Children**,” on the back side of the application form to determine if your household has income to report.
- Report all amounts in GROSS INCOME ONLY. Report all income in whole dollars. Do not include cents.
 - Gross income is the total income received **before** taxes and deductions.
 - Many people think of income as the amount they “take home” and not the total, “gross” amount. Make sure that the income you report on this application has NOT been reduced to pay for taxes, insurance premiums, or any other amounts taken from your pay.
- Write a “0” in any fields where there is no income to report. Any income fields left empty or blank will also be counted as a zero. If you write “0” or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report. If local officials suspect that your household income was reported incorrectly, your application will be investigated.
- Mark, how often each type of income is received using the check boxes to the right of each field.

3.A. Report income earned by adults

Who should I list here?

- When filling out this section, please include ALL adult members in your household who are living with you and share income and expenses, even if they are not related and even if they do not receive income of their own.
- **Do NOT include:**
 - People who live with you but are not supported by your household’s income AND do not contribute income to your household.
 - Infants, children and students already listed in **Step 1**.

Step 3: List ALL household members and income for each member

1) List adult household members’ names.

Print the name of each household member in the boxes marked “Names of Adult Household Members (First and Last).” Include college students, unless they are declared independently on taxes (all college students are considered adults). Do not list any household members you listed in Step 1.

2) List earnings from work.

List all income from work in the “Earnings from Work” field on the application. This is usually the money received from working at jobs. If you are a self-employed business or farm owner, you will report your net income. Net income is your income after taxes and deductions have been subtracted.

- **What if I have multiple jobs?** List each job separately by entering your name and income from each job on a new line. Add an additional sheet of paper if necessary.
- **What if I am self-employed?** List income from your business as a net amount. This net amount is calculated by subtracting the total operating expenses of your business from its gross receipts (revenue). Gross receipts or revenue are all the income earned from the sale of any products or services offered.

If a child listed in **Step 1** has income, follow the instructions in **Step 3, Part B**.

3) List income from public assistance/child support/alimony. List all income that applies in the "Public Assistance/Child Support/Alimony" field on the application. <u>Do not report the cash value of any public assistance benefits NOT listed on the chart.</u> If income is received from child support or alimony, only report court-ordered payments. Informal but regular payments should be reported as "other" income in the next part.
4) List income from pensions/retirement/all other income. List all income that applies in the "Pensions/Retirement/All Other Income" field on the application. What if I receive income from multiple sources in this category? List each source separately by entering your name and income from each source on a new line. Add an additional sheet of paper if necessary.
5) List total household size. Enter the total number of household members in the field "Total Household Members (Children and Adults)." This number MUST be equal to the number of household members listed in Step 1 and Step 3. If there are any members of your household that you have not listed on the application, go back and add them. It is very important to list all household members, as the size of your household affects your eligibility for free and reduced-price meals.
6) Provide the last four digits of your Social Security Number. An adult household member must enter the last four digits of their Social Security Number in the space provided. You are eligible to apply for benefits even if you do not have a Social Security Number. If no adult household members have a Social Security Number, leave this space blank and mark the box to the right labeled "Check if no Social Security Number."
3.B List income earned by children List all income earned or received by children. List the combined gross income for <u>ALL</u> children listed in Step 1 in your household in the box marked "Child Income." Only count foster children's income if you are applying for them together with the rest of your household. What is Child Income? Child income is money received from outside your household that is paid DIRECTLY to your children. Many households do not have any child income.

Step 4: Contact information and adult signature		
All applications must be signed by an adult member of the household. By signing the application, that household member is promising that all information has been truthfully and completely reported. Before completing this section, please also make sure you have read the statements on the back of the application.		
A) Provide your contact information. Write your current mailing address in the fields provided, if this information is available. If you have no permanent address, that is okay. Sharing a phone number, email address, or both is optional, but helps us reach you quickly if we need to contact you.	B) Print and sign your name and write today's date. Print the name of the adult signing the application and that person signs in the box "Signature of adult."	C) Mail completed application to: Insert School/District address here
Optional		
Share children's racial and ethnic identities (optional). On the back of the application, we ask you to share information about your children's race and ethnicity. This field is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced-price school meals. This information is requested solely for the purpose of determining the State's compliance with Federal civil rights laws, and your response will not affect consideration of your application and may be protected by the Privacy Act. By providing this information, you will assist us in assuring that this program is administered in a nondiscriminatory manner.		

2026-2027 West Virginia Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals

RETURN TO (School/District Name):
ADDRESS:

Complete one application per household. Please use a pen (not a pencil).

STEP 1

List ALL children, infants, and students up to and including grade 12. Attach another sheet of paper if you need space for more names.

List ALL children in the household. Do not forget to list infants, children attending other schools, children not in school, and children not applying for benefits. This includes children not related to you in your household.

Child's First Name	MI	Child's Last Name	Grade	Foster Child	Migrant	Runaway	Homeless

Check all that apply

If you checked any of these boxes, please refer to the Application Instruction's Step 1: Part C & Part D.

STEP 2

Do any household members (including you) participate in: SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR?

☐ NO → Go to STEP 3.

☐ YES → Write case number here and proceed to STEP 4.

CASE NUMBER (NOT EBT NUMBER):
Write only one case number in this space.

STEP 3

List ALL household members and income for each member (before taxes and deductions)

A. All Adult Household Members (Anyone who is living with you and shares income and expenses, even if not related, including you.)
List all Adult Household Members not listed in STEP 1 (including yourself) even if they do not receive income. For each Household Member listed, if they receive income, report total gross income (before taxes and deductions) for each source in whole dollars (no cents) only. If they do not receive income from any source, write '0'. If you enter '0' or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report.

Name of Adult Household Members (First and Last)	How often received?			Earnings from Work	How often received?			Public Assistance, Child Support, Alimony	How often received?			Pensions, Retirement, Social Security, SSI, VA Benefits, All Other	How often received?		
	Weekly	Every 2 Weeks	Monthly		Weekly	Every 2 Weeks	Monthly		Weekly	Every 2 Weeks	Monthly				
				\$				\$				\$			
				\$				\$				\$			
				\$				\$				\$			
				\$				\$				\$			
				\$				\$				\$			

Total Household Members (Children and Adults)

Last Four Numbers of Social Security Number of Primary Wage Earner or other Adult Household Member (If Applicable)

Child Income

How often received?

Weekly

Every 2 Weeks

Monthly

Annual

Check if no Social Security Number

Please see application's back for list of income sources.

B. Child Income
Sometimes children in the household earn or receive income.
Include the TOTAL income (before taxes and deductions) received by ALL children listed in STEP 1 here.

STEP 4

Contact information and adult signature.

RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL: Insert school address here

"I certify (promise) that all information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that this information is given in connection with the receipt of Federal funds, and that school officials may verify (confirm) 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."

Print Name of Adult Signing the Form

Signature of Adult

Today's Date

Mailing Address (if available)

City

State

Zip

Phone (optional)

Email (optional)

SOURCES AND EXAMPLES OF INCOME

For additional information on income, please refer to the instructions that accompany this application.

Sources of Income			Examples of Income for Children
Earnings from Work	Public Assistance/Alimony/Child Support	Pensions/Retirement/All other sources of income	- A child has a regular full or part-time job where they earn a salary or wages - A child is blind or disabled and receives Social Security benefits - A parent is disabled, retired, or deceased, and their child receives Social Security benefits - A friend or extended family member regularly gives a child spending money - A child receives regular income from a private pension fund, annuity, or trust
- Salary, wages, cash bonuses, tips, commissions - Net income from self-employment (farm or business) If you are in the U.S. Military: - Basic pay and cash bonuses (do NOT include combat pay, FSSA, or privatized housing allowances) - Allowances for off-base housing, food, and clothing	- Unemployment benefits - Workers' compensation - Supplemental Security Income (SSI) - Cash assistance from State or local government - Alimony payments - Child support payments - Veterans benefits - Strike benefits	Pensions/Retirement/All other sources of income - Social Security/Disability (including railroad retirement and black lung benefits) - Private Pensions or disability benefits - Income from trusts or estates - Annuities - Investment income - Earned interest - Rental income - Regular cash payments from outside household	

OPTIONAL

Children's ethnic and racial identities. This information is kept confidential and may be protected by the Privacy Act of 1974.

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.

Ethnicity (check one): ☐ Hispanic or Latino (A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish Culture or origin, regardless of race)

Race (check one or more): ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native ☐ Asian ☐ Black or African American ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander ☐ White ☐ Not Hispanic or Latino

Return this completed form to your child's school. *Do not mail, fax, or email completed applications to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights.

DO NOT FILL OUT

For school use only.

Annual Income Conversion: Weekly x 52, Every 2 Weeks x 26, Twice a Month x 24, Monthly x 12. Do not annualize income to determine eligibility unless more than one income frequency is listed.

Total Income

How often?

Weekly ☐ Every 2 Weeks ☐ Monthly ☐ Annual ☐

Categorical Eligibility ☐

Eligibility

Free ☐ Reduced ☐ Denied ☐

Determining Official's Signature

Date

Verifying Official's Signature

Date

Use of Information Statement

The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires that we use information from this application to see who qualifies for free or reduced price meals. We can only approve complete forms. We may share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them deliver program benefits to your household. Inspectors and law enforcement may also use your information to make sure that program rules are met.

Please be sure to provide the last four numbers of the Social Security number of the adult household member who signs the application. If the adult does not have one, Check if no Social Security Number. Applications for a foster child do not need to list a Social Security number. Applications for children in households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) do not need to list a Social Security number. Some children qualify for free meals without an application. Please contact your school to get free meals for a foster child, and children who are homeless, migrant, or runaway.

The contact information below is solely to file a complaint of discrimination

In accordance with federal civil rights law and USDA civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the state or local agency that administers the program or contact USDA through the Telecommunications Relay Service at 711 (voice and TTY). Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the **USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027**, found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and 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:

*MAIL: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

FAX: (202) 690-7442

EMAIL: program.intake@usda.gov

***Do not mail applications to this address, only complaints of discrimination.**

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Guidelines to Determine Participant Eligibility for Free and Reduced Price Meals

Effective from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027

Annual Family Income Before Deductions

Free Meals Eligibility (130%)

Household Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
One	20,748	1,729	865	798	399
Two	28,132	2,345	1,173	1,082	541
Three	35,516	2,960	1,480	1,366	683
Four	42,900	3,575	1,788	1,650	825
Five	50,284	4,191	2,096	1,934	967
Six	57,668	4,806	2,403	2,218	1,109
Seven	65,052	5,421	2,711	2,502	1,251
Eight	72,436	6,037	3,019	2,786	1,393
Additional Member Add	7,384	616	308	284	142

Reduced-Price Meals Eligibility (185%)

Household Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
One	29,526	2,461	1,231	1,136	568
Two	40,034	3,337	1,669	1,540	770
Three	50,542	4,212	2,106	1,944	972
Four	61,050	5,088	2,544	2,349	1,175
Five	71,558	5,964	2,982	2,753	1,377
Six	82,066	6,839	3,420	3,157	1,579
Seven	92,574	7,715	3,858	3,561	1,781
Eight	103,082	8,591	4,296	3,965	1,983
Additional Member Add	10,508	876	438	405	203

Conversion Factor

Annual Income Conversion: Weekly $\times$ 52, Every 2 Weeks $\times$ 26, Twice a Month $\times$ 24, Monthly $\times$ 12