IS CEP FOR ME?

The requirements, the benefit, relief, and what remains on Community Eligibility Provision.

REQUIREMENTS TO PARTICIPATE

To be CEP eligible, a site or district must have an Identified Student Percentage (ISP) of at least 40%. ISP is the percentage of students that are free eligible based on means other than an application. These include those students who receive benefits such as SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR or have been identified by the State as a foster child, migrant, homeless, or runaway.

BENEFIT

Schools who participate in CEP offer meals at no cost to all students. Schools are reimbursed at their ISP x 1.6. For example, if your ISP is 40%, 64% of your meals served would be reimbursed at the free reimbursement rate, and 36% of the meals served would be reimbursed at the paid reimbursement rate. If your ISP is 60%, 96% of your meals served would be reimbursed at the free reimbursement rate, and 4% of the meals served would be reimbursed at the paid reimbursement rate. If your ISP is 62.5% or higher, you would be reimbursed for all meals served at 100% free reimbursement.

Additionally, schools that participate in CEP see a significant increase in participation and thus an increase in reimbursement. Because no students are being charged, CEP schools have no bad meal debt either.

A SMALL PIECE OF THE PIE REMOVED

CEP provides significant administrative relief, but most responsibilities are retained. This chart outlines which activities SFAs must still perform on CEP and what is relieved.

Responsibilities relieved by CEP

- Collect household income applications
- Perform Verification Activities
- Count Meals by Free/Reduced/Paid

Examples of responsibilities retained on CEP

- Meal Access & Reimbursement
- Meal Components & Quantities
- Resource Management
- Civil Rights
- Monitoring Responsibilities
- Local Wellness Policy
- Smart Snacks in School
- Professional Standards
- Water Availability
- Food Safety, Storage, and Buy American
- Reporting & Recordkeeping
- SBP & SFSP Outreach
- Other Federal Programs