

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Food and Nutrition Service****National School Lunch, Special Milk, and School Breakfast Programs; National Average Payments/Maximum Reimbursement Rates**

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the annual adjustments to: (1) The “national average payments,” the amount of money the Federal government provides States for lunches, afterschool snacks and breakfasts served to children participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs; (2) the “maximum reimbursement rates,” the maximum per lunch rate from Federal funds that a State can provide a school food authority for lunches served to children participating in the National School Lunch Program; and (3) the rate of reimbursement for a half-pint of milk served to nonneedy children in a school or institution which participates in the Special Milk Program for Children. The payments and rates are prescribed on an annual basis each July. The annual payments and rates adjustments for the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs reflect changes in the Food Away From Home series of the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers. The annual rate adjustment for the Special Milk Program reflects changes in the Producer Price Index for Fluid Milk Products. These payments and rates are in effect from July 1, 2003, through June 30, 2004.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Rosemary O’Connell, Section Chief, School Programs Section, Policy and Program Development Branch, Child Nutrition Division, Food and Nutrition Service, USDA, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 640, Alexandria, VA 22302 or phone (703) 305-2619.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

Special Milk Program for Children—Pursuant to section 3 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (CNA) (42 U.S.C. 1772), the Department announces the rate of reimbursement for a half-pint of milk served to nonneedy children in a school or institution that participates in the Special Milk Program for Children. This rate is adjusted annually to reflect changes in the Producer Price Index for Fluid Milk Products, published by the

Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor.

For the period July 1, 2003, through June 30, 2004, the rate of reimbursement for a half-pint of milk served to a nonneedy child in a school or institution which participates in the Special Milk Program is 13.00 cents. This reflects a decrease of 2.65 percent in the Producer Price Index for Fluid Milk Products from May 2002 to May 2003 (from a level of 147.1 in May 2002 to 143.2 in May 2003).

As a reminder, schools or institutions with pricing programs that elect to serve milk free to eligible children continue to receive the average cost of a half-pint of milk (the total cost of all milk purchased during the claim period divided by the total number of purchased half-pints) for each half-pint served to an eligible child.

National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs—Pursuant to sections 11 and 17A of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (NSLA) (42 U.S.C. 1759a and 1766a), and section 4 of the CNA (42 U.S.C. 1773), the Department annually announces the adjustments to the National Average Payment Factors and to the maximum Federal reimbursement rates for lunches and afterschool snacks served to children participating in the National School Lunch Program and breakfasts served to children participating in the School Breakfast Program. Adjustments are prescribed each July 1, based on changes in the Food Away From Home series of the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor. The changes in the national average payment rates for schools and residential child care institutions for the period July 1, 2003, through June 30, 2004, reflect a 2.19 percent increase in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers during the 12-month period May 2002 to May 2003 (from a level of 177.6 in May 2002 to 181.5 in May 2003). Adjustments to the national average payment rates for all lunches served under the National School Lunch Program, breakfasts served under the School Breakfast Program, and afterschool snacks served under the National School Lunch Program are rounded down to the nearest whole cent.

Lunch Payment Levels—Section 4 of the NSLA (42 U.S.C. 1753) provides general cash for food assistance payments to States to assist schools in purchasing food. The NSLA provides two different section 4 payment levels for lunches served under the National School Lunch Program. The lower

payment level applies to lunches served by school food authorities in which less than 60 percent of the lunches served in the school lunch program during the second preceding school year were served free or at a reduced price. The higher payment level applies to lunches served by school food authorities in which 60 percent or more of the lunches served during the second preceding school year were served free or at a reduced price.

To supplement these section 4 payments, section 11 of the NSLA (42 U.S.C. 1759(a)) provides special cash assistance payments to aid schools in providing free and reduced price lunches. The section 11 National Average Payment Factor for each reduced price lunch served is set at 40 cents less than the factor for each free lunch.

As authorized under section 8 (42 U.S.C. 1757) and section 11 of the NSLA, maximum reimbursement rates for each type of lunch are prescribed by the Department in this notice. These maximum rates are to ensure equitable disbursement of Federal funds to school food authorities.

Afterschool Snack Payments in Afterschool Care Programs—Section 17A of the NSLA (42 U.S.C. 1766a) establishes National Average Payments for free, reduced price and paid afterschool snacks as part of the National School Lunch Program.

Breakfast Payment Factors—Section 4 of the CNA (42 U.S.C. 1773) establishes National Average Payment Factors for free, reduced price and paid breakfasts served under the School Breakfast Program and additional payments for free and reduced price breakfasts served in schools determined to be in “severe need” because they serve a high percentage of needy children.

Revised Payments

The following specific section 4, section 11 and section 17A National Average Payment Factors and maximum reimbursement rates for lunch, the afterschool snack rates, and the breakfast rates are in effect from July 1, 2003, through June 30, 2004. Due to a higher cost of living, the average payments and maximum reimbursements for Alaska and Hawaii are higher than those for all other States. The District of Columbia, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Guam use the figures specified for the contiguous States.

National School Lunch Program Payments

Section 4 National Average Payment Factors—In school food authorities which served less than 60 percent free

and reduced price lunches in School Year 2001–02, the payments for meals served are: *Contiguous States*—paid rate—21 cents, free and reduced price rate—29 cents; *Alaska*—paid rate—34 cents, free and reduced price rate—34 cents, maximum rate—45 cents; *Hawaii*—paid rate—24 cents, free and reduced price rate—24 cents, maximum rate—33 cents.

In school food authorities which served 60 percent or more free and reduced price lunches in School Year 2001–02, payments are: *Contiguous States*—paid rate—23 cents, free and reduced price rate—23 cents, maximum rate—29 cents; *Alaska*—paid rate—36 cents, free and reduced price rate—36 cents, maximum rate—45 cents; *Hawaii*—paid rate—26 cents, free and reduced price rate—26 cents, maximum rate—33 cents.

Section 11 National Average Payment Factors—*Contiguous States*—free lunch—198 cents, reduced price lunch—158 cents; *Alaska*—free lunch—

321 cents, reduced price lunch—281 cents; *Hawaii*—free lunch—231 cents, reduced price lunch—191 cents.

Afterschool Snacks in Afterschool Care Programs—The payments are: *Contiguous States*—free snack—60 cents, reduced price snack—30 cents, paid snack—5 cents; *Alaska*—free snack—97 cents, reduced price snack—48 cents, paid snack—8 cents; *Hawaii*—free snack—70 cents, reduced price snack—35 cents, paid snack—6 cents.

School Breakfast Program Payments

For schools “not in severe need” the payments are: *Contiguous States*—free breakfast—120 cents, reduced price breakfast—90 cents, paid breakfast—22 cents; *Alaska*—free breakfast—191 cents, reduced price breakfast—161 cents, paid breakfast—32 cents; *Hawaii*—free breakfast—139 cents, reduced price breakfast—109 cents, paid breakfast—25 cents.

For schools in “severe need” the payments are: *Contiguous States*—free breakfast—143 cents, reduced price

breakfast—113 cents, paid breakfast—22 cents; *Alaska*—free breakfast—228 cents, reduced price breakfast—198 cents, paid breakfast—32 cents; *Hawaii*—free breakfast—166 cents, reduced price breakfast—136 cents, paid breakfast—25 cents.

Payment Chart

The following chart illustrates: the lunch National Average Payment Factors with the sections 4 and 11 already combined to indicate the per lunch amount; the maximum lunch reimbursement rates; the reimbursement rates for afterschool snacks served in afterschool care programs; the breakfast National Average Payment Factors including “severe need” schools; and the milk reimbursement rate. All amounts are expressed in dollars or fractions thereof. The payment factors and reimbursement rates used for the District of Columbia, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Guam are those specified for the contiguous States.

BILLING CODE 3410–30–P

SCHOOL PROGRAMS MEAL, SNACK AND MILK PAYMENTS TO STATES AND SCHOOL FOOD AUTHORITIES Expressed in Dollars or Fractions Thereof Effective from July 1, 2003 - June 30, 2004				
NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM *		LESS THAN 60%	60% OR MORE	MAXIMUM RATE
CONTIGUOUS STATES	PAID	.21	.23	.29
	REDUCED PRICE	1.79	1.81	1.96
	FREE	2.19	2.21	2.36
ALASKA	PAID	.34	.36	.45
	REDUCED PRICE	3.15	3.17	3.41
	FREE	3.55	3.57	3.81
HAWAII	PAID	.24	.26	.33
	REDUCED PRICE	2.15	2.17	2.35
	FREE	2.55	2.57	2.75
SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM		NON-SEVERE NEED		SEVERE NEED
CONTIGUOUS STATES	PAID	.22		.22
	REDUCED PRICE	.90		1.13
	FREE	1.20		1.43
ALASKA	PAID	.32		.32
	REDUCED PRICE	1.61		1.98
	FREE	1.91		2.28
HAWAII	PAID	.25		.25
	REDUCED PRICE	1.09		1.36
	FREE	1.39		1.66
SPECIAL MILK PROGRAM		ALL MILK	PAID MILK	FREE MILK
PRICING PROGRAMS WITHOUT FREE OPTION		.13	N/A	N/A
PRICING PROGRAMS WITH FREE OPTION		N/A	.13	Average cost per ½ pint of milk.
NONPRICING PROGRAMS		.13	N/A	N/A
AFTERSCHOOL SNACKS SERVED IN AFTERSCHOOL CARE PROGRAMS				
CONTIGUOUS STATES	PAID	.05		
	REDUCED PRICE	.30		
	FREE	.60		
ALASKA	PAID	.08		
	REDUCED PRICE	.48		
	FREE	.97		
HAWAII	PAID	.06		
	REDUCED PRICE	.35		
	FREE	.70		

This action is not a rule as defined by the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601-612) and thus is exempt from the provisions of that Act.

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3507), no new recordkeeping or reporting requirements have been included that

are subject to approval from the Office of Management and Budget.

This action is exempted from review by the Office of Management and Budget under Executive Order 12866.

National School Lunch, School Breakfast and Special Milk Programs are listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic

Assistance under No. 10.555, No. 10.553 and No. 10.556, respectively, and are subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials. (See 7 CFR part 3015, subpart V, and the final rule

related notice published at 48 FR 29114, June 24, 1983.)

Authority: Sections 4, 8, 11 and 17A of the National School Lunch Act, as amended, (42 U.S.C. 1753, 1757, 1759a, 1766a) and sections 3 and 4(b) of the Child Nutrition Act, as amended, (42 U.S.C. 1772 and 42 U.S.C. 1773(b)).

Dated: July 2, 2003.

Roberto Salazar,

Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.

[FR Doc. 03-17223 Filed 7-7-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-30-C

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Southwest Oregon Province Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Southwest Oregon Province Advisory Committee will meet on July 30, 2003 in Grants Pass, Oregon in the Options Building Multi-Purpose Room at 1215 SW G St. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. and continue until 5 p.m. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Introduction of New Members; (2) Public Comment; (3) 2003 Implementation Monitoring; (4) Advisory Committee Guidelines and (5) Future Agenda Items.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Direct questions regarding this meeting to Jim Hays, Province Advisory Committee Coordinator, USDA Forest Service, Prospect Ranger District, 47201 Highway 62, Prospect, Oregon 97536, phone (541) 560-3432.

Dated: July 1, 2003.

Virginia Grilley,

Acting Designated Federal Official.

[FR Doc. 03-17213 Filed 7-7-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Notice of Request for Extension of Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comments requested.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Rural Business-Cooperative Service's (RBS) intention to request an extension of a currently

approved information collection in support of the Intermediary Relending Program (IRP).

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by September 8, 2003, to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lori Washington, Specialty Lenders Division, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 3225, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3225, Telephone (202) 720-9815, E-mail lori.washington@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Intermediary Relending Program.

OMB Number: 0570-0021.

Expiration Date of Approval: September 30, 2003.

Type of Request: Extension of currently approved collection information.

Abstract: The objective of the Intermediary Relending Program (IRP) is to improve community facilities and employment opportunities and increase economic activity in rural areas by financing business facilities and community development. This purpose is achieved through loans made by the Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) to intermediaries that establish programs for the purpose of providing loans to ultimate recipients for business facilities and community development. The regulations contain various requirements for information from the intermediaries, and some requirements may cause the intermediary to seek information from ultimate recipients. The information requested is necessary for RBS to be able to process applications in a responsible manner, make prudent credit and program decisions, and effectively monitor the intermediaries' activities to protect the Government's financial interest and ensure that funds obtained from the Government are used appropriately. It includes information to identify the intermediary; describe the intermediary's experience and expertise; describe how the intermediary will operate its revolving loan fund; provide for debt instruments, loan agreements, and security; and other material necessary for prudent credit decisions and reasonable program monitoring.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 7.5 hours per response.

Respondents: Non-profit corporations, public agencies, and cooperatives.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 202.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 11.9.

Estimated Number of Responses: 2,403.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 17,989 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Cheryl Thompson, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, at (202) 692-0043.

Comments

Comments are invited on (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of RBS, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the RBS estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to Cheryl Thompson, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 0742, Washington, DC 20250-0742. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: June 27, 2003.

John Rosso,

Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

[FR Doc. 03-17167 Filed 7-7-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XY-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of Industry and Security

Information Systems Technical Advisory Committee; Notice of Partially Closed Meeting

The Information Systems Technical Advisory Committee (ISTAC) will meet on July 23 & 24, 2003, 9 a.m., in the Herbert C. Hoover Building, Room 3884, 14th Street between Pennsylvania Avenue and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC. The Committee advises the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration on technical questions that affect the level of export controls applicable to information systems equipment and technology.