

DATE: November 19, 2010

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SUBJECT: School Year (SY) 2009-2010 Direct Certification Report List of States Eligible for 2nd Round Planning or Implementation 2010 Direct Certification Grants

TO: Regional Directors
Special Nutrition Programs
All Regions

State Agencies
Child Nutrition Programs
All States

Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has released the annual Direct Certification Report to Congress for 2010. The report announces the national median direct certification rate as 72 % for School Year (SY) 2009-2010. From this report FNS has identified States that are eligible to submit applications in the future for the 2010 Fiscal Year Direct Certification Grants solicitation announced in July 2010. Some States that previously had rates below the national median in SY 2008-2009 now have rates above the new national median, while others that were above the median in SY 2008-2009 now fall below.

States that are below or at the national median rate of 72% in SY 2009-2010 who did not apply for the Direct Certification 1st Round Planning or Implementation Grants by November 1, 2010, are encouraged to submit an application for a 2nd Round Planning Grant or Implementation Grant. Applications for the 2nd Round Planning Grants are due by February 28, 2011, and the next quarterly deadline for Implementation Grant applications is January 31, 2011. Eligible State agencies may apply for and hold only one type of grant at a time. Per the 2009-2010 report, the 26 states with direct certification rates at or below the 72% national median rate are:

Alabama	Idaho	New Jersey	South Carolina
Arizona	Massachusetts	New Mexico	South Dakota
California	Michigan	North Dakota	Utah
Colorado	Missouri	Ohio	Vermont
Connecticut	Montana	Oregon	Washington
Florida	Nebraska	Pennsylvania	
Georgia	New Hampshire	Rhode Island	

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Currently eligible states listed above are encouraged to view the full request for application announcement for **who may apply, grant types and deadlines for submitting applications** at: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/grants.htm>.

Also, States that were previously eligible (based on the 2008-2009 Report) for a 1st Round Planning Grant and Implementation Grant but are no longer eligible (based on the 2009-2010 Report) are encouraged to view the full request for application announcement for specific details on **exceptions** under, Section III, "Who may apply."

The 2010 report, "*Direct Certification in the National School Lunch Program: State Progress in Implementation Report to Congress*," may be accessed at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/ora/menu/Published/CNP/cnp.htm>. We urge States to review the report in depth to learn not only where States stand currently on direct certification rates, but also to learn about practices in other States that may be helpful in planning for direct certification improvements.

To provide greater detail on the Direct Certification report and grant opportunities, the FNS Child Nutrition Division and the Office of Research and Analysis will host a webinar in early December. Regional Offices and State agencies will receive an invitation and details about the webinar by email in mid November.

State agencies with questions regarding this memorandum should contact their FNS Regional Office. Regional Offices may contact Vivian Lees at 703-305-2322 for further assistance.

Sincerely,

Original Signed

Cynthia Long
Director
Child Nutrition Division