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**FISCAL YEAR 2014
CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM
FAMILY DAY CARE HOME SPONSOR MEMORANDUM #24**

TO: Family Day Care Home Sponsors

FROM: Marla J. Moss, Director
Office of School Support Services

DATE: September 10, 2014

SUBJECT: Eligibility Based on Census Data: 2014 Release

ACTION: This memo supersedes Michigan Department of Education (MDE) Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 Operational Memo # 16- Eligibility Based on Census Data: 2014 Release

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide new information regarding the availability of census data used to establish area eligibility in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), and the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Summer Seamless Option (SSO). This memorandum includes recently clarified flexibility in using census data for area eligibility determinations and therefore supersedes MDE FY 2014 Operational Memo #16, *Area Eligibility Using Census Data*, April 21, 2014.

CACFP regulations state specifically that census data may be used to determine area eligibility for family day care homes for Tier 1. Area eligibility is established when census data indicate at least 50 percent of the children residing in the area are members of households that meet the income standards for free or reduced-price meals [7 CFR 226.15(f) and 225.6(c)(3)(B)]. Previous policy guidance has identified the Census Block Groups (CBGs) to be the geographical unit used to assess eligibility for CACFP when using census data (see FY 2013 Family Day Care Home Operational Memorandum #10 Eligibility Based on Census Data: 2013 Release).

Occasionally, a potential CACFP family day care home is determined not to be area eligible, but is located immediately adjacent to an eligible area. This proximity suggests that the children residing in the area from which the homes or site would most likely draw participants would have a likelihood of similar census demographics. In recognizing that likelihood and by allowing additional flexibility in the use of census data to establish area eligibility, MDE can ensure area eligibility determinations accurately identify areas in which poor economic conditions exist. Therefore, CACFP family day care homes may be determined area eligible using either CBGs or Census Tracts. Census Tracts are geographical units that consist of one or more CBGs. Additionally, based on analysis of the proposed

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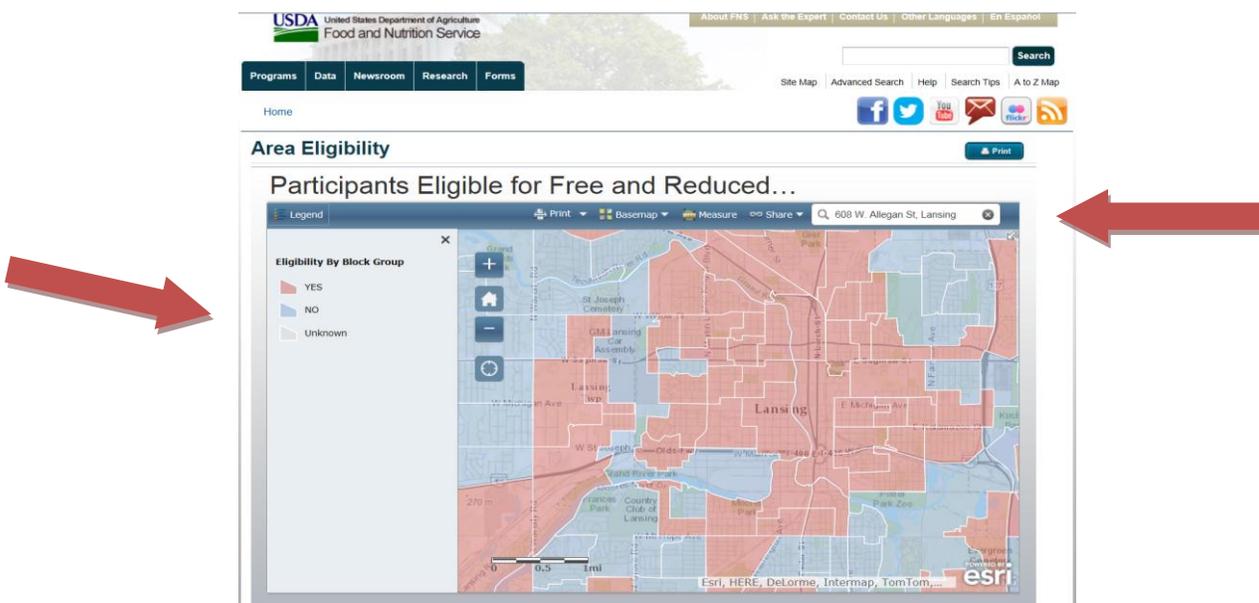
location with both MDE and United States Department of Agriculture Midwest Regional Office approval, up to three adjacent CBGs may be averaged using a weighted average to determine eligibility. In all CBGs being averaged, at least 40 percent of the children must be eligible for free or reduced meals. Census Tracts may not be combined. Therefore, using these flexibilities, CACFP family day care homes are considered area eligible if:

- Fifty percent or more of the children in a CBG are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals.
- Fifty percent or more of the children in a Census Tract are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals.
- The percentage of children eligible for free or reduced-price meals in up to three adjacent CBGs when averaged is 50 percent or more, provided that at least 40 percent of children in each of the combined CBGs are eligible for free or reduced-price meals, as described above.

Data Availability

Census Tract and CBG data is now available through the Food and Nutrition Service Area Eligibility Mapper at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/areaeligibility>.

Enter the complete address in the search box to determine eligibility. The response will appear on the left side of the map.



The Food Research and Action Center map is constructed from the same data files and also may be used to determine eligibility.

If you have any questions about the requirements, please contact our office at 517-373-7391.