


# FRL APPLICATION FAQ'S

1. **Who can get free and reduced meals?** All children in households receiving benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Family (TANF (also known as Colorado Works)—Basic Cash Assistance or State Diversion), are eligible for free meals. **Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals. Children participating in their school's Head Start program are eligible for free meals.** Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals. Children may receive free or reduced price meals if your household's income is within the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines. Your children may qualify for free or reduced price meals if your household income falls at or below the limits on this chart.
2.  **If you have received a NOTICE OF DIRECT CERTIFICATION for free meals, do not complete the application. Please contact the Meal Benefits office if any children in your household are not listed on the NOTICE OF DIRECT CERTIFICATION letter you received.**
3. **How do I know if my children qualify as HOMELESS, MIGRANT, OR RUNAWAY?** Do the members of your household lack a permanent address? Are you staying together in a shelter, hotel, or other temporary housing arrangement? Does your family relocate on a seasonal basis? Are any children living with you who have chosen to leave their prior family or household? If you believe children in your household meet these descriptions and haven't already been notified your children will receive free meals, please call the Homeless liaison at 720-423-1980.
4. **My child's application was approved last year. Do I need to fill out another one?** Yes. Your child's application is good only for that school year and for the first 30 contact days of this school year. You must send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year.
5. **I receive benefits from the WIC Program. Can my child(ren) receive free meals?** Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Please fill out an application.
6. **Will the information I give be checked?** Yes, and we may ask you to send written proof of the information you provide.
7. **If I don't qualify now, may I apply again later?** Yes. You may apply at any time during the school year if your household size increases, income decreases, or if you start receiving SNAP or FDPIR. If you lose your job, your children may be able to receive free or reduced price meals if the household income drops below the income limit.
8. **May I apply if someone in my household is not a U.S. citizen?** Yes. You or your child(ren) do not have to be a U.S. citizen to qualify for free or reduced price meals.
9. **Whom should I include as members of my household?** You must include all people living in your household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends) who share income and expenses. You must include yourself and all children who live with you. If you live with other people who are economically independent (for example, people whom you do not support, who do not share income with you or your children, and who pay a pro-rated share of expenses), do not include them.
10. **What if my income is not always the same?** List the amount that you normally receive. For example, if you normally receive \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only received \$900, put down that you receive \$1000 per month. If you normally receive overtime pay, include it, but do not include it if you work overtime only sometimes. If you have lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.
11. **We are in the military; do we include our housing allowance as income?** If you receive an off-base housing allowance, it must be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income.
12. **My family needs more help. Are there other programs for which we might apply?** To find out how to apply for other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office. Colorado PEAK is an online service to screen and apply for medical, food, and cash assistance programs. It can be accessed at <http://coloradopeak.force.com/>.
13. **Is the social security number required?** While disclosure of the last 4 digits of a social security number is voluntary, for an application to be approved, the last 4 digits of a social security number or an indication of "none" is required for approval of the application.