

Food Stamp and Temporary Assistance for Needy Family Numbers

PURPOSE:

To clarify the case numbers that may be accepted for children to receive free meals in the Child Nutrition Programs.

SCOPE:

Sponsors of the School Breakfast Program, National School Lunch Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and the Summer Food Service Program for Children

DESCRIPTION:

Parents or guardians with children who are members of a currently certified Food Stamp or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) household may submit an Application for Meals with a valid case number, in lieu of reporting income. Sponsors of the Program must ensure the numbers are valid case numbers.

Households must use their case number from their Eligibility Determination letter. The letter also states the month the household became eligible. Food Stamp and TANF recipients in most counties have EBT (Electronic Benefit Transfer) cards. This debit type card is called a Hoosier Works card. The numbers on these cards cannot be used to qualify households for meal benefits. Food Stamp and TANF case numbers have 10 digit numbers that start with a 1 and a 0. The EBT card numbers have sixteen digits.

Food Stamp/TANF case numbers look the same as Medicaid numbers. Medicaid recipients do not automatically qualify for free or reduced-price meals. It is a good idea to submit all case numbers that you receive to the local Family and Social Services office to make sure they are valid.

Source:

USDA, School and Community Nutrition Programs, Policy #21-00, dated August 23, 2000

USDA, Child and Adult Care Food Program, Policy #17-00, dated August 23, 2000

USDA, Summer Food Service Program for Children, Policy #06-00, dated August 23, 2000