

CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
BUREAU OF HEALTH AND NUTRITION SERVICES AND
CHILD/FAMILY/SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS
25 INDUSTRIAL PARK ROAD
MIDDLETOWN, CONNECTICUT 06457-1520

TO: Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Sponsors

FROM: Maureen B. Staggenborg, Director
Child Nutrition Programs

DATE: September 6, 2005

SUBJECT: Operational Memorandum #18C-05 and #20H-05
**U.S. Armed Forces Family Supplemental Subsistence Allowance (FSSA) –
Excluded from Income Consideration**

Since May 2001, the Department of Defense has paid certain members of the Armed Forces and their families a Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance (FSSA). The FSSA is designed to bring a household's income up to 130% of the Federal poverty line and decrease the reliance on Food Stamps for affected members and their families. The amount of the FSSA, based on household size and income, may not exceed \$500 per month. Previously, for purposes of Child Nutrition Programs (CNP) eligibility determination, the FSSA payments were counted as earned income for households. However, in Section 602 of the *Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005*, Public Law 108-375, Congress specified that in the event that counting the FSSA as income would put a family over the CNP income limits, the family must be considered eligible to receive CNP benefits. Public Law 108-375 amends a standing provision that is not tied specifically to the appropriations process; therefore this amendment is effective until the provision expires at the end of Fiscal Year 2006.

Therefore, in accordance with Public Law 108-375, **any FSSA that a household receives must not be treated as income in determining eligibility for free and reduced price meals under any of the Child Nutrition Programs.**

If there are questions about this guidance, centers sponsors may contact Susan Boyle at (860) 807-2074, Celia Cordero at (860) 807-2076 or Benedict Onye at (860) 807-2080. Homes sponsors may contact Maureen Staggenborg at (860) 807-2070 or Susan Bohuslaw at (860) 807-2073.

MBS:shb