



TO: Child Nutrition Program Sponsors DATE: 6 December 2024

FROM: Gavin Northey RE: 2024 Permanent Fund Dividend
Child Nutrition Program Manager

This memo addresses a question regarding the amount of the 2024 Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) to be used for evaluating household income.

After reviewing applicable regulations, the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) has determined that the value of the 2024 Alaska PFD for income evaluations is **\$1,404.00**. Please ensure your application system uses this amount as the Alaska PFD effective 1 January 2025.

Do not use the full amount of \$1,702.00, as this includes a \$298.17 energy relief payment, which is excluded from income calculations.

Why is the energy relief payment excluded for the purpose of calculating income?

The \$298.17 energy relief payment is considered a lump sum payment because it is not a standard component of the PFD. This classification aligns with prior guidance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS).

Federal statutes and regulations do not explicitly address lump sum payments. Instead, we rely upon precedent set by current and previous guidance from FNS policymakers. Page 33 of the *Eligibility Manual for School Meals* identifies lump sum payments as excludable payment when determining income. Furthermore FNS gave specific guidance on the 2022 energy relief payment also supports this interpretation.

Why is the PFD included in income calculations?

Page 24 of the *Eligibility Manual for School Meals* states that income is, "is any money (before deductions), received on a recurring basis, including earnings, pensions, and child or spousal support, unless an income source is specifically excluded by law for the CNPs. (See: Income Exclusions.)"

Since the PFD is a recurring annual payment, it qualifies as income. Other forms of dividend income are also included unless specifically excluded, reinforcing the PFD's inclusion.

Do PrimeroEdge users need to submit a ticket to adjust the PFD value?

DEED PrimeroEdge Users

SFAs using DEED's PrimeroEdge license do not need to submit a ticket. DEED has already submitted a request to update Alaska's PFD value in its PrimeroEdge instance.

Independent PrimeroEdge Licenses

SFAs operating their own PrimeroEdge licenses must submit a ticket to adjust the PFD value and ensure their system reflects the correct amount. DEED does not manage these instances.

Other Systems

SFAs and program sponsors using systems other than PrimeroEdge must coordinate with their technology providers to apply the correct PFD value. Sponsors and SFAs performing manual income calculations should verify that the \$1,404.00 PFD value is applied correctly in whatever calculation method they use.

If you have further questions

Please contact the appropriate Child Nutrition Program team:

- **School Nutrition Programs:** EED.CNP.SchoolMeals@alaska.gov
- **Child and Adult Care Food Program:** EED.CNP.CACFP@alaska.gov
- **Summer Food Service Program:** EED.CNP.Summer@alaska.gov