

Instructions for Completing Iowa Eligibility Application

Complete both sides of an application for each household. Each foster child is a household of one.
Self Employment income instructions on reverse side.

Part 1. All applicants should complete this part. This application may be used to apply for benefits in school meals or milk programs, children's care centers and home based care for children. Check all boxes that apply to your family. You may make copies of a completed application for each program in which your child participates.

If your household receives **FIP or FOOD ASSISTANCE/SNAP**, or your child is in **Head Start or Even Start**, follow these instructions.

Part 2. List the name, date of birth, grade (if applicable), name of school/Head Start/child care center attended for each child in your household. List the FIP number or the Food Assistance case number for each child. Take these case numbers from the Notice of Decision. Eligibility based on Head Start or Even Start is available only if your child is enrolled in Federally funded low income slot. **NOTE: Medicaid, Title XIX and EBT card numbers are not acceptable.** Provide ethnic and racial information if you choose, but the school/Head Start/child care will make the determination of your child's ethnic and racial status if you do not fill this section in.

Part 3. Skip this section.

Part 4. Read the certification and fill in all the blanks in this section.

If you are applying for a **FOSTER CHILD**, follow these instructions. A foster child is a child who is living with a household but who remains the legal responsibility of the welfare agency or court, and is considered a household of one.

Part 1. Check the box for foster child.

Part 2. List the child's name, date of birth, grade (if applicable), name of school/Head Start/child care center attended. Use one application for each foster child. Provide ethnic and racial information if you choose, but the school/Head Start/child care will make the determination of your child's ethnic and racial status if you do not fill this section in.

Part 3. Complete this section only if the child receives money for personal use or has other regular personal income. If the child has no income, check the box indicating no income. A Social Security Number is not required. **DO NOT** include the stipend received by the foster family to provide care to the child.

ALL OTHER HOUSEHOLDS, including WIC households, follow these instructions.

Part 2. List the name, date of birth, grade (if applicable), name of school/Head Start/child care center attended for each child in your household. Provide ethnic and racial information if you choose, but the school/Head Start/child care will make the determination of your child's ethnic and racial status if you do not fill this section in.

Part 3. Follow these instructions to report total household income from last month.

Name: List the last and first names of **each** person living in your household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends). You must include yourself and all children living with you. Attach another sheet of paper if needed.

Age: List the age of each household member.

Check if No Income: Put a mark in the box if the household member **does not** have an income.

Gross Income last month and how it was received: Report the amount of income received in the appropriate Gross Income column (weekly, every 2 weeks, twice monthly, or monthly). List the **gross income** each person earned from work. This is not the same as take-home pay. **Gross income is the amount earned before taxes and other deductions.** The amount should be listed on your pay stub, or your boss can tell you. If you have a household member for whom last month's income was higher or lower than usual, list that person's expected average income.

Other Monthly Payments or Income: List the amount each person got last month from welfare, child support, alimony, adoption subsidies, pensions, retirement, Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and Veteran's benefits (VA benefits). In the **All Other Income Last Month** column, include Worker's Compensation, unemployment, strike benefits, regular contributions from people who do not live in your household, cash withdrawn from savings, investments or trusts, interest and **ANY OTHER INCOME**. Use the Self-Employment Income Worksheet on the back of the application to calculate net income for self-owned businesses, farm, or rental income and report in the All Other Income Last Month column. **Do not report:** Scholarships, educational benefits, lump sum payments, children's incidental income from occasional activities such as babysitting, shoveling snow, or cutting grass. If you are in the Military Housing Privatization Initiative do not include this housing allowance.

Social Security Number: If the application is being made on the basis of income, the adult signing the form must also list his or her Social Security number or mark the "I do not have a Social Security number" box. If you do not provide your Social Security number or mark the box, your application cannot be processed.

Part 4. Read the certification and fill in all the blanks in this section.

Self Employment Income Instructions Iowa Eligibility Application

Self Employment Income Worksheet: This worksheet will assist you in calculation the amount to report if you engage in farming, are self employed or have income from other sources.

Persons who are engaged in farming or who operate other types of private businesses may experience variations in cash flow or monthly income throughout the year. These persons may use their income tax records from the preceding calendar year as a basis for applying for the free and reduced price meals. The income to be reported is income derived from the business venture less operating costs incurred in the generation of that income. Deductions for personal expenses such as medical expenses and other non-business deductions are not allowed in reducing gross business income.

If you have additional income from other kinds of employment, this income must be treated as separate and apart from the income generated from your business venture. USDA **DOES NOT** recognize income the same way as IRS. USDA does not permit a loss from a business venture to off-set earnings from wages or salary. Though your business may have suffered a net operational loss, for purposes of this application, it is not possible to have a negative income. **The least self employed income possible is zero (no income).** For example, if you operated a business at a net loss but held another job where you received wages, your income for purposes of applying for free or reduced price meals would be the income from your wages only. The loss from the business cannot be deducted from the amount of the income earned in the other job.

A prior year loss from farming or other private business operation cannot be used to reduce the current year net income for determining free and reduced price eligibility. Wages paid to a spouse or other family member in the operation of a farm or private business must be shown as household income in Part 3 of the application.

The least income possible is zero (no income).

Income from private business operations is to be taken from your most recent U.S. Individual Income Tax Return - Form 1040. Use the lines from the 1040 that are identified.

Line 12 - Business income or (loss)		\$ _____
Line 13 - Capitol gain or (loss)		\$ _____
Line 14 - Other gains or (losses)		\$ _____
Line 17 - Rental real estate, royalties, partnerships, S corporations, trusts, etc.		\$ _____
Line 18 - Farm income or (loss)		\$ _____
	Total	\$ _____
	Total ÷12 =	_____

Enter amount in the "All Other Income Last Month" column in Part 3 on the front of the Iowa Eligibility Application. **The least income possible is zero (no income).**