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# THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

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WASHINGTON, DC

## Counting for Dollars

16 Largest Federal Assistance Programs that Distribute Funds on Basis of Decennial  
Census-derived Statistics

### National School Lunch Program

A [report](#) of the Counting for Dollars Project identifies the 16 largest federal financial assistance programs that use Decennial Census-derived data to distribute funds to states and local areas. This fact sheet describes the National School Lunch Program and the nature of its reliance on Census-derived data.

Objective: Assist states, through cash grants and food donations, in providing a nutritious nonprofit lunch service for school children and to encourage the domestic consumption of nutritious agricultural commodities.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) #: [10.555](#)

Applicant eligibility: States

Type of assistance: Formula grants. Funds are available to states to reimburse participating public and nonprofit private schools, of high school grades or under, including residential child care institutions, for providing nutritious lunches to eligible children.

Household eligibility and benefits: Lunch is served free to children who are determined by the local education agency to have household income levels at or below 130 percent, and at a reduced price to children from households with incomes higher than 130 but at or below 185 percent of the Federal poverty line.

Primary Census-derived data sources: Per [42 USC 1758](#), Poverty Guidelines (HHS) are used to determine household eligibility and benefits. Per [7 CFR 210.4](#), the Consumer Price Index for Urban Consumers (BLS), food away from home series, is used to annually adjustment the federal per meal reimbursement rate.

Relation to accuracy of state and local Decennial Census count: Minimal

The National School Lunch Program uses nationwide, not state or local, Census-derived data to determine funds distribution. An inaccurate state or local count would have an impact only to the extent it affects the national Poverty Guidelines or Consumer Price Index.

**National School Lunch Program  
Obligations – U.S. and States, FY2015**

United States	\$11,560,852,485		
Alabama	\$210,937,195	Montana	\$26,473,208
Alaska	\$34,604,215	Nebraska	\$67,470,553
Arizona	\$270,341,686	Nevada	\$95,356,072
Arkansas	\$130,037,963	New Hampshire	\$22,913,848
California	\$1,437,855,151	New Jersey	\$246,425,692
Colorado	\$131,240,219	New Mexico	\$95,353,466
Connecticut	\$96,010,798	New York	\$674,380,535
Delaware	\$33,614,082	North Carolina	\$375,637,608
District of Columbia	\$26,156,514	North Dakota	\$19,177,631
Florida	\$745,669,520	Ohio	\$350,526,378
Georgia	\$506,294,315	Oklahoma	\$160,287,634
Hawaii	\$45,319,591	Oregon	\$110,951,039
Idaho	\$52,430,753	Pennsylvania	\$351,780,636
Illinois	\$459,014,249	Rhode Island	\$29,323,945
Indiana	\$255,827,854	South Carolina	\$201,253,933
Iowa	\$101,819,938	South Dakota	\$28,784,140
Kansas	\$105,594,264	Tennessee	\$269,064,982
Kentucky	\$203,753,199	Texas	\$1,394,918,358
Louisiana	\$216,207,227	Utah	\$98,325,241
Maine	\$33,120,259	Vermont	\$15,412,941
Maryland	\$160,701,617	Virginia	\$224,566,964
Massachusetts	\$175,868,343	Washington	\$193,566,596
Michigan	\$290,102,335	West Virginia	\$71,660,282
Minnesota	\$156,002,538	Wisconsin	\$167,945,362
Mississippi	\$169,323,740	Wyoming	\$14,273,451
Missouri	\$207,174,425		

Source: USASpending.gov

Prepared by Andrew Reamer, Research Professor, GWIPP, with data provided by Sean Moulton, Open Government Program Manager, Project on Government Oversight

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