

# TIERING UPDATE

NEW PROCESS FOR USING  
CENSUS DATA

# FACTS ABOUT HUNGER

- Over 49 million Americans struggle to put food on their tables.
- The USDA defines food insecurity as a lack of access, at times, to enough food for all household members.
- In 2013, 17.5 million households were food insecure.

# MORE FACTS ABOUT HUNGER

- 14.6% is the national average for the percentage of state populations suffering from food insecurity.
- Households with children have a substantially higher rate of food insecurity (21%).
- 15.8 million children live in food insecure households.

# MORE FACTS ABOUT HUNGER

- 1 in 7 Americans are enrolled in a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). 45% of them are children.
- In 2013, 19.9% (14.7 million) of Americans under age 18 suffered from poverty.

# MORE FACTS ABOUT HUNGER

- In America, more than 1 in 5 children are at risk of hunger. Among African-American and Latinos, it is 1 in 3 and 1 in 4, respectively.
- Studies indicate that food insecurity leads to the following conditions in children: (1) high levels of anxiety and depression; (2) impaired reading and math skills; (3) poor self-control and attentiveness; (4) behavioral issues; (5) being overweight; and (6) suicidal symptoms in adolescents.

# MORE FACTS ABOUT HUNGER

- The South region has the highest food insecurity rate (15.7%).
- In 2011, Florida's food insecurity rate was 16.2%. In 2013, it was 16.6%.
- In Florida, 27.6% of children experience food insecurity.

# MORE CENSUS DATA INFORMATION

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us.aspxW>

# COMMON PURPOSE

The USDA, Florida CCFP and Daycare Home Sponsors strive for the same result: feeding hungry children.

# KEY TO FEEDING HUNGRY CHILDREN

Identifying where the hungry children live.

# USE OF CENSUS DATA

- A way to identify large blocks of hungry children needing our help.
- Since 2012, census data (household income) is collected annually (via surveys). Making it accurate and reliable information.

# HOW DOES CENSUS DATA WORK?

- For CCFP purposes, census data may be used to determine Program eligibility and tiering levels by using the Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) mapping database.
- <http://www.fairdata2000.com/CACFP/index.html>

# DETERMINING TIER CLASSIFICATION

- Old Process

Check Tier I qualification by:

Step 1 - Using 50% School List.

Step 2 - Using Census Data (FRAC Map).

Step 3 - Household income.

# OLD PROCESS USING CENSUS DATA

- FRAC map gave only “yes” or “no” answers.
- Tier 1 determinations were good for 5 years.
- If provider could not be classified as Tier 1 by census data, the sponsor would try classifying by household income.

# OLD TIERING PROCESS CONTINUED

- If the provider could not be classified as Tier 1 by any of the three methods, the provider would be classified as Tier 2.
- Annually, the sponsor would attempt to reclassify Tier 2 providers.

# 3 REASONS FOR CHANGING TIERING DETERMINATION PROCESS

- USDA wanted DCH sponsors to have more geographic flexibility to determine area eligibility.
- By accounting for adjacent areas to a particular DCH, the sponsor is better able to determine which income-types of children would most likely attend that DCH.

# 3 REASONS FOR CHANGING TIERING PROCESS CONTINUED

- The annual collection and publication of household income data ensures that area eligibility determinations accurately identify the children in most need.

# NEW PROCESS FOR DETERMINING TIER STATUS USING CENSUS DATA

- Check Tier I qualification by:

Step 1 - Using 50% School List or Census Data.

Step 2 - Household income.

# SCENARIO 1: “YES” RESULT

- Sponsor Responsibilities:

- (1) Conduct FRAC Analysis, getting “yes” result.
- (2) Complete Monthly Update or Change Form, and a Provider Information Sheet marking Tier 1 status.
- (3) Email or fax Monthly Update or Change Form, Provider Information Sheet, and copy of FRAC map to state staff.

# “YES” RESULT CONTINUED

- State Staff Responsibilities:

(1) Review sponsor’s submitted information.

(2) Conduct own FRAC map analysis.

(3) If get “yes” result, approve sponsor’s paperwork and have Tier 1 status entered into MIPS.

# SCENARIO 2: “NO” RESULT

- Sponsor Responsibilities:
  - (1) Conduct FRAC Analysis, getting “no” result.
  - (1) Complete Monthly Update or Change Form, and a Provider Information Sheet marking Tier 2 status.
  - (2) Email or fax Monthly Update or Change Form, Provider Information Sheet, and copy of FRAC map to state staff.

# “NO” RESULT CONTINUED

- State Staff Responsibilities:
  - (1) Review sponsor’s submitted information.
  - (2) Conduct own FRAC map analysis.
  - (3) If get “no” result, approve sponsor’s paperwork and have Tier 2 status entered into MIPS.

# SCENARIO 3: “MAYBE” RESULT

- Sponsor Responsibilities:
  - (1) Conduct FRAC analysis, getting “maybe” result.
  - (2) Complete Monthly Update or Change Form, and Provider Information Sheet marking Tier 1 status.
  - (3) Email or fax Monthly Update or Change Form, Provider Information Sheet, and copy of the FRAC map to state staff.

# “MAYBE” RESULT CONTINUED

- State Staff Responsibilities:

(1) Review sponsor’s submitted information.

(2) Conduct own FRAC map analysis.

(3) If get “maybe” result, conduct an averaging test.

# AVERAGING TEST

- Conduct FRAC map analysis for 2 to 3 block groups adjacent to the provider's home (each group must meet the 40% eligibility requirement).
- Place collected information on the Averaging Chart. If weighted average meets the 50% eligibility requirement you have a "yes" result.
- If result is "yes," email sponsor's submitted information, state staff's FRAC analyses, and Averaging Chart to the USDA's regional office for review.
- If result is "no," email sponsor state staff's FRAC analyses and Averaging Chart, but do not send information to USDA.

# **“MAYBE” RESULT CONTINUED**

(4) Email sponsor USDA’s final decision on “yes” result, and attach all documentation reviewed by SERO.

Note: Sponsors, please save the documentation in the provider’s file so it is available during a review.

# FINAL THOUGHTS – NEW SYSTEM

- Tier 1 determinations are good for 5 years.
- Annually, Tier 2 providers must be informed they can request a reclassification review.
- State staff will explore all census data combinations to try and achieve Tier 1 results.