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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
U.S. FOOD DISTRIBUTION ADMINISTRATION
Washington 25, D. C.

August 1943

FDA Assistance to 1943-44 School Lunch Program

School lunches will be available this school year to approximately five million American children—many of whom have mothers working in war plants—under a lunch program designed to maintain their wartime diets at an adequate level.

The 1943-44 program is aimed at protecting children's health despite dislocations in home life necessitated by the war and shortages of some foods. While Federal funds will finance a substantial part of the program, lunch projects are basically a community undertaking, relying on local initiative administration, and sponsorship.

Local sponsors will organize the lunch programs, purchase the food from local merchants and farmers, and be reimbursed by FDA - up to specified amounts - for the cost of the foods thus served. A wide variety of nutritious products are on the "reimbursable list," including fruit, vegetables, milk and meat.

This differs from the school lunch program in which the Department of Agriculture has cooperated since 1935. In previous years foods were purchased directly by the Department and distributed to schools through state welfare agencies. The buying this year will be done locally by the sponsors, primarily to simplify the program and to conserve transportation and storage facilities that are required under the centralized distribution plan. The new plan for purchasing has been in effect in a few localities in almost all States since last January, when it was first authorized. Experience gained by FDA during these months has set the pattern to be followed as this type of program begins operation on a larger scale.

In the immediate period ahead when we are facing shortages of some foods, we need to make doubly sure that children are not overlooked, FDA officials said. They explained that the health of this Nation's children is a resource which warrants special protection, and this protection can best be provided by making sure that children's nutritional needs are met. It was pointed out that Congress recognized this when it authorized the expenditure of up to fifty million dollars to carry on the School Lunch Program during the coming school year.

Funds are available to schools and child care centers in the States principally on the basis of State school enrollment and the State's past participation in the School Lunch Programs.

While under the new plan the Government will pay approximately 60 percent of the food cost the equipment, labor, and supervision must be furnished by State and local agencies or civic groups.

Under the new program, which combines school lunch and school milk projects, foods going into three types of lunches will be paid for by FDA at rates ranging from two to nine cents for each meal, depending on the type served. Type A is a complete lunch including all of the items necessary for a balanced meal. Type B has smaller portions of these same foods and is less adequate nutritionally. Type C is a half pint of milk, with FDA reimbursing sponsors at the rate of two cents for each half pint.

Foods listed in the agreement under which FDA reimburses sponsors are: milk and cheese; fresh and dried fruit; fresh and processed vegetables; fresh meat and poultry; eggs; dry beans and peas; soybean products; peanuts and peanut butter; oleomargarine with added Vitamin A, butter, lard, and other edible fats and oils; cereals. Schools and child care centers receive ration stamps for rationed foods on this list under Office of Price Administration stamp allowances for institutions.

FDA officials emphasize that the program is not limited to low income children, because the lunch must be offered to all children in the school. It is desirable, however, to give assistance first to those schools where greatest need exists, since available funds may not be adequate to help all schools asking for Federal aid. Though the national income is at an all-time high, many families still lack sufficient income to provide their children with adequate diets, and higher food prices and relative scarcity of certain important foods increase these difficulties.

Any non-profit organization is eligible to be a sponsor. This includes school authorities, American Legion Posts, religious schools, child care centers, Parent-Teacher Associations, and similar civic and service groups. Sponsors sign an agreement with the Food Distribution Administration which guarantees reimbursement at definite rates, provided the amount does not exceed the cost of the foods purchased. Under the agreement, lunches or milk must be offered free to all children unable to pay, with no distinction between those who pay and those who do not. Another condition stipulates that the price charged for the lunches must not result in profit. Any surplus funds must be put back into the project in improved meal quality or service. To facilitate reimbursement, sponsors file a simple form once a month with FDA regional administrators.

Groups who wish to apply for Federal aid under the School Lunch Program should address requests to the nearest regional office of the Food Distribution Administration, Regional offices are:

<u>Region</u>	<u>Headquarters</u>	<u>States</u>
Northeast	New York City	New York Maine Vermont New Hampshire Massachusetts Connecticut Rhode Island

<u>Region</u>	<u>Headquarters</u>	<u>States</u>
Northeast (Cont'd)	New York City	New Jersey Pennsylvania West Virginia Maryland Delaware District of Columbia
Southern	Atlanta	Georgia Virginia Kentucky Tennessee North Carolina South Carolina Alabama Mississippi Florida
Great Lakes	Chicago	Illinois Wisconsin Michigan Indiana Ohio
Midwest	Des Moines	Iowa North Dakota Minnesota South Dakota Nebraska Kansas Missouri
Southwest	Dallas	Texas Oklahoma Arkansas Louisiana
Rocky Mountain	Denver	Montana Idaho Wyoming Utah Colorado New Mexico
Pacific	San Francisco	Washington Oregon California Nevada Arizona

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