

Good afternoon SFSAs,

This is a follow-up to last week's Direct Certification email, which is included below for your reference. Last week, MDHS updated the SNAP file reporting system and the result was a significant increase in the number of matched students. We continue to work with MDHS to identify all eligible students. After analysis of subsequent files provided by MDHS, an additional 3,600 students were matched today for Direct Certification compared to last Thursday's file.

### **SFSA Action**

We encourage you to import the most recent file so that all eligible students are identified in your Eligibility software package. Continue to run matches each Monday until the June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline. Reminder, once a student is matched, they remain in the Direct Certification status for the remainder of the year, even if they do not appear in the subsequent file.

### **CEP Deadline**

For the upcoming school year, the USDA is allowing Direct Certification data from any point in time between April 1 and June 30 to be used. You still have time to import additional files and maximize your Identified Student Percentage (ISP) for CEP.

### **All Schools**

We encourage all schools to continue to import Direct Certification files. With a more than 14% increase in the number of eligible students, previously ineligible schools may now be able to participate.

Also, as we approach an uncertain SY 2020-2021, it may be advantageous for your District/school to have the most accurate data regarding F/R eligibility. If changes to CN Programs funding occur due to COVID-19, F/R percentages from this school year may a factor. And as many programs use F/R data as part of their funding formulas, the increases from these new files may benefit programs beyond Child Nutrition.

Please let us know if you have questions or need assistance.

Stay safe!

Scott

Scott Clements, **State Director**