FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEAL APPLICATION
FACT SHEET

When filling out the application form, please pay careful attention to these helpful hints.

Food Stamp/TANF/FDPlR Case Number:

This must be the complete case number supplied to you by the agency including all numbers and letters, for example, E 123456, or whatever combination is used in your county. Refer to the letter you received from your local Department of Social Services for your case number or contact them for your number. All children with the same case number may be listed on the same application. Separate applications are required for children with different case numbers.

Direct Certification:

If you receive food stamps or TANF, send in the Direct Certification Letter from the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance instead of completing the application.

Foster Child:

A foster child is one who lives with a family, but is under the legal care of the welfare agency or court. List the child's "personal use" income. This includes only those funds provided by the agency, which are identified for the **personal** use of the child, such as personal spending allowances, money received by his/her family, or from a job. Funds provided for housing, food and care, medical, and therapeutic needs are **not** considered income to the foster child. Write "0" if the child has no personal use income.

Household:

A household is a group of related or non-related people, who are living in one house and share income and expenses.

Adult Family Members:

Adult family members are all related and non-related people who are 21 years of age and older living in your house.

Financially Independent:

A person is financially independent and a separate economic unit/household when his/her earnings and expenses are not shared by the family/household.

Gross Income:

Gross income is money earned or received by each member of your household **before deductions**. Examples of deductions are federal tax, State tax, and Social Security deductions.

Examples of gross income are:

- Wages, salaries, tips, commissions, or income from self-employment
- Net farm income
- Pensions, annuities, or other retirement income including Social Security retirement benefits
- Unemployment compensation
- Welfare payments (does not include value of food stamps)
- Public Assistance payments
- Adoption assistance
- Strike benefits
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Survivor's Benefits
- Alimony or child support payments
- Disability benefits, including workman's compensation
- Veteran's subsistence benefits
- Interest or dividend income
- Cash withdrawn from savings, investments, trusts, and other resources, which would be available to pay for a child's meals
- Other cash income

If you have more than one job, you must list the income from all jobs.

If you receive income from more than one source (wage, alimony, child support, etc.), you must list the income from all sources.

Current Income:

Your current income, at the present time, **before deductions.** Farmers, self-employed workers, migrant workers, and other seasonal employees may use their income for the past twelve (12) months.

Income Exclusions:

The value of any child care provided or arranged, or any amount received as payment for such child care or reimbursement for costs incurred for such care under the Child Care Development (Block Grant) Fund should not be considered as income for this program.

If you have any questions or need help in filling out the application form please contact:

Chittenango Central School
Food Service Office
1700 Fyler Road
Chittenango, NY 13037

Phone: 687-2864 Fax: 687-2861