

2023 Direct Certification with Medicaid Demonstration Projects

Webinar Thursday, November 30, 2023

Questions and Answers

Q1. What are the important components of a MOU – Data Sharing Partnership Agreement for a State to demonstrate readiness to begin matching activities with Medicaid data.

A1. To participate in the DC-M demonstration projects, FNS requires that the agencies in each selected State execute a MOU – Data Sharing Partnership Agreement which sets forth:

- Method and frequency for data-sharing;
- Data fields/attributes to be shared;
- How students will be identified to be directly certified as eligible for free and reduced-price school meals; and,
- How data will be protected to ensure compliance with Federal disclosure statutes and regulations.

Q2. Can free and reduced price school meal eligibility via direct certification with Medicaid be extended to other members of a NSLP household?

A2. Yes. As referenced on Slide 10, direct certifications with Medicaid (if not preceded by other sources of direct certification) may be extended to other children in the NSLP household (as defined in 7 CFR 245.2). As with other programs, extending direct certification to other children must be done at the SFA level (not by the State Child Nutrition or Medicaid agency).

Q3. Are States required to implement DC-M statewide? Or may States limit participation in the initial year to a select number of volunteer SFAs?

A3. States selected to participate in the 2023 Direct Certification with Medicaid Demonstration Projects must use data matching with all NSLP-participating LEAs in the State.