

Meal Benefits Application (Portal) [.2108 - .2323]

Last Modified on 06/07/2023 3:01 pm CDT

You are viewing a previous version of this article. See [Meal Benefits Application \(Portal\)](#) for the most current information.

Campus Parent: [More > Meal Benefits Application](#)

Campus Student: [More > Meal Benefits Application](#)

The Meal Benefits Application allows parents/guardians and [emancipated students](#) to electronically submit Meal Benefits Applications to their district.

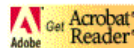
In order to complete the Meal Benefits Application, the application signer must complete the following steps:

- [Step 1. Create an E-Signature PIN](#)
- [Step 2. Review the Letter to Household](#)
- [Step 3. Review Application Instructions](#)
- [Step 4. Review and Confirm Signer](#)
- [Step 5. Confirm Household Members](#)
- [Step 6. Indicate Meal Benefits](#)
- [Step 7. Confirm Child Household Members](#)
- [Step 8. Indicate Foster Children](#)
- [Step 9. Indicate Migrant, Homeless, Runaway, and Head Start Children](#)
- [Step 10. Enter Household Gross Income](#)
- [Step 11. Review Household Information for Accuracy](#)
- [Step 12. Authorize Household Application](#)
- [Step 13. Electronically Sign the Household Application](#)
- [Step 14. Review and Print Submission Notice](#)

Applications/Forms

Meal Benefits Application [click here to start the application process.](#)

Reports on this page require the Adobe Acrobat Reader (free).

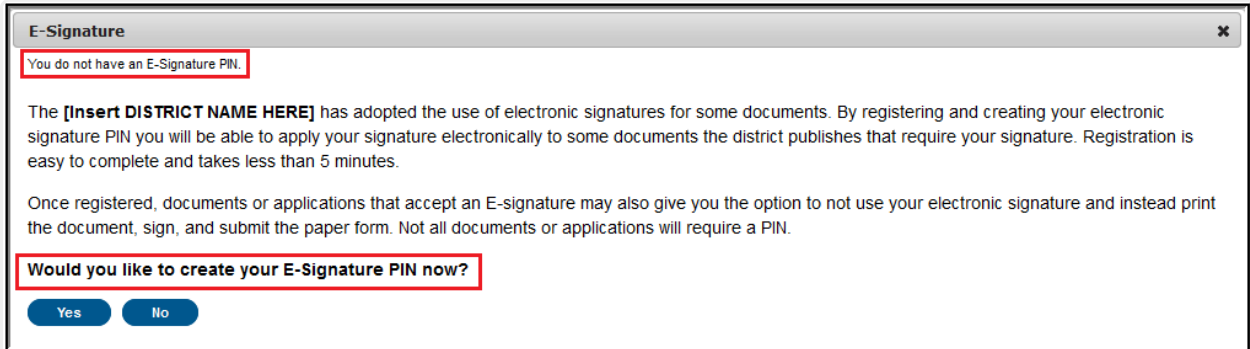


Accessing the Meal Benefits Application

Step 1. Create an E-Signature PIN

If you already have a PIN or if your district does not require a PIN, skip to Step 2.

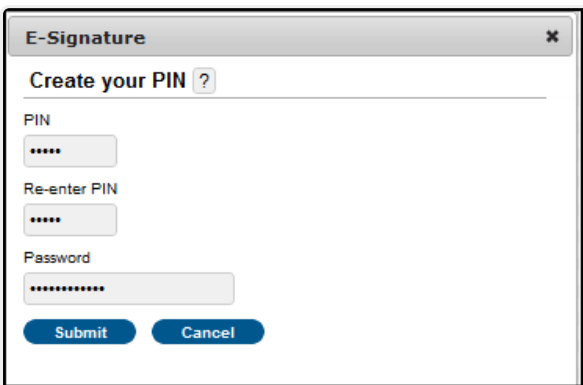
If required by your district, the E-Signature PIN allows you to submit an electronic signature with the application which is treated the same legally as a signature made on the paper application.



Notification of No E-Signature PIN Established

To create an E-Signature PIN, click the **Yes** button. The Create your PIN editor will display.

To create a PIN, enter the **PIN**, **Re-enter the PIN**, enter your current Campus account **Password** and select the **Submit** button. Your PIN is now saved within Campus and available for use with any documents or forms which require a PIN for signature or verification. To change you PIN, go to the [Account Settings](#) tool.



Creating an E-Signature PIN

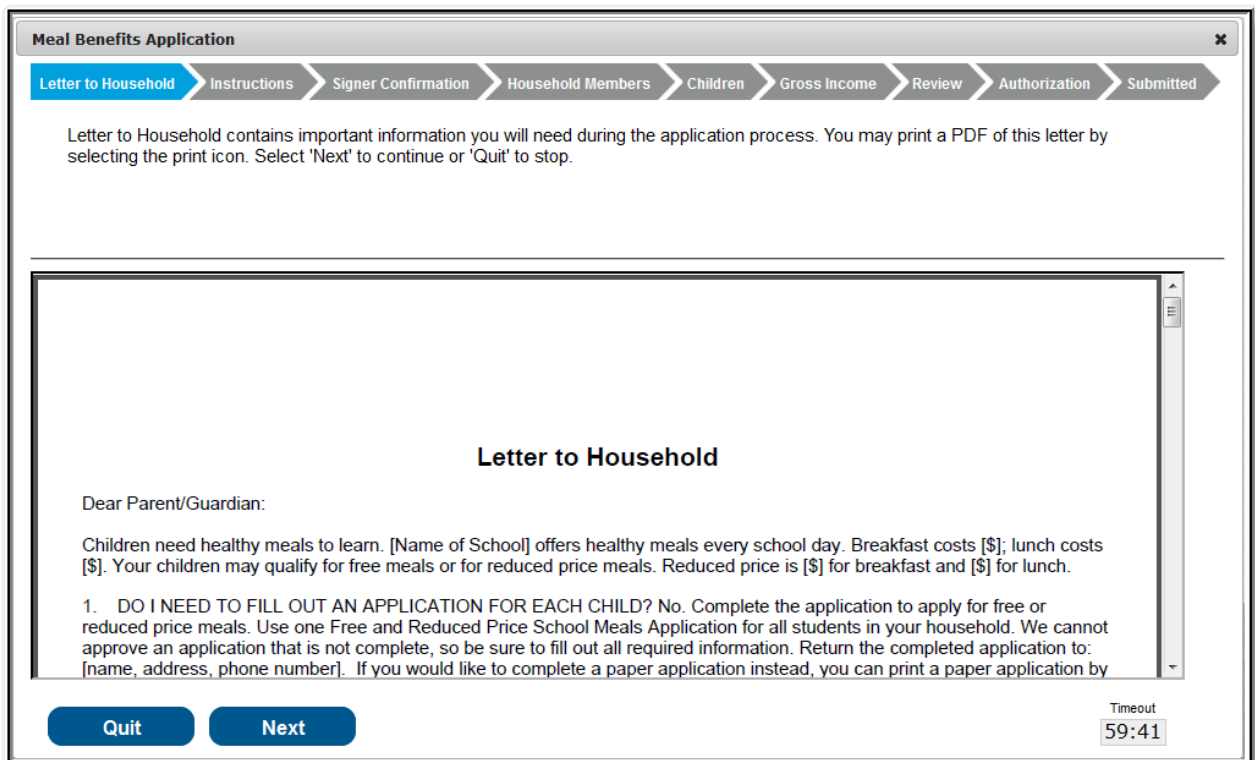
Step 2. Review the Letter to Household

The application signer must review the Letter to Household prior to beginning the application process. This letter contains important information and guidance about the online Meal Benefits Application.

After you review or print the letter for reference, click the **Next** button to [review the application's instructions](#).

FRAM Administrators

Letter to Household information and instructions can be modified in the [Letter to Household template](#) within the Online Application Editor (FRAM > Letter Editor, Online Application Editor).



Reviewing the Letter to Household

Step 3. Review Application Instructions

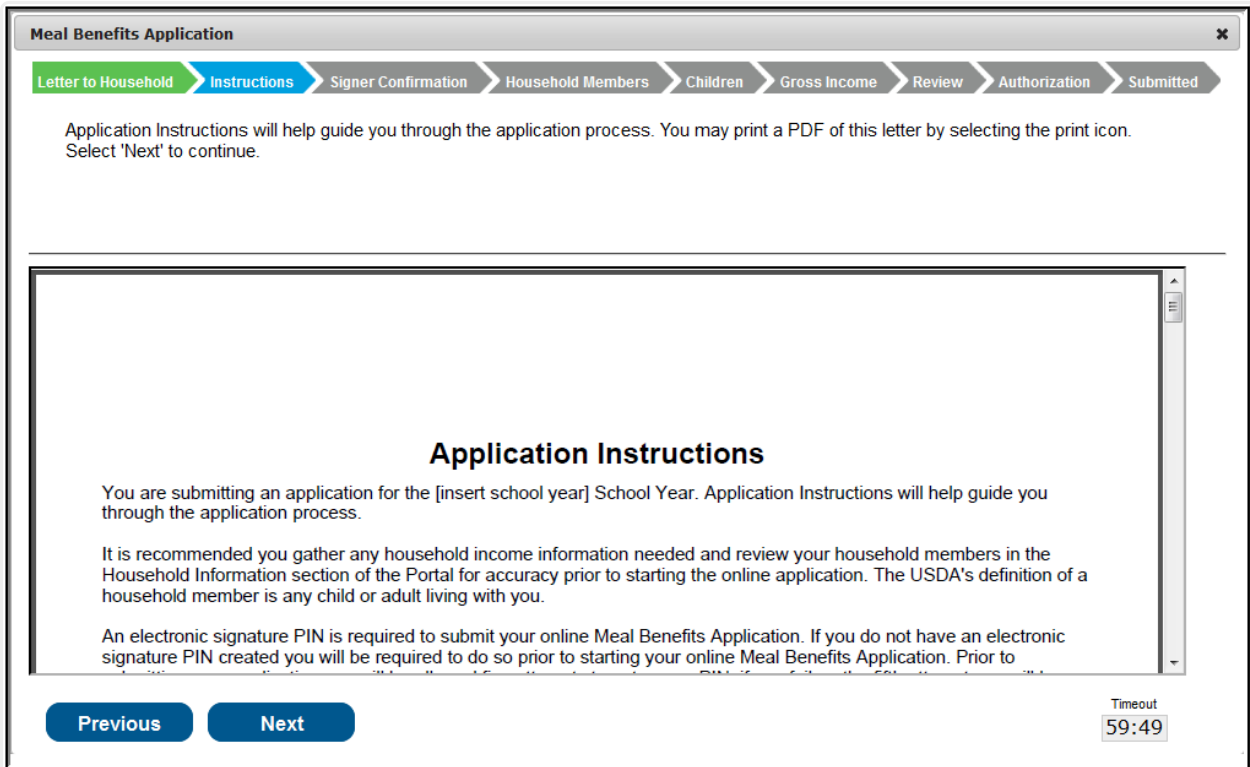
The application signer must also review the Application Instructions prior to beginning the application process. These instructions can also be printed and contain important information about the application process and submission.

After you review or print the Application Instructions for reference, click the **Next** button. The [Signer](#)

Confirmation screen displays.

FRAM Administrators

Application Instructions information can be modified in the [Application Instructions](#) template within the Online Application Editor (FRAM > Letter Editor, Online Application Editor).



Reviewing the Application Instructions

Step 4. Review and Confirm Signer

Once both the Letter to Household and Application Instructions have been reviewed, the person completing the online application must confirm their identity as the application signer.

If the identity information is correct, select the **Next** button.

If the address shown is incorrect and your district has [Self Service](#) functionality enabled, you can update it using the [Household Information](#) tool.

FRAM Administrators

Signer Confirmation instructions can be modified in the [Application Instructions](#) template within the Online Application Editor (FRAM > Letter Editor, Online Application Editor).

Meal Benefits Application ✕

Letter to Household
Instructions
Signer Confirmation
Household Members
Children
Gross Income
Review
Authorization
Submitted

Please review the application signer's name and household address below. Confirm you are the person signing this online application by selecting 'Next'. Select 'Quit' if you are not this person or if you do not wish to continue.

Smith, Jason you have been identified as the household member signing this Meal Benefits Application.

You are applying for meal benefits for all household members living at the address below. If the address is incorrect, please contact your child(ren)'s school to request a change.

Primary Address:
 123 Main Street
 Metro City, MN 55432

Quit
Previous
Next

Timeout

57:55

Verifying the Signer's Identity

Step 5. Confirm Household Members

The application signer must confirm all people living within their household.

Mark the checkbox next to the name of each person within your household. Once all members have been marked, select the **Next** button.

If a person is listed that should not be considered a household member, do not mark the checkbox next to their name. This does not remove them from the household within Campus, but does exclude them from the application.

In order to complete the remaining steps of the application process, it is critical Household members are identified.

FRAM Administrators

Household Members information can be modified in the [Application Instructions](#) template within the Online Application Editor.

Campus considers the Eligibility Effective date when populating the student's School. If there are overlapping enrollments within the same calendar year, Campus uses the school from the most recent enrollment.

Meal Benefits Application ✕

Letter to Household > Instructions > Signer Confirmation > **Household Members** > Children > Gross Income > Review > Authorization > Submitted

Household Members are listed below. You must confirm each person living in your household by selecting the check box next to their name. If a person listed below is no longer living in your household, do not check the box next to their name. If there are persons missing from your household you will need to add them by selecting the 'Add Household Member' button. You are not allowed to edit existing household member information or uncheck the application signer. After you have identified and/or added household members select 'Next' to continue.

Name	Gender	DOB	School	Grade
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Smith , James John (Signer)	F			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Smith , Jane Marie	F			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Smith , John Anthony	M	01/01/1995	Senior High	12
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Smith , Susie Marie	F	04/01/2011		

If you need to add additional household members click here. [Add Household Member](#)

[Previous](#) [Next](#)

Timeout
59:50

Verifying Household Members

Adding a Household Member

If a household member does not appear in the list, you can manually add them. This often occurs when someone has just moved into the household or the person filling out the application does not have access to a specific family member within the Portal.

The manually added student household member must exist in Campus at the time the FRAM Processor processes the application. If the manually added student member does not exist within Campus, the application cannot be processed and must be suspended if the district cannot confirm the validity of the student member.

1. Click the **Add Household Member** button.

Result

The **Add Student/Non-Student Member** editor displays.

2. Select whether the person is a **Student or Non-Student** and click the Save button.

A Student is a household member who will be enrolled in the district during the school year.

A Non-Student is any household member who will not be enrolled in the district during the school year.

Result

The **Add Student/Non-Student Member** window displays.

3. Enter information about the household member in all required fields and select the **Save** icon. Required fields display with a red asterisk.

Result

The Household Members Confirmation screen displays. The added household member appears on the Household Members screen with the words (Manual Add) appearing after the person's name. To remove the person from the household, select the black X on the far right of the screen.

The School and Grade (and Student Number, if known) fields are important for application

processing as the FRAM Processor uses these fields to better identify and match this student to records within Campus.

Meal Benefits Application

Letter to Household → Instructions → Signer Confirmation → **Household Members** → Children → Gross Income → Review → Authorization → Submitted

Household Members are listed below. You must confirm each person living in your household by selecting the check box next to their name. If a person listed below is no longer living in your household, do not check the box next to their name. If there are persons missing from your household you will need to add them by selecting the 'Add Household Member' button. You are not allowed to edit existing household member information or uncheck the application signer. After you have identified and/or added household members select 'Next' to continue.

Name	Gender	DOB	School	Grade
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Smith, Jason A (Signer)	M			
<input type="checkbox"/> Smith, Amy Jo	F	10/27/2004	019 Westridge MS	06
<input type="checkbox"/> Smith, Barbara S	F			
<input type="checkbox"/> Smith, Samuel	M			
<input type="checkbox"/> Smith, Simon	M	12/02/2005	017 Shoemaker Elem	05
<input type="checkbox"/> Smith, Joe P (Manual Add)	M		008 Jefferson Elem	K0

If you need to add additional household members click here. **Add Household Member**

Previous **Next** Timeout 52:53

4. Once all household members have been identified, select the **Next** button.

Step 6. Indicate Meal Benefits

Once household members have been identified, the application signer is asked whether any household members receive SNAP, TANF or FDPIR benefits.

FRAM Administrators

Acronyms for SNAP, TANF and FDPIR are USDA-specific and can be changed to meet state-specific needs using the FRAM Preferences tool.

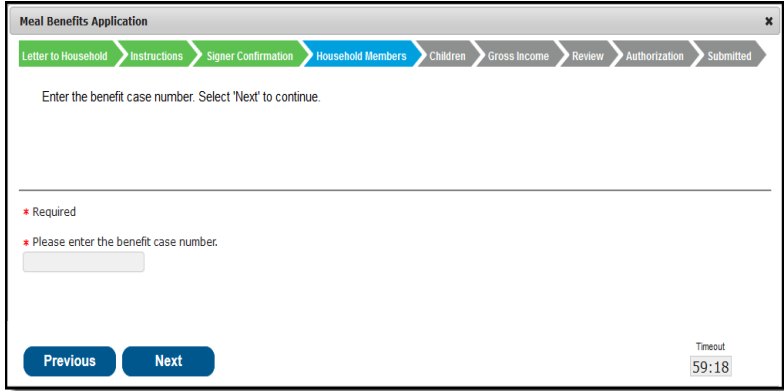
Meal Benefits

Do any household members receive benefits? (SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR)

No **Yes**

Identifying SNAP, TANF or FDPIR Benefits

If household member(s)...	Then...
do NOT receive benefits	click No . You will be directed to the Children screen (see Step 7).

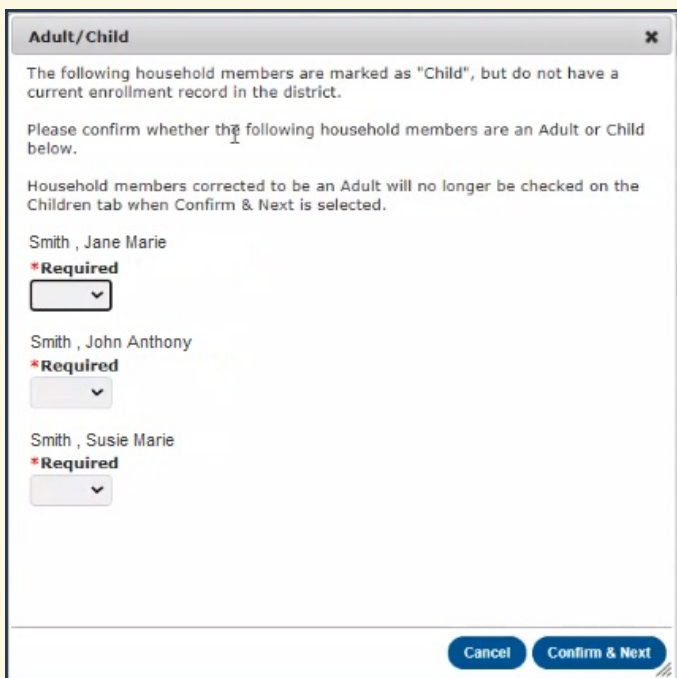
If household member(s)...	Then...
DO receive SNAP, TANF or FDPIR benefits	<p>click Yes. Enter the benefit case number then click Next.</p> 

Step 7. Confirm Child Household Members

Now that household members have been established, children in the household must be identified. Mark the checkbox next to the name of each child household member then click Next.

If a household member is marked as a Child but does not have a current enrollment record in the district, a confirmation message displays after you click **Next**. On the confirmation message, you can correct any errors before continuing.

▶ [Click here to expand...](#)



FRAM Administrators

Child Member instructions can be modified in the [Application Instructions](#) template within the Online Application Editor.

Name	Gender	DOB	School	Grade
<input type="checkbox"/> Smith, James John (Signer)	F			
<input type="checkbox"/> Example, Parent (Manual Add)	F			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Example, Student (Manual Add)	M	1/1/1996	Willmar Middle School	08
<input type="checkbox"/> Smith, Jane Marie	F			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Smith, John Anthony	M	01/01/1995	Willmar Senior High	12
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Smith, Susie Marie	F	04/01/2011		

Identifying Child Household Members

Step 8. Indicate Foster Children

Once student household members have been identified, the application signer must indicate whether any of the student household members are foster children.

Identifying Student Foster Children

If a household member...	Then...
IS a foster child	click Yes . Mark the checkbox next to the name of each student household member that is a foster child, enter their Monthly Income and select the Next button.
is NOT a foster child	click No and go to step 9.

Meal Benefits Application

Letter to Household > Instructions > Signer Confirmation > Household Members > **Children** > Gross Income > Review > Authorization > Submitted

Foster Children must be confirmed by selecting the check box next to their name. Enter any income the foster child receives. After you have identified foster children select 'Next' to continue.

Name	Gender	DOB	School	Grade	Monthly Income
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Example, Student (Manual Add)	M	1/1/1996	Middle School	08	\$ 10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Smith, John Anthony	M	01/01/1995	Senior High	12	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Smith, Susie Marie	F	04/01/2011			\$

Previous Next

Timeout 57:35

Selecting Foster Children

Step 9. Indicate Migrant, Homeless, Runaway, and Head Start Children

Once Foster students are identified, the application signer must indicate whether any of the student household members are Migrant, Homeless, Runaway, or Head Start children.

Prompt for Migrant, Homeless, Runaway, or Head Start Children

If a household member...	Then...
IS a Migrant, Homeless, Runaway, or Head Start child	click Yes . Select one of the following options from the Student Indicator dropdown for the appropriate student(s) then click Next : Homeless, Runaway, Head Start, Migrant.
is NOT a Migrant, Homeless, Runaway, or Head Start child	click No and go to step 10.

Step 10. Enter Household Gross Income

Now that household members have been identified, income must be entered for each member.

FRAM Administrators

Household Income Instructions information can be modified in the [Application Instructions](#) template within the Online Application Editor.

Per USDA policy, income may only include whole dollar amounts.

If...	Then...																																			
<p>you want to enter income information</p>	<p>indicate each household member's income by selecting the Add Income button and entering their income amount.</p> <div data-bbox="427 338 1422 775" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Add Income ✕</p> <p>Income for Echard , Ernesto</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 60%;">Income Type</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Amount</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Frequency</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Earnings from Work</td> <td><input type="text"/></td> <td><input type="text"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Welfare, Child Support, Alimony</td> <td><input type="text"/></td> <td><input type="text"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pensions, Retirement, Social Security, SSI, VA Benefits</td> <td><input type="text"/></td> <td><input type="text"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Other Income</td> <td><input type="text"/></td> <td><input type="text"/></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="text-align: right;"> <input type="button" value="Cancel"/> <input type="button" value="Save"/> <input type="button" value="Clear All"/> </p> </div> <p>OR</p> <p>Mark the No Income checkbox for each household member that has no income.</p> <div data-bbox="427 898 951 1256" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;">DOB</th> <th style="width: 25%;">No Income</th> <th style="width: 40%;">Add Income</th> <th style="width: 20%;">St</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">02/28/2002</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">11/05/2000</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </div> <p>Once all household member income is entered, click Next.</p>	Income Type	Amount	Frequency	Earnings from Work	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Welfare, Child Support, Alimony	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Pensions, Retirement, Social Security, SSI, VA Benefits	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	All Other Income	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	DOB	No Income	Add Income	St		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		02/28/2002	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		11/05/2000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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02/28/2002	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>																																		
11/05/2000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>																																		
<p>you do NOT want to enter income information</p>	<p>click Next.</p> <p>If income is not specified, you are certifying that you have no income to report. Your application will be processed as No Income and be approved for free benefits.</p>																																			

Meal Benefits Application

Letter to Household > Instructions > Signer Confirmation > Household Members > Children > **Gross Income** > Review > Authorization > Submitted

If a Student Indicator has been selected for every student, income information is not required. Providing your income information may help with the district verification process. For each Adult Household Member listed, report total income for each source in whole dollars only. If they do not receive income from any source, write '0'. If you enter '0' or leave any fields blank, you are certifying that there is no income to report.

Name	Gender	DOB	No Income	Add Income	Student Indicator	Total Income
Non-Student Household Members						
Smith, Robert (Signer)	M		<input type="checkbox"/>	Add Income		
Smith, Alexandra	F	11/10/1994	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Add Income		
Student Household Members						
Smith, Mariana	F	03/09/2000	<input type="checkbox"/>	Edit Income	Foster	\$10.00 (Monthly)

Previous **Next** Timeout 55:22

Indicating Household Member Income

Step 11. Review Household Information for Accuracy

Now that household members (and their benefits) have been identified, household information must be reviewed for accuracy.

The **Total Income** column lists the total amount of money each household member makes based on the frequency noted (i.e., monthly, yearly, etc). Frequencies listed in this column are automatically annualized across all members. The **Total Household Income** field indicates the total amount of income the household (all members included) earns per year. The **Total Household Size** indicates the total amount of members within the household.

Review all the information on the screen and if it is accurate, select the **Next** button. If this information is incorrect, select the **Previous** button to go back to the previous step and correct inaccurate information.

FRAM Administrators

Review information can be modified in the [Application Instructions](#) template within the Online Application Editor.

Meal Benefits Application

Letter to Household > Instructions > Signer Confirmation > Household Members > Children > Gross Income > **Review** > Authorization > Submitted

Review the household information below for accuracy. If any of the information is incorrect, select 'Previous' to go back and correct the data. After household information is reviewed select 'Next' to continue.

Name	Gender	DOB	School	Grade	Benefits	Student Indicator	Total Income
Non-Student Household Members							
Smith, James John (Signer)	F						\$1,500.00 (Twice a Month)
Example, Parent (Manual Add)	F						\$0.00
Smith, Jane Marie	F						\$100.00 (Monthly)
Student Household Members							
Example, Student (Manual Add)	F	1/1/1996	Willmar Middle School	08		Foster	\$10.00 (Monthly)
Smith, John Anthony	M	01/01/1995	Willmar Senior High	12			\$0.00
Smith, Susie Marie	F	04/01/2011					\$0.00
Total Household Income: \$37,320.00 (Yearly)							
Total Household Size: 6							

Previous Next

Timeout 59:17

Reviewing Household Information for Accuracy

Step 12. Authorize Household Application

Now that all household information has been entered and confirmed as accurate, the household application must be authorized.

FRAM Administrators

Authorization information can be modified in the Application Instructions template within the Online Application Editor.

Example

Description

The first step in the authorization process is to indicate whether you give your district permission to share your Medicaid or SCHIP information with Medicaid and SCHIP. Select the Yes or No radio buttons for each question.

Example	Description
	<p>If your district has created benefit permissions, you will be asked whether you consent to the district sharing your child's name and meal eligibility with each benefit program. Select the Yes or No radio button for each question shown in the Sharing Information with Other Programs section.</p>
	<p>You must provide Social Security information. Enter the last four digits of your SSN or mark the "I do not have a SSN" box.</p>
	<p>This section is optional and informational only. Responding to this section does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price meals.</p>
	<p>Review the Authorization Statement. If you agree with this statement, believe all entered information is accurate and would like to complete the application process, select the Accept button. If you do not agree with the application and Authorization Statement, select the Decline button. If the Decline button is selected, a message will appear warning you the application process will be cancelled and all application information entered will be deleted.</p>

Step 13. Electronically Sign the Household Application

Once you have reviewed the application and agreed to the Authorization Statement, you must review the Terms of Use.

x
Meal Benefits Application

Letter to Household
Instructions
Signer Confirmation
Household Members
Children
Gross Income
Review
Authorization
Submitted

Apply E-Signature

Terms of Use

I understand by entering my E-Signature PIN below I am applying my electronic signature to this document and my electronic signature has the same legal effect and enforceability as my written signature as per **[INSERT DISTRICT NAME HERE]** policy.

Enter your E-Signature PIN

Submit
Do not use E-Signature
Forgot your PIN?

Timeout
59:56

Terms of Use and Entering E-Signature PIN

If you agree to the Terms of Use and would like to sign the document with you legally-binding E-Signature, **Enter your E-Signature PIN** and select **Submit**.

If you do not want to electronically sign the application, select the **Do not use E-Signature** button. This action will cancel the application due to the need for the application to have a legally-binding electronic signature in order to meet state and federal guidelines

If you forgot your PIN, click the **Forgot you PIN** button. You will be redirected to the Reset your PIN editor where you can reset your PIN.

Meal Benefits Application

Letter to Household > Instructions > Signer Confirmation > Household Members > Children > Gross Income > Review > Authorization > Submitted

Reset your PIN ?

PIN

Re-enter PIN

Password

Timeout
59:20

Resetting a Forgotten PIN

Step 14. Review and Print Submission Notice

The application has now been submitted to the district for processing.

FRAM Administrators

Submission Notice information can be modified in the Submitted template within the Online Application Editor.

Meal Benefits Application

Letter to Household > Instructions > Signer Confirmation > Household Members > Children > Gross Income > Review > Authorization > Submitted

Your Meal Benefits Application has been submitted. Please print this page for your records. This will include the information you provided on your application. A submission notice and final summary report has also been sent to your Portal Process Inbox. You may 'Quit' or safely close out of the application at this time.

Meal Benefits Application Report							
Name	Gender	DOB	School	Grade	Benefits	Student Indicator	Total Income
Non-Student Household Members							
Example, Parent	F						No Income
Smith, James John	F						\$1,500.00 (Twice a Month)
Smith, Jane Marie	F						\$100.00 (Monthly)
Student Household Members							
Example, Student	F	01/01/1996	Willmar Middle School	08		Foster	\$10.00 (Monthly)
Smith, John Anthony	M	01/01/1995	Willmar Senior High	12			No Income

Quit Timeout 55:12

Application Submission Notice

You may print and/or save the Confirmation Submission Notice and the Benefits Application Summary Report for your records. You may also access this information in your Inbox.

Announcements | **Inbox (1 new)**

Delete

Your Meal Benefits Application has been submitted for processing. NEW 10/11/2018

Message Delete

Thank you for submitting your Meal Benefits Application.

Your Reference # is: 976

You will need this number if you have any questions about your Meal Benefits Application.

Application review may take up to 10 business days. Please do not submit another online or paper application as this may delay processing. You will be notified of the outcome of your application status.

UNTIL YOUR APPLICATION IS PROCESSED, YOU ARE REQUIRED TO PAY FOR YOUR CHILD(REN)'S SCHOOL MEALS.

If you have any further questions, please contact (name) at (phone number).

Inbox Message Indicating Meal Benefits Application Submission

Your Inbox will contain a message indicating submission of the Meal Benefits Application. Select the link to review the Confirmation Submission Notice and the Application Summary Report. The FRAM Processor(s) will also receive an Inbox notice indicating your application was submitted.

After the FRAM Processor has processed the application, you will receive an Inbox message indicating the application was processed. If your district has enabled the Include Approval/Denial Letter [FRAM Preference](#), you will receive an Inbox message containing a PDF copy of your Approval/Denial Letter which indicates whether the application was approved or denied.
