

Different programs have different criteria to determine eligibility.

For a family of 4:

- 100% of federal poverty is \$24,858
- 135% of federal poverty is \$31,980
- 185% of federal poverty is \$45,510

National School Lunch Program

- Free lunch is 135% of federal poverty or below
- Reduced lunch is between 135% and 185% of federal poverty

Census Data

- 100% of federal poverty
- Census declares concentrated poverty if 40% of population is at or below 100% of federal poverty

Title 1 Eligibility

- Uses census data to allocate funds to LEAs.

Direct Certification Methods used by Maryland

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program eligibility – gross income less than 130% federal poverty and net income less than 100% federal poverty
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- Foster Care – no income eligibility requirement
- Head Start, Early Head Start, and Even Start – below 100% federal poverty
- Migrant
- Runaway
- Homeless – automatically qualify for free meals