MEDICAID DIRECT CERTIFICATION (MDC)

Medicaid Direct Certification **streamlines the process** for qualifying students for free and reduced school meals by using existing Medicaid data.

This **reduces the administrative burden for schools**, and allows them to focus on educating children, not managing paperwork.

It also **takes pressure off families** to fill out a separate application for school meals when their children already qualify.

The Problem

- An estimated **10,500 children are eligible for – but not enrolled in - free meals.**
- Free and reduced applications are complicated. They're burdensome for families and schools, and must be filled out anew every year.
- This means eligible children are unable to access the healthy meals they need.

43 states have implemented MDC so students don't miss out on the nutrition they need to succeed.



Benefits of MDC

For kids:

- Improved academic performance
- Reduced behavioral problems
- Fewer trips to the nurse
- Stronger attendance and higher graduation rates

For towns and municipalities:

- 10,500 children eligible but not enrolled in free or reduced meals means schools/towns are being asked to do more with less – **MDC would correct this.**

For schools:

- Reduced administrative costs (no processing school meal applications)
- Fewer school meal enrollment certification errors
- Reduced unpaid student meal debt
- Increased state and federal funding

FEED NH KIDS.

NH HUNGER SOLUTIONS
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EXPLAINING THE FISCAL NOTE:

Medicaid Direct Certification (MDC) has a negligible cost to administer.

Any state cost increase comes from the state school funding formula — MDC is intended to ensure that children can access free meals in school.

NH's education funding formula awards schools $2,300 per student **enrolled** in free or reduced-price meals, and enrollment affects extraordinary needs grants.

Under the formula, schools should already be compensated for these students. But right now, students are falling through cracks in the system – many who are eligible for free and reduced meals aren't enrolled, so aren't getting fed. Without this enrollment, schools go uncompensated for the work they do to meet these students' educational needs – and kids go hungry.

SUPPORT MEDICAID DIRECT CERTIFICATION.
INVEST IN NEW HAMPSHIRE'S STUDENTS

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