



E.A.T. School Lunch UX Challenge – Income Interview Examples

Income “Interviews” for Children and Adults

The school meal application’s primary purpose is to gather income information from applicants. And your job is to develop an application that makes that as easy as possible, **while reducing the opportunity for applicant error.**

USDA research tells us that applicant errors tend to be errors of omission, rather than errors in the amount of income reported from a given source. For example, applicants are unlikely to report that they receive \$1,750 per month in wage income when they really receive \$1,775. Instead, applicants are more likely to omit some sources entirely. For example, the applicant may fail to report \$25 in interest income or \$200 in alimony.

In some cases the applicant may not realize that income from those sources (and most others) are includable.

To help reduce that kind of reporting error, your application **must** contain some system of prompts to ensure complete income reporting. For your assistance, we provide a text-based household “income interview” that illustrates **one way** to prompt for **all** includable income sources. Please include an **equally comprehensive** series of prompts in your submission. Although the following pseudo-code will do the trick, we encourage you to come up with something better – something more efficient, something consistent with your overall application design, perhaps something that uses graphic devices (check boxes, etc.).

Income “interview” for children

For child 1 through [n] listed above:

Does child[n] have earnings from work or income from any other source including but not limited to Social Security benefits (for the child’s disability or because a parent is disabled, retired, or deceased), pension income, trust income, annuity income, or regular income (including spending money) from a relative or friend from outside the household?

IF “yes” THEN

Does child[n] earn a **salary or wages from a job**?

IF “yes” THEN

How much earnings?

How often are earnings received?

END IF

END [salary or wages]

Does child[n] receive **Social Security benefits** for the child’s own blindness or disability, or because a parent is disabled, retired, or deceased?

IF “yes” THEN

FOR EACH Social Security income source[i] (where i = blind/disabled, or parent is disabled/retired/deceased)

Does child[n] receive income from Social Security source[i]?

IF “yes” THEN

How much income?

How often is income received?

END IF

END

NEXT Social Security income source[i]

END IF

END [Social Security benefits]

Does child[n] regularly receive **spending money or other income** from a person outside the household such as an extended family member or friend?

IF “yes” THEN

FOR EACH income source[i] from friend or relative outside the household (where i = spending money, other regular income)

Does child[n] receive income from source[i]?

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IF "yes" THEN
    How much income?
    How often is income received?
END IF
END
NEXT income source[i] from friend or relative
outside the household
END IF
END [spending money or other income from friend or relative]
Does child[n] receive income from any other source such as from
a private pension fund, annuity, or trust?
IF "yes" THEN
    FOR EACH other income source[i] (where i =
    pension, annuity, trust, any other income)
        Does child[n] receive income from source[i]?
        IF "yes" THEN
            How much income?
            How often is income received?
        END IF
    END
    NEXT income source[i] from pension, annuity, trust,
    or other source
END IF
END [income from any other source]
END IF
END [child receives any income from any source]
NEXT child[n]
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Income “interview” for adults

For adult 1 through [n] listed above:

Does adult[n] have any income, including earnings from salary, wages, bonuses, self-employment income, military basic pay or allowances for off-base housing and other expenses, public assistance, college financial aid, worker’s compensation, unemployment benefits, veteran’s benefits, strike benefits, pensions, annuities, trusts or estates, disability payments, Social Security, SSI, child support, interest or dividends, other investment income, rental income, or regular cash payments from a relative or friend from outside the household?

IF “yes” THEN

Does adult[n] receive any **earnings from work** such as salary, wages, cash bonuses, net income from self-employment (farm income, partnership income, professional practice income, or other), strike benefits, unemployment insurance, or any other earned income?

IF “yes” THEN

FOR EACH earnings source from work[i] (where i = salary, wages, cash bonuses, net income from self-employment, strike benefits, unemployment insurance, any other earned income)

Does adult[n] receive income from source[i]?

IF “yes” THEN

How much income?

How often is income received?

END IF

END

NEXT earnings source from work[i]

END IF

END [earnings from work]

Is adult[n] in the **U.S. military** and does adult[n] receive military basic pay or cash bonuses, or military allowances for off-base housing, food or clothing? [Do NOT report combat pay, FSSA or privatized housing allowances]

IF “yes” THEN

FOR EACH U.S. military income source[i] (where i = basic pay, cash bonuses, and allowances for off-base housing, food, and clothing)

Does adult[n] receive income from U.S. Military source[i]?

IF “yes” THEN

How much income?

How often is income received?

END IF

END

NEXT U.S. military income source[i]

END IF

END [earnings from U.S. military]

Does adult[n] receive income from public assistance, alimony, or child support?

IF “yes” THEN

FOR EACH source[i] (where i = general assistance (excluding SNAP or TANF), any other public assistance, alimony received, or child support received)

Does adult[n] receive income from source[i]?

IF “yes” THEN

How much income?

How often is income received?

END IF

END

NEXT public assistance, alimony, or child support source[i]

END IF

END [income from public assistance, alimony, or child support]

Does adult[n] receive **retirement or disability income** such as, but not limited to Social Security, railroad retirement, pensions, annuities, survivor's benefits, disability benefits from Supplemental Security Income (SSI), private disability benefits, black lung benefits, worker's compensation, veteran's benefits, or related sources?

IF "yes" THEN

FOR EACH retirement or disability income source[i]
(where i = Social Security, railroad retirement, pensions, annuities, survivor's benefits, disability benefits from Supplemental Security Income (SSI), private disability benefits, black lung benefits, worker's compensation, veteran's benefits, or related sources)

Does adult[n] receive income from source[i]?

IF "yes" THEN

How much income?

How often is income received?

END IF

END

NEXT retirement or disability income source[i]

END IF

END [retirement or disability income]

Does adult[n] receive **investment or any other income**?

IF "yes" THEN

FOR EACH investment or other source[i] (where i = interest, dividends, income from trusts or estates, rental income, royalties, prize winnings, money withdrawn from savings, regular contributions such as cash gifts from friends or family outside the household)

Does adult[n] receive income from investments or other source[i]?



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IF "yes" THEN
    How much income?
    How often is income received?
END IF
END
NEXT investment or other source[i]
END IF
END [investments or other income]
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