



Food and Nutrition
Service

1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA
22314

August 3, 2021

SUBJECT: Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer Program (P-EBT)
Approval of Arkansas's State Plan Amendment

TO: Bill Ludwig
Regional Administrator
Southwest Regional Office

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127) (the Act) authorized a temporary assistance program for households with children affected by school closures during the public health emergency declared on January 27, 2020. Pursuant to the authority granted under Section 1101 of the Act, FNS approved Arkansas' plan to operate P-EBT for school children for school year 2020-2021, and for children in child care for the period October 2020 through June 2021, on June 21, 2021.

Arkansas proposes to amend its approved P-EBT plan for children in child care to adjust the methodology for determining eligibility. Under Arkansas's approved plan, SNAP-enrolled children under age 6 were determined eligible to receive P-EBT benefits for the months that a school in their county of residence had at least one school that issued P-EBT benefits to its students. Arkansas requested to amend their plan to allow SNAP-enrolled children under age 6 to receive P-EBT benefits for the months that a school in their county of residence, or in any contiguous counties, had at least one school that issued P-EBT benefits to its students. For any months that a county did not have at least one school issuing P-EBT but was contiguous to counties that did have at least one school issuing P-EBT, Arkansas will issue benefits equal to the average benefit in the contiguous counties with at least one school issuing P-EBT benefits.

FNS approves Arkansas's plan amendment. Arkansas estimates that approval of this change will ensure that 2,400 children will receive benefits totaling \$148,000 (figures that are already accounted for in the State's June 2021 approved plan).

The State agency must notify the FNS Regional Office immediately if it is preparing to issue an amount different than the estimate in this plan.

FNS reminds Arkansas of the importance of accurate reporting of P-EBT benefits on forms FNS-292B, FNS-46, and FNS-388. Please refer to FNS's [April 27 memo on P-EBT reporting](#), and do not hesitate to contact your Regional Office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Cindy Long
Deputy Administrator
Child Nutrition Programs