



Food and Nutrition
Service

1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA
22314

September 21, 2020

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

**TO: Jesus Mendoza, Jr
Regional Administrator
Western Regional Office**

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127) (FFCRA or 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. On March 20, USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) announced and began accepting State plans for the Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) program. Pursuant to the authority granted under Section 1101 of the Act, FNS approved California's plan to operate P-EBT for school year 2019-2020 on April 24. FNS approved an amendment to California's plan on May 18.

On September 8, California submitted an amendment to operate P-EBT in school year 2020-2021 through the September 30 expiration of the program.

FNS approves California's P-EBT plan amendment. The State estimates that it will issue \$654.2 million in P-EBT benefits for the start of school year 2020-2021 through September 30 to 3.7 million children. The State agency must notify the FNS Regional Office immediately if it is preparing to issue an amount for the start of school year 2020-2021 different than the estimate in this plan.

California understands that the State must issue all P-EBT benefits by September 30.

FNS reminds California 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