



Food and Nutrition
Service

1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA
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April 8, 2021

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

**TO: Jesus Mendoza
Regional Administrator
Western 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 California's plan to operate P-EBT for school year 2019-2020 on April 23, 2020.

California proposes to amend its school year 2019-2020 P-EBT plan to issue benefits to children who were previously determined eligible for benefits but did not receive them. Under California's approved plan, households had to submit demographic information to the State to support the creation of EBT cards. Not all households provided information before the September 30 deadline for benefit issuance. The State proposes to use its most recent address data to automatically issue benefits for school year 2019-2020 to households that did not submit applications but remain enrolled in a California school and were determined eligible for free or reduced price meals in SY 2019-2020. While this was not feasible in California during school year 2019-2020, the State explains that in preparation for issuing benefits for school year 2020-2021, address information quality has improved.

FNS approves California's P-EBT plan amendment. California estimates that it will issue up to \$187.4 million in P-EBT benefits for approximately 500,000 children.

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 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