

**Amendment to Approved State Plan for Pandemic EBT
Children in School and/or Child Care, Summer 2021**

Issuing Agency/Office:	FNS / Child Nutrition Programs, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Title of Document:	Amendment to Approved State Plan for Pandemic EBT: Children in School and Child Care, Summer 2021
Document ID:	
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Date of Issuance:	April 26, 2021
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Summary:	(1) This document is a template to assist States in the development of an amendment to extend their approved State plan to operate Pandemic EBT for school children and for children in child care during summer 2021. (2) This document relates to Section 1106 of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127) as amended by the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021 and Other Extensions Act (P.L. 116-159), the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (P.L. 116-260), and the American Rescue Plan Act, 2021 (P.L. 117-2)
Disclaimer:	The contents of this guidance document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.

Additional context and background for this document can be found at:
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/state-guidance-coronavirus-pandemic-ebt-pebt>

The submission of a P-EBT state plan, associated template and related reporting obligations are addressed in OMB# 0584-0660. This emergency information collection (IC) will be replaced by a full IC package to be submitted to OMB for approval prior to its expiration date of 8/31/21. All components of this summer 2021 P-EBT package will be addressed in the full IC package.

**Amendment to Approved State Plan for Pandemic EBT
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1. **State:** Hawaii
2. **Primary Citation:** Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) as amended by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021
3. **Here's what FNS needs from you:**
 - a. If a State chooses to elect the U.S. standard benefit¹, simply check the box below. Next, go to letter 'c' (*Estimated total amount of P-EBT benefits*) of the template.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>By checking this box, we are indicating that our State will use the U.S. standard benefit for the covered summer period.</i>

- b. If a State chooses not to elect the U.S. standard benefit, FNS needs the following information:
 - The number of days for which benefits will be issued as part of the State's covered summer period; and
 - An explanation for how the State arrived at the number of days in the State's covered summer period. USDA will not approve a plan that does not tie the length of its covered summer period to the actual summer 2021 calendars of an enrollment-weighted average, or the median, of a representative sample of its school districts.

Response: [please use as much space as needed]

¹ The U.S. standard benefit – as defined in Question #5 of FNS' Q&A document titled, "Summer P-EBT Q&A" – is equal to the median number of weekdays in the sampled school districts multiplied by the daily P-EBT rate. For States in the continental U.S., that works out to a fixed summer benefit of \$375 per eligible child (55 days at \$6.82 per day). The U.S. standard benefit is higher for Alaska, Hawaii, and the territories; see Q/A #14 for a complete set of standard benefit amounts.

- c. Estimated total amount of P-EBT benefits the State will issue within this amendment’s date range. (Consult the appropriate table in Section 4, “Benefit Levels.”)
- Estimated amount issued to school children
\$42,918,744
 - Estimated amount issued to non-school children in child care
\$10,818,600
- d. Estimated total number of children to which the State will issue P-EBT benefits.
- Estimated number of school children
97,988
 - Estimated number of non-school children in child care
24,700
- e. Tentative P-EBT issuance schedule (the dates on which Summer P-EBT benefits will be issued). Note that USDA encourages States to distribute summer benefits in two or even three issuances across the summer, to the extent practical.
- School children
\$219 on July 7, 2021
\$219 on August 10, 2021
 - Children in child care
\$219 on July 7, 2021
\$219 on August 10, 2021
- f. Describe how the State will identify eligible school children and children in child care for summer P-EBT. You must address each of the following bulleted items, below, when responding.

The summer period that this plan covers is June 1, 2021 through August 2, 2021.

For school-aged children:

- Describe how the State will identify school children who received P-EBT benefits during the last month of SY 20-21.
- Describe how the State will identify school children who were eligible for free or reduced price school meals under the NSLP and SBP in SY 20-21 but did not receive P-EBT benefits in the last month of the school year because they attended school in-person and benefitted from a free or reduced price meal service at school. This includes children who were eligible for F/RP meals during the school year and did not receive P-EBT benefits because the children attended school in-person during the school year.

- Describe how the State will identify children who are determined newly eligible for free or reduced price school meals during the covered summer period. States must provide an opportunity for families to apply for free or reduced price meals using the normal application process. States and SFAs should consider maintaining a minimum presence to process Free and Reduced Price Meal applications, perhaps on a part-time or weekly basis. Another alternative is for SFAs to accept new Free and Reduced Price Meal applications during the summer but only process them after the start of the new school year. Children determined eligible on applications *submitted prior to the end of the summer* could then be issued P-EBT benefits retroactively after the start of the new school year. (Note that it is preferable to process applications and issue benefits during the summer period that the benefits are intended to cover).

For children in child care:

- Describe how the State will identify SNAP-enrolled children who received P-EBT child care benefits in the last month of the school year.
- Describe how the State will identify SNAP-enrolled children who would have received P-EBT child care benefits in the last month of the school year, but did not receive benefits because their child care facility was not closed or operating at reduced attendance or hours in that month, and neither their child care facility nor the child’s residence was in the area of a school that was closed or operating at reduced attendance or hours in that month.
- Describe how the State will identify children who are part of a SNAP household who are newly eligible for P-EBT child care benefits during the covered summer period

Response: [please use as much space as needed]

The summer period that this plan covers is June 1, 2021 through August 2, 2021.

For school-aged children:

To identify eligible school children and confirm their eligibility, DHS will use data provided by HIDOE for the month of May 2021, the last monthly data extract HIDOE will provide DHS for the current school year. HIDOE will instruct schools to provide a list of all students eligible for free or reduced-price meals. This list will be developed using the SY 20-21 list of free and reduced-price eligible students as its base. Hawaii will only issue benefits to students who qualify for Free/Reduced benefits and all students who attend CEP schools that participate in the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Program. This list will consist of all eligible students, even those that were not eligible for P-EBT during the regular school year because they had returned to in-person instruction.

HIDOE will continue to provide DHS monthly extract files during the summer that will contain any newly direct certified students that qualify for free meals due to their SNAP eligibility status.

HIDOE's meal application services will not be available from June until late July to accept any new applications. This timeline does not allow for DHS to provide PEBT benefits to those students who become eligible through the application process during the summer by August. Any applications submitted the first day of application services opening until August 2, 2021 will not be processed and approved until the normal school year commences. Those students whose applications are submitted by August 2 and later approved for Free or Reduced Price meals will be eligible for retrospective Summer 2021 PEBT benefits. Those benefits will not be paid until September at the earliest. The income eligibility guidelines used for eligibility will be based on SY 2021/2022 IEG.

For children in child care:

Hawaii's DHS is the lead agency that administers the SNAP program for the State, as well as child care subsidy and child care licensing. DHS will continue to create a monthly extract of active SNAP cases that have a household member under the age of 6 years of age and will capture the case information. This monthly extract will be used to verify a child's SNAP eligibility status during the summer period to ensure that the child is a SNAP recipient at any point during the summer period to receive the full summer month benefit. This file will contain both children that continue to receive SNAP, as well as those that newly eligible for SNAP. P-EBT child care eligibility ends when a child's SNAP enrollment ends.

Hawaii is deferring to USDA's clarification that deems all children under the age of 6 to be enrolled in a covered child care facility. Hawaii's Governor had incorporated in his emergency proclamation additional temporary social distancing requirements for operators of child care centers that results in reduced capacity at the center. These additional requirements have been in effect since April 2020 and thus has resulted in continued reduction in operation for all child care centers Statewide. Hawaii anticipates this will continue to be in effect through the summer months.

4. Benefit Levels

A. U.S. standard Benefit

2021 Covered Summer Period	U.S. Standard P-EBT Benefit		
	Median Length of Covered Summer Period (weekdays)	Daily P-EBT Rate	Standard Benefit
Contiguous U.S.	55	\$6.82	\$375
Alaska	55	10.99	604
Hawaii, Guam, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico	55	7.97	438

B. State-Determined Benefit, Based on Daily Rate

Note: The daily benefit amount – \$6.82 – is only needed if a State elects to set its own covered summer period length; that is to say, if a State declines to use the U.S. standard benefit.

2021 Covered Summer Period	Free Reimbursements			
	Lunch	Breakfast	Snack	Daily Total
Contiguous U.S.	\$3.60	\$2.26	\$0.96	\$6.82
Alaska	5.79	3.64	1.56	10.99
Hawaii, Guam, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico	4.20	2.64	1.13	7.97

Notes:

1. Lunch rates include the 7 cent performance-based reimbursement and the extra 2 cents per meal received by school food authorities in which 60 percent or more of the lunches served during the second preceding school year were served free or at a reduced price.
 2. Breakfast rates are those received by "severe need" schools.
 3. Snack rates are those for afterschool snacks served in afterschool care programs
- Source: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2020-07-22/pdf/2020-15764.pdf>

Civil Rights Statement

The State will continue to comply with civil rights requirements, to include providing equal access to individuals with disabilities and individuals who are limited English proficient.

Administration of State P-EBT Plan

The State will administer P-EBT according to the terms of its approved State plan. In general, conditions related to benefit issuance reporting, administrative funding, and release of information remain in effect for the covered summer period. If the State wishes to change any of the terms of its plan, the State shall first notify USDA and will, if requested by USDA, submit a plan amendment for USDA review and approval.

Reminder

If the State needs to make any significant changes to its Summer 2021 plan after approval, the State needs to submit an amendment to FNS that describes the change and its impact on operating summer P-EBT. USDA will review the amendment and approve allowable amendments.

Signatures and Titles of Requesting SNAP and Child Nutrition State Agency Officials:



Signature
Scott Nakasone, Assistant Division Administrator



Signature
Sharlene Wong, SNS, Program Administrator, HNCP

Date of Request: 5/4/2021