



Food and Nutrition  
Service

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June 29, 2022

**SUBJECT: Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer Program (P-EBT)  
Approval of Illinois' State Plan for Summer 2022**

**TO:** Vista Fletcher  
Regional Administrator  
Midwest Regional Office

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127; the Act), as amended, authorized a temporary assistance program for households with children without access to meals in school and to certain SNAP-enrolled children in child care during the public health emergency originally declared in January 2020. The March 11, 2021 American Rescue Plan Act (the ARP, P.L. 117-2) extends P-EBT through the end of the public health emergency, a period that includes the summer of 2022.

Pursuant to the authority granted under Section 1101 of the Act, FNS approves Illinois' enclosed plan to issue P-EBT benefits to children in schools and child care for the 2022 covered summer period.

### **Summary of State's Plan**

The Illinois Department of Human Services and the Illinois State Board of Education will issue P-EBT benefits through the State's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) EBT card system to households with eligible children. In general, school children are eligible for benefits if they would have received free or reduced price meals at their schools through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) if not for the closure or reduced attendance or hours of their schools. Children in child care are eligible if they are enrolled in SNAP and their child care facility is closed or operating with reduced attendance or hours, or if they live in the area of a school that is closed or operating with reduced attendance or hours. The ARP deems all schools closed for the 2022 P-EBT covered summer period.

### **Children in Schools**

The State and its school districts will identify the children who were eligible to receive free or reduced price NSLP meals as of the end of school year 2021-2022. The State will offer households who become income-eligible for free or reduced price meals the ability to establish their eligibility during the 2022 covered summer period. In addition, the State and its school districts will identify eligible children through direct certification during the same period.

In addition, Illinois will:

- issue the U.S. standard benefit of \$391 to all eligible children,
- set an application submission deadline of July 15 for households of children who become newly eligible during the covered summer period:
  - Illinois SFAs will use their standard NSLP applications for summer P-EBT benefits,

- school districts will process these applications by July 31,
- the State will issue summer P-EBT benefits to these households upon approval of their applications and to all eligible children in a single issuance between September 11 and September 20.

### **Children in Child Care**

The State will, at a minimum, identify all children under age 6 who are enrolled in SNAP during the covered summer period and prior to the end of the federal COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE), if applicable. The State will ensure that children who receive a benefit through P-EBT's child care component do not also receive a benefit through P-EBT's school component for the covered summer period. Finally, the State will await confirmation from USDA that the PHE will extend through the end of the covered summer period before issuing the full summer benefit to children in child care.

In addition, Illinois will:

- issue the U.S. standard benefit to all eligible children:
  - at a minimum, the standard benefit will be \$195,
  - if the public health emergency due COVID-19 continues through the end of summer, the standard benefit will be \$391,
- issue P-EBT benefits for the full covered summer period to children whose SNAP enrollment begins or ends during that period:
  - however, the State will not issue benefits to children whose SNAP enrollment begins after the end of the federal COVID-19 public health emergency, if applicable,
- issue P-EBT summer benefits to children who were under age 6 and not enrolled in school at the start of school year 2021-2022, but who reached their 6<sup>th</sup> birthday prior to the end of the school year and remain enrolled in SNAP during the summer,
- tentatively issue a single benefit for the entire summer period between August 11 and August 20.

Finally, the State will identify risks for improper payments and ensure a high level of integrity.

### **Estimated Caseload and Value of P-EBT Benefits**

Illinois estimates that it will issue \$428.9 million to approximately 1.1 million school children during the 2022 covered summer period. Illinois estimates that it will issue \$127.2 million to approximately 325,000 SNAP-enrolled children in child care assuming the PHE continues through the end of the summer.

### **Release of Information**

Pursuant to Section 1101(e) of the Act, the Secretary hereby authorizes the release of the information necessary to carry out P-EBT in Illinois. Section 1101(e) of the Act states, "Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Agriculture may

authorize State educational agencies and school food authorities administering a school lunch program under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.) to release to appropriate officials administering the supplemental nutrition assistance program such information as may be necessary to carry out this section.”

**Plan Timetable and Revisions**

Illinois will distribute benefits to households consistent with the timeframes identified in the State plan. Should the State encounter challenges or delays that significantly impair its ability to implement the approved P-EBT plan or require substantive changes, the State must notify the FNS Regional Office as soon as possible. The FNS Regional Office will work with the State to identify reasonable solutions and review revised plans for approval or further revision.

**Civil Rights**

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

**Administrative Funds**

The Illinois Department of Human Services will participate in a P-EBT Administrative Budget Planning process using the FNS-366(a) Program and Budget Summary. When the FNS-366(a) is finalized, that will determine the State’s Administrative Grant level. However, the FNS-366(a), Program and Budget Summary, may be updated and revised as the State’s operational plan evolves.

**Reporting**

The Illinois Department of Human Services will complete the FNS-292B, the FNS-46, the FNS-388, and the FNS-778 reports in accordance with existing requirements.

FNS appreciates Illinois’ commitment to meet the nutritional needs of children during a challenging time. If you have questions, please contact the FNS Midwest Regional Office.

Sincerely,

Cindy Long  
Administrator