



Food and Nutrition
Service

1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA
22314

March 1, 2021

SUBJECT: Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer Program (P-EBT)
Approval of Indiana's State Plan for Children in Child Care

TO: Vista Fletcher
Acting Regional Administrator
Midwest Regional Office

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127; the Act) as amended by the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021 and Other Extensions Act (P.L. 116-159) and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (P.L. 116-260) authorized a temporary assistance program for households with certain SNAP-enrolled children in child care during the public health emergency declared on January 27, 2020. Pursuant to the authority granted under Section 1101 of the Act, FNS approves Indiana's enclosed plan to operate P-EBT for children in child care.

Summary of State's Plan

The Indiana Family and Social Services Administration will issue P-EBT benefits through the State's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) EBT card system to households with eligible children. The State's plan for SNAP-enrolled children in child care covers the months of October 2020 through September 2021.

Children in child care are eligible for benefits 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 State will use the best feasibly available data and USDA-approved simplifying assumptions to issue benefits in amounts that are tied as closely as possible to the number of days that eligible children do not receive a meal service through their covered child care facility.

At a minimum, the State will identify all children under age 6 who are enrolled in SNAP at any time since October 1, 2020. 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 same month.

In addition, Indiana will:

- identify the zip code of residence for each SNAP-enrolled child under age 6,
- for each month from October through the end of the school year, determine whether any school in the zip code has at least one school that is issuing P-EBT benefits to its students:
 - if the State identifies at least one such school, all SNAP-enrolled children under age 6 will receive a P-EBT benefit equal to the average statewide P-EBT benefit for school children during that quarter,

- if the State does not identify at least one such school, the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration will work with the Office of Early Childhood and Out of School Learning to verify that the child is enrolled in a child care facility that meets P-EBT eligibility requirements, the child will receive the average statewide P-EBT benefit for school children,
- issue benefits for the months of October through December in a single issuance in March;
- issue benefits for the rest of the months on a retrospective and quarterly basis.

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

Estimated Caseload and Value of P-EBT Benefits

The State will calculate monthly benefits for each eligible child in the household equal to the daily reimbursement for a free breakfast, lunch, and snack multiplied by the number of benefit days calculated as described in the State's plan.

Indiana estimates that it will issue \$97.2 million to approximately 121,000 SNAP-enrolled children in child care from October, 2020 through September 2021.

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 Indiana. 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

Indiana 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

Indiana 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 Indiana Family and Social Services Administration 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 Indiana Family and Social Services Administration will complete the FNS-292B, the FNS-46, the FNS-388, and the FNS-778 reports in accordance with existing requirements.

FNS appreciates Indiana's 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
Deputy Administrator
Child Nutrition Programs