

**Amendment to Approved State Plan for Pandemic EBT
Children in School and/or Child Care, Summer 2022**

Issuing Agency/Office:	FNS / Child Nutrition Programs, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
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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 2022. (2) This document relates to Section 1101 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)

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, expiration 11/30/2023.

**Amendment to Approved State Plan for Pandemic EBT
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1. **State:** New Jersey
2. **Primary Citation:** Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) as amended by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2022
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.

By checking this box, we are indicating that our State will use the U.S. standard benefit for the covered summer period. We understand that USDA is only able to offer an interim standard benefit for children in child care at this time; USDA will provide states with additional guidance in mid to late June 2022 / early July that specifies the remaining amount of the USDA standard benefit for children in child care commensurate with the expiration date of the public health emergency.

- 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 2022 calendars of an enrollment-weighted average, or the median, of a representative sample of its school districts.
 - For the child care portion of the plan, USDA can only guarantee benefits through July 9. USDA considers this to be 1/2 through the typical State's covered summer period. For purposes of calculating an interim summer P-EBT benefit for children in child care, States may apply this 1/2 fraction to the full summer benefit that the State has calculated for school children.

¹ The U.S. standard benefit – as defined in Question #5 of FNS' Summer 2022 P-EBT Q&As – is equal to the median number of weekdays in a sample of each State's largest 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 \$391 per eligible child (55 days at \$7.10 per day). The U.S. standard benefit is higher for Alaska, Hawaii, and the territories; see Q/A #15 for a complete set of standard benefit amounts.

- If the State believes that this date is more or less than 1/2 through the typical summer period of the State's schools, please support your position with data on the most common start dates of the summer break in the State's schools.
- As discussed in item #16 of USDA's P-EBT Summer 2022 Q&As, USDA will provide states with additional guidance by mid to late June / early July that specifies the remaining fraction of the full USDA standard benefit that States may provide to children in child care.

Response: [please use as much space as needed]

- 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
 - Estimated amount issued to non-school children in child care
- d. Estimated total number of children to which the State will issue P-EBT benefits.
 - Estimated number of school children
 - Estimated number of non-school children in child care
- 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
 - Children in child care
 - Please provide tentative issuance dates for the interim benefit for children in child care, and for any remaining amount that States will be able to issue following the release of additional guidance from USDA in mid to late June / early July.
- 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.

For school-aged children:

- Describe how the State will identify school children who received P-EBT benefits during the last month of SY 21-22.

- 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 21-22 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 children who are enrolled in SNAP during the covered summer period and who received P-EBT child care benefits in the last month of the school year.
- Describe how the State will identify children who are enrolled in SNAP during the covered summer period and 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:

c. New Jersey estimates the total amount of P-EBT benefits issued for the covered summer P-EBT period will be \$277,610,000. Out of this total, the estimated amount issued to school children is \$234,600,000 and the estimated amount issued to non-school children in child care is \$43,010,000.

NJ acknowledges that the full amount of \$391 Summer P-EBT benefits may not be available to children under age six who are on SNAP in child care depending on the status of the federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) and whether or not it is terminated prior to June 30, 2022. As a result, prior to issuing Summer P-EBT benefits to children under age six who are on SNAP in child care in September 2022, the State will review the status of the PHE, any additional guidance from FNS, and determine the correct Summer P-EBT benefit amount for children under age six who are on SNAP in child care in order to prevent an over-issuance. In the event that children under age six who are on SNAP in child care are not eligible for the full standard benefit, the estimated amount issued to non-school children under age six who are on SNAP in child care is \$21,450,000 (110,000 x \$195).

d. New Jersey estimates issuing P-EBT benefits to 710,000 children. Out of this total, the estimated number of school children is 600,000 and the estimated number of non-school children in child care is 110,000.

e. New Jersey proposes a tentative P-EBT schedule that will include issuing summer P-EBT benefits in multiple issuances for data received by the requested data submission/data availability date. For school children approved for free or reduced-price school meals at the end of the school year, School Food Authorities (SFAs) will submit the data by the 10th of the provided cutoff due date month following the end of the school year. New Jersey estimates issuing the first issuance of summer P-EBT benefits to these school children in SNAP households approximately 20 days after the requested submission date and approximately 25 days after the requested date for school children in non-SNAP households.

For children in child care, New Jersey plans to issue the first issuance of summer P-EBT benefits for all children under age 6 that were active in SNAP households in the June end of month file eligible for July benefits by the 20th of the following month (e.g. August 20th), contingent on the timeframe of FNS plan approval.

For both school children and children in child care, New Jersey proposes to allow the submission of newly eligible child data by the 10th of each month during the covered summer period and estimated issuance according to the above timeframe for each group (e.g. school children in SNAP households, school children in non-SNAP households, children). This accounts for a second and possibly third issuance for newly eligible school-age and child care children.

f. New Jersey proposes to identify school-aged children and children in child care according to the following process:

For School-Aged Children

By the 10th of the provided cutoff due date month following the end of the school year, SFAs will submit a master list of all children eligible for free- or reduced-price school meals under the NSLP and SBP in SY 2021-2022 (including those who attended school in-person) to the state's P-EBT online submission portal. SFAs will continue to submit a list to the online portal throughout the summer months for any children determined newly eligible for free- or reduced-price school meals. SFAs may choose to continue to accept applications during the summer and

process throughout the summer or process applications after the start of the school year for applications submitted prior to the end of the summer. The application submission deadline is September 9, 2022 at 5pm for households of children who become newly eligible during the covered summer period. The Department of Human Services' Division of Family Development (DFD) continues to be the issuer of benefits and does not determine eligibility. DFD will accept student data from SFAs and the direct certification list from the New Jersey Department of Agriculture for eligible children and process the benefits on an anticipated monthly basis as described earlier in the plan so that children receive benefits during the summer period that the benefits are intended to cover.

For Children in Child Care:

As the state agency administering SNAP benefits, DFD holds all SNAP caseload data. DFD will identify eligible children by querying its eligibility system records ongoing on a monthly basis for all children under the age of 6 in a SNAP household for the prior month. DFD will run the same process in the following month. By following this monthly caseload query process, DFD will be able to identify SNAP-enrolled children who did not receive P-EBT child care benefits in the last month of the school year and newly eligible children in a SNAP household. All children under the age of 6 in a SNAP household for the month of issuance will be included in the benefit issuance file for processing. To account for situations where the child's information may have been submitted by a school for the same month, systems will run a duplicate file check to ensure such children only receive one benefit. DFD plans to issue P-EBT benefits for non-school children in SNAP households on a monthly basis, contingent on the timeframe of FNS plan approval, as described earlier in the plan.

4. Confirmation of remaining elements in the State's approved school plan and/or child care plan

- Please confirm that your P-EBT summer plan mirrors your approved school year 2021-2022 plan for EBT Processing and Benefit Issuance as well as Customer Service (Sections 7 and 8 of the [SY 21-22 State Plan Template for Pandemic EBT](#)). You do not need to describe in detail how you will handle these matters if your summer plan mirrors your approved school year plan(s); but if your summer plan materially differs from your approved school year plan(s), please describe how.

Response:

The NJ Summer P-EBT plan mirrors the approved school year 2021-2022 plan for EBT Processing and Benefit Issuance as well as Customer Service

5. Benefit Levels

A. U.S. Standard Benefit

Standard Benefit for School Children

2022 Covered Summer Period	U.S. Standard P-EBT Benefit School Children		
	Median Length of Covered Summer Period (weekdays)	Daily P-EBT Rate	Standard Benefit
Contiguous U.S.	55	\$7.10	\$391
Alaska	55	11.44	629
Hawaii, Guam, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico	55	8.28	455

Standard Benefit for Children in Child Care (Interim)

2022 Covered Summer Period	U.S. Standard P-EBT Benefit Children in Child Care (Interim)			
	Median Length of Covered Summer Period (weekdays)	Length of the Summer During the Public Health Emergency	Daily P-EBT Rate	Interim Standard Benefit
Contiguous U.S.	55	1/2	\$7.10	\$195
Alaska	55	1/2	11.44	315
Hawaii, Guam, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico	55	1/2	8.28	228

State-Determined Benefit, Based on Daily Rate

Note: The daily benefit amount – \$7.10 – 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.

2022 Covered Summer Period	Free Reimbursements			
	Lunch	Breakfast	Snack	Daily Total
Contiguous U.S.	\$3.75	\$2.35	\$1.00	\$7.10
Alaska	6.03	3.78	1.63	11.44
Hawaii, Guam, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico	4.37	2.74	1.17	8.28

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-2021-07-16/pdf/2021-15107.pdf>

Civil Rights Statement

The State will continue to comply with civil rights requirements by not discriminating on the ground of race, color, or national origin, by providing meaningful access to its programs and activities for individuals who are limited English proficient, and by providing equal access to individuals with disabilities.

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 2022 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:

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

Rose Chamberlain
Director

Date of Request: _____