



Food and Nutrition  
Service

1320 Braddock Place  
Alexandria, VA  
22314

June 19, 2020

**SUBJECT: Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer Program (P-EBT)  
Approval of North Carolina's State Plan Amendments**

**TO: Willie Taylor  
Regional Administrator  
Southeastern Regional Office**

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127) (FFCRA or the Act) authorized a temporary assistance program for households with children affected by school closures during the public health emergency that was declared on January 27, 2020. On March 20, 2020 the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) announced and began accepting State plans for the Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) program. Pursuant to the authority granted under Section 1101 of the Act, FNS approved the State of North Carolina's plan to operate P-EBT on April 16, 2020.

On June 12 and June 18, 2020, the State submitted three P-EBT plan amendments to FNS. The first is a revised amendment to extend P-EBT benefits to children who became newly eligible for P-EBT benefits since the date that schools closed. That amendment will cover newly eligible children whether they are eligible through receipt of SNAP benefits or certified by application.

The second amendment would extend benefits to children who receive free or reduced price meal benefits in Cherokee Central Schools (CCS). The second amendment provides P-EBT benefits to CCS children who were eligible at the time that schools closed or have become eligible since that time.

Under both the first and second amendments, children who have become newly eligible since schools closed will receive P-EBT benefits back to the beginning of the month of their eligibility.

The third amendment adds to the number of days covered by the State's April 16 P-EBT plan. The approved plan covered 44 closed school days; with schools closed through the end of the school year, that increased to 65 days.

North Carolina's proposed amendments would add 16,200 new beneficiaries to its P-EBT plan. Separately, the State adjusted downward the overall participation estimate from its April 16 plan. The net effect of the amendments and the participation adjustment is to decrease the number of children receiving P-EBT benefits from 950,000 to 905,000, and increase the estimated issuance amount from \$238.3 million to \$336.9 million. FNS approves these amendments.

Sincerely,

Cindy Long  
Acting Associate Administrator  
Regional Operations and Support