# State Plan for Pandemic EBT Children in School and Child Care, 2020-2021

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Issuing	FNS / Child Nutrition Programs, Supplemental Nutrition		
Agency/Office:	Assistance Program		
Title of Document:	State Plan for Pandemic EBT: Children in School and Child Care,		
The of Document.	2020-2021		
<b>Document ID:</b>			
Z-RIN:			
Date of Issuance:	January 29, 2021		
<b>Replaces:</b>	laces: N/A		
	(1) This document is a template to assist States in the development of State plans to operate Pandemic EBT for school children during		
	school year (SY) 2020-2021 and for children in child care during		
	federal fiscal year 2021. (2) This document relates to Section 4601		
Summary:	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) and the Consolidated		
	Appropriations Act, 2021 (P.L. 116-260).		
Disclaimer:			
	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: <u>https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/state-guidance-coronavirus-pandemic-ebt-pebt</u>

The P-EBT Assistance for Children in Schools and Child Care should be covered under an Emergency Information Collection Request for the Pandemic EBT (Schools), to be adjusted as appropriate, which is currently under review at OMB. Once OMB has approved the request and assigned the OMB# Control Number, FNS will include the necessary information on the State Plan.

# <u>State Plan for Pandemic EBT</u> Children in School and Child Care, 2020-2021

## 1. State: <u>Illinois</u>

2. Primary Citations: Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA); Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021 and Other Extensions Act; Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021

## 3. Executive Summary:

Please provide the following data. In addition, please include a statement indicating that you commit to informing USDA of any significant increase or decrease in these data points during the *date range*<sup>1</sup> covered by this initial plan (or subsequent amendment).

Note that P-EBT benefits for school children are available from the start of school year 2020-2021. P-EBT benefits for children in child care are only available from the start of federal fiscal year 2021, or October 1, 2020.

- a. The *date range* covered by this State plan or amendment
  - for children in school
  - for children in child care
  - October 2020- June 2021
- b. Estimated monthly and total *amount* of P-EBT benefits the State will issue within this plan/amendment's date range.
  - Estimated amount issued to school children in SNAP households.
  - Estimated amount issued to school children in non-SNAP households
  - Estimated amount issued to non-school children in child care \$268,040,512.96
- c. Estimated total *number* of children to which the State will issue P-EBT benefits.
  - Estimated number of school children in SNAP households
  - Estimated number of school children in non-SNAP households
  - Estimated number of non-school children in child care 336,395 unique children
- d. Estimated total amount of administrative funds the State needs to complete the work described in this State plan/amendment.<sup>2</sup>
- e. Tentative P-EBT issuance schedule (the dates on which you will issue P-EBT benefits).
  - School children in SNAP households

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The date range covered by P-EBT State plan or amendment. For example: a State's initial plan could cover August

<sup>31</sup> through September 30, 2020; and a later amendment could cover October 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Note that States may only claim 100% reimbursement for P-EBT administrative expenses incurred from October 1, 2020 forward.

- School children in non-SNAP households
- Children in child care
  - i. Initial plan is to make issuances available to Households 11<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> of each month. Availability will be based on their regular avail date and schedule provided.
  - ii. As schedule allows, initial plan is:

Benefit Months	Available to customer 11 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> of Month
Oct20-Mar21	June 2021
Apr21-Jun21	Aug 2021
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\*the April through June CC P-EBT cannot be issued until August due to the need to recalculate the average School P-EBT amount for the same time period.

## **Response:**

## 4. P-EBT for School Children

## A. Eligible Children

Standard for P-EBT Eligibility

A child is eligible for P-EBT benefits if two conditions are met:

- 1. The child would be eligible for free or reduced-price meals if the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program were operating normally. This includes children who are:
  - a. directly certified or determined "other source categorically eligible" for SY 2020-2021, or
  - b. certified through submission of a household application processed by the child's school district for SY 2020-2021, *or*
  - c. enrolled in a Community Eligibility Provision school or a school operating under Provisions 2 or 3, *or*
  - d. directly certified, determined other source categorically eligible, or certified by application in SY 2019-2020 *and* the school district has not made a new school meal eligibility determination for the child in SY 2020-2021.
- 2. The child does not receive free or reduced-price meals at the school because the school is closed or has been operating with reduced attendance or hours for at least 5 consecutive days in the current school year. Once the minimum 5 consecutive day threshold is met, children are eligible to receive P-EBT benefits for closures or reductions in hours due to COVID-19.
  - Describe how the State will identify eligible school children for P-EBT. Also describe what measures the State will take to prevent the issuance of benefits to school year 2019-2020 graduates and other non-students.
  - How will the State determine and/or confirm each child's eligibility for free or reduced-price meals? Please describe separately for SNAP-recipient and non-SNAP-recipient children, children in public and non-public schools, new students (such as kindergarteners and transfer students), and children who become eligible during the school year.

- How will the State confirm each child's lack of access to meals at school? Please describe separately for SNAP-recipient and non-SNAP-recipient children, and children in public and non-public schools.
- Describe the process that the State will use to update and re-establish each child's inperson and virtual schedules. How frequently will that information be updated? (Note that this information must be updated no less frequently than every other month.).
- Describe the roles and responsibilities of each State agency or other partners involved in P-EBT (e.g. which agency is responsible for confirming eligibility).
- Describe any simplifying assumptions the State proposes to use and the justification for using those simplifying assumptions. Please address both in detail. In addition, please describe any proposed measures that the State will take to address program integrity when using the proposed simplifying assumptions.

## **B. School Status**

Standard for P-EBT Eligible School Status

Children are eligible for P-EBT benefits if they are eligible for free or reduced price meals, but are unable to receive those meals at school due to the operating status of their schools as outlined below:

- 1. The school is closed (including any delayed start or early closure to the school year), or the school is operating with reduced attendance or hours.
- 2. School closures do not include weekends, or days when the school is closed due to a holiday or regularly scheduled break (Thanksgiving, New Year's Day, Spring Break, etc.).
- 3. The period of closure or reduced attendance or hours must meet the current school year minimum 5 consecutive day threshold before any child is eligible for P-EBT benefits. Once the minimum 5 consecutive day threshold is met, children are eligible to receive P-EBT benefits for closures or reductions in hours and/or attendance due to COVID-19.
  - Describe how the State will identify, confirm and monitor the status of individual schools. Also describe how the State will identify the period of duration of the closure, reduced hours, or reduced attendance of the State's schools.
  - How will the State confirm that the child's school has been closed or is operating with reduced attendance or hours for a minimum of 5 consecutive days?
  - Describe how this information will be obtained and how often the State will collect updated information from schools. (Note that this information must be updated no less frequently than every other month.)
  - Describe the State's plan for monitoring changes in eligible school status between the State's bi-monthly (or more frequent) collection of updated school data. Describe how the State will use this updated school information to revise issuance amounts.
  - Describe any simplifying assumptions the State proposes to use and the justification for using those simplifying assumptions. Please address both in detail. In addition, please describe any proposed measures that ensure program integrity when using the proposed simplifying assumptions.

## 5. P-EBT for Children in Child Care

#### Standard for P-EBT Eligibility

A child enrolled in a covered child care facility is eligible for P-EBT if:

- 1. The child is a member of a household that received SNAP benefits at any time since October 1, 2020.
- 2. The child is enrolled in a covered child care facility. (Note that under the FFCRA, USDA deems all children under the age of 6 to be enrolled in a covered child care facility.)
- 3. During a public health emergency designation, the child's child care facility is closed or is operating with reduced attendance or hours for at least 5 consecutive days, resulting in the child's inability to attend the facility; or one or more schools in the area of the facility, or in the area of the child's residence, is closed or is operating with reduced attendance or hours.
  - Describe how the State will identify eligible children and confirm their eligibility consistent with the above standard.
    - IDHS will identify all children under age 6 as of 10/01/2020.
    - IDHS will then identify the Benefit Months (between October 2020 and June 2021) the child received SNAP assistance. \*Only the benefit months where the child is approved for SNAP will we review for CC P-EBT eligibility.
    - IDHS will then check to see if these children already received School P-EBT benefits.
      - Child has received School P-EBT- No Childcare PEBT benefit will be created.
      - Child has not received School P-EBT—an issuance will be created for the average Childcare P-EBT amount for that benefit month. \*If a School P-EBT request is received by DHS subsequent to this Childcare P-EBT issuance being created, no School P-EBT issuance will be created.
  - How will the State determine and confirm the child's receipt of SNAP benefits in accordance with relevant SNAP privacy requirements?
    - IDHS is the record holder of SNAP eligibility. IDHS will query our eligibility database to confirm the child was eligible for SNAP for the benefit month.
  - How will the State determine that a child's residence is in the area of one or more schools that is closed or is operating with reduced attendance or hours? Illinois has demonstrated that at least one school in each county has children that were eligible for School P-EBT benefits for the months of 10/2020 through 3/2021. Illinois will verify this condition again for the 4/2021 through end of school year, once those benefits have been issued. If there are counties that do not have an eligible school in their county or a border county, an update will be provided on eligible areas.
  - For children whose residence is *not* in the area of one or more closed schools or schools operating with reduced attendance or hours, how will the State determine that child's eligibility? Specifically, how will the State determine that: For 10/2020 through 3/2021, every county has at least one school with eligible children. This will

be reexamined for the April 2021 through end of school year. We will first look at each county, if a county does not have an eligible school, then we will examine neighboring counties in the region. An update will be provided if the eligible area has changed.

- the child's child care facility is closed or is operating with reduced attendance or hours, or
- the child's child care facility is in the area of one or more schools that are closed or operating with reduced attendance or hours?
- Are there any State or local public health ordinances that limit the capacity of child care facilities in response to COVID-19 in your State? If yes, describe how you will use those to find that all SNAP-participant children under age 6 are eligible for P-EBT in those areas? Not applicable
- Describe the process that the State will use to update and re-establish each child's continued P-EBT eligibility and benefit level consistent with changes in the operating status of the child care facility or area schools? How frequently will that information be updated? (Note that this information must be updated no less frequently than every other month.)
  - School P-EBT is issued based on actual attendance data. The average amount of Childcare P-EBT will be based upon the average amount of School P-EBT issued across the school year months. Illinois has already demonstrated that from October 2020 through March 2020, at least one school in each county provided P-EBT benefits. The consistent School PEBT eligibility day has demonstrated that operation status has remained consistent throughout the school year. However, Illinois can additionally verify each county has a school with eligible P-EBT children for the April-end of school time period as well when actual School P-EBT issuances are averaged at the end of summer.
- Describe the roles and responsibilities of each State agency or other partners involved in P-EBT (e.g. which agency is responsible for confirming eligibility).
  - Illinois State Board of Education confirms that at least one school in each county of Illinois meets the eligibility requirement. Provide verification of count of schools in each county for each month that have eligible P-EBT students.
  - IDHS will identify and create issuances for all eligible Childcare P-EBT children.
- What simplifying assumptions does the State propose? Why must the State make those simplifying assumptions? Please address both of these questions in detail.
  - Unless otherwise stated, Childcare P-EBT plan mirrors the approved School P-EBT plan for the State.
  - The Childcare P-EBT Benefit Amount will be standard across the state based on the average School P-EBT Benefit amount. This is because all counties within the state qualify for school P-EBT benefit. The average number of eligible PEBT days remains steady across all the months of School PEBT eligibility being considered.
    - Illinois is using actual attendance data to create school P-EBT issuances, therefore our use of average School PEBT days is accurate to average for Chidcare PEBT.

- Attempting to data mine down to a specific geographic location would be labor intensive, as it would require the time and resources of subject matter experts. Additionally, averaging a smaller subset of issuances could result in inequity of benefit amounts based on when school data is received to determine the average issuance. By using a Statewide average, we reduce the impact of late submittal of attendance data, as we pull from a broader data source.
- Having a standard statewide amount is a clear, concise message to SNAP households that will assist in the understanding of benefit amounts and the reason for them. As these benefits will load into their same EBT account as their SNAP. If customers know what amount to expect for their Childcare PEBT issuance, there will be less disruption and allows the customer the ability to budget.
- Many households in Illinois are Simplified Reporting Households that are not required to report address changes during their cert period. Having varying amounts per residency can create an increased amount of error and customer confusion.
- Illinois will ensure that no child receives both Childcare P-EBT and School P-EBT for the same benefit month. If School P-EBT has already been issued, then no Childcare P-EBT will be allowed. If a late School P-EBT eligibility is reported after Childcare P-EBT was issued, the School P-EBT will not be allowed.
  - \*Note that no overpayment nor supplement will be detected in these situations. Eligibility will be presumed for the first P-EBT program (childcare vs. school) they were identified.

#### 6. Benefit Levels

Standard for Benefit Levels

1. The full daily benefit level for each eligible child is equal to the free reimbursement for a breakfast, a lunch, and a snack for school year 2020-2021. The benefit is multiplied by the number of days that the eligible child's status makes them eligible for P-EBT benefits.

SY 2020-2021	Free Reimbursements USDA School Meal Programs			
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021			Snack	Daily
	Lunch	Breakfast	(NEW)	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

• Describe the benefit levels proposed, including how days of eligibility will be determined. What simplifying assumptions does the State propose? Why must the State make those simplifying assumptions? Please address both of these questions in detail.

#### **Response:** [please use as much space as needed]

Childcare P-EBT will be a set average of School P-EBT benefits that were received by school P-EBT children across the State to date. This is actual attendance data that represents the number of days the children were without access to the in-school meal. (See simplified assumptions for further clarification)

### This amount will be 16days X \$6.82= **\$109.12/month** for months October 202 through March 2021

Illinois will recalculate the Childcare P-EBT amount for April 2021 through June 2021 in August 2021, after the bulk of School P-EBT has been issued for the same time period. The CC Benefit amount will be based on the average amount of School P-EBT that was issued over the 3 month period.

#### This will result in 2 different CC P-EBT benefit amounts for Illinois:

	Benefit Months	CC P-EBT Issuance
		amount
	October 2020 - March 2021	\$109.12
	April 2021 - June 2020	TBD

Average School PEBT days per month			
	Average # of days (round		
Benefit Month	up)		
10/1/2020	18		
11/1/2020	14		
12/1/2020	14		
1/1/2021	16		
2/1/2021	15		
3/1/2021	17		
Average # of days	16		

### 7. Implementation Timeline, EBT Processing, and Benefit Issuance

Please provide an implementation timeline for SY 2020-2021 with estimated dates for major milestones in your plan.

- States should develop their timeline cooperatively, including input from its EBT processor and all State agencies involved in implementing P-EBT. Instead of using specific dates, describe important milestones and realistic durations between them. USDA suggests that States build their timelines from the date USDA approves the State's plan (Day #0).
- The timeline must include the State's tentative issuance dates. In SY 2019-2020, most States issued in phases, and on a rolling basis thereafter. For example: issuance to SNAP households Day #10, to non-SNAP households on Day #15, and to newly identified cases from Day #16 onward. This is a best practice, which we encourage States to continue.
- Examples of other possible milestones include, but are not limited to:
  - State Education agency provides student data to SNAP State agency (Day #5)
  - P-EBT hotline becomes active (Day #9)
  - Public notice campaign begins (Day #10), etc.

Illinois has and will continue to coordinate with the EBT processor, Conduent, to ensure proper time is allowed for processing Childcare P-EBT benefits to load to existing SNAP accounts. The initial load of PEBT issuances goal is end of May for the June availability. This timeline may shift depending on timeframe of approval. A message will be added to our LINK website and DHS Website informing customers of the upcoming issuance and requirements for eligibility.

Please also address each of the following:

• Will the State issue P-EBT benefits on a unique P-EBT card design? If so, who will receive these cards, non-SNAP households only? Or also SNAP households? Childcare P-EBT Benefits will be added to the existing LINK/EBT accounts, so no new card will be issued specifically for Childcare P-EBT.

- How will the State distinguish P-EBT from SNAP and D-SNAP issuances? USDA strongly encourages the use of a sub-benefit type, even if your State did not do so in SY 2019-2020. This will greatly facilitate the States' ability to report and USDA to maintain accountability for P-EBT. Illinois has a P-EBT indicator set in the database for these issuanes that are flowing through the EBT system as DSNAP issuances. We are able to distinguish these apart from any potential future DSNAP issuance within our eligibility system.
- What will be your draw/spend priority for P-EBT, SNAP, and D-SNAP? USDA suggests making P-EBT first on your draw/spend priority. We will utilize our current drawdown priority which first pulls by oldest availability date, then if same day availability will pull down P-EBT/DSNAP prior to SNAP.
- How will the State handle expungement of P-EBT benefits? USDA recommends that States follow the same expungement rules that the State currently follows for SNAP. We are utilizing the same SNAP expungement timeframe.
- During SY 2019-2020, large numbers of P-EBT cards were returned to EBT processors via mail, due to incorrect addresses. How will you and your EBT processor handle returned P-EBT cards? How will you handle the need to issue replacement cards in these cases? This will not be an issue with Childcare P-EBT as households already have been issued cards or are handled through the regular LINK/EBT process.
- Will you issue *new* P-EBT cards to existing P-EBT households? N/A for Childcare P-EBT as we are adding the issuance to exiting accounts.
  - If so, who will receive these cards? Non-SNAP households only? Or also SNAP households?
  - If not, how will you handle cases where the P-EBT household no longer has their P-EBT card?

### 8. Customer Service

Recommended Standard for Household Support

USDA strongly encourages States to develop a customer service plan that anticipates common questions from households of children that are eligible and potentially eligible to participate in P-EBT, and that ensures that all who are eligible are able to receive and use their P-EBT benefits.

- 1. USDA strongly encourages States to provide a means to resolve disputes and answer questions from actual or potential P-EBT households.
- 2. USDA strongly encourages States to provide relevant program information to actual and potential P-EBT households.
- How will the State resolve disputes or issuance errors (incorrect benefit amount, denied benefits, etc.)? Based on the large number of such inquiries received by USDA, the States, and EBT processors, USDA suggests a phone number (hotline) staffed by personnel empowered to research and address such cases.

- Please describe how the State will serve groups with potential access problems, for example: homeless children, foster children, children without social security numbers, children with limited English proficiency, households without internet access, and people living with disabilities.
- Describe the State's public information campaign. That is, the information you will provide to the general public (i.e., *not directly* to P-EBT participants), and how you will provide that information (i.e., print or broadcast advertising, social media, mailers to the general population).
- Describe what information you will provide for households that do not want the P-EBT benefit that is directly issued to them. How dispose of the card, etc.
- Describe the information you will provide *directly* to P-EBT participants (this is different than the information you provide to the general public), and how you will provide that information. For example:
  - What will you provide to explain the purpose of P-EBT and how to use the benefit? Based on the large number and wide variety of public inquiries that USDA, States, and EBT processor call centers received regarding P-EBT in Spring and Summer of 2020, USDA recommends it include:
    - A description of P-EBT
    - Instructions for PINing a P-EBT card
    - Explanation of where benefits can be used
    - Explanation of how benefits can and cannot be used (i.e., eligible foods and non-eligible items)
    - Explanation of violations and penalties, such as trafficking
    - An indication that benefits are non-transferable
    - Instructions for destroying the card, if they want to decline benefits
    - Information regarding a hotline, helpdesk, or website/portal that participants can reach out to, if they have questions, need assistance (setting up a PIN, for example)
  - How will you provide P-EBT information to non-SNAP households? How will you provide P-EBT information to SNAP households?
    - Will you provide information via mailers? Will the mailer(s) be a flyer/brochure, buck slip, letter, or some other alternative? USDA recommends flyers/brochures, because these can be used more flexibly than buck slips.
    - Will you provide information via e-mail, text messages, social media, website, robo-call, and/or other electronic means?

Childcare P-EBT will be issued to existing SNAP households. These households are able to contact the State through their normal channels as SNAP recipients. In addition to these channels, they are also able to use the established P-EBT customer service options. Illinois has a dedicated P-EBT webpage that contains P-EBT information, that Childcare P-EBT information will be added. This webpage also allows for P-EBT inquiry requests to be

submitted and received by our dedicated P-EBT email box. The P-EBT hotline will also be available to answer any questions customers may have.

This population already has received SNAP benefits, so they will have received all relevant instructions on use, policies and procedures through the normal channels.

The P-EBT FAQ will be updated with Childcare P-EBT information then posted online and shared through communications and advocate channels.

We will utilize our communication team to provide announcements through all avenues, including social media of the eligibility requirement and upcoming deposits.

#### 9. Over-issuance of P-EBT benefits

States should outline a process to recover or adjust P-EBT payments to correct errors on previous issuances. States cannot simply apply their existing SNAP benefit claim process to P-EBT. Accordingly, States should develop P-EBT-specific rules and procedures and include those in their State plans. States must also consider the capability of their SNAP systems to distinguish P-EBT from SNAP benefits.

The process should take into consideration that many households received their benefits, without application, through an automated match process that relied on the State's own administrative data. Reclaiming benefits under those circumstances calls for a process that weighs the equity of the claim, the burden on affected households, and the likelihood and costs of recovery. Given those considerations, a State's P-EBT plan should consider reasonable thresholds for taking action to recover over-issued benefits. States that establish a process for benefit recovery must provide clear notice to beneficiaries of the circumstances under which the State may attempt to recover benefits or reduce a future issuance. Under no circumstances may the State reduce a SNAP benefit to settle a P-EBT claim.

Finally, the States recognize that USDA is responsible for ensuring accountability of funds for P-EBT purposes. As part of its oversight responsibilities, USDA may hold State agencies liable for aggregate over-issuances or improper payments. USDA's course of action is to pursue P-EBT over-issuance claims in the aggregate where USDA believes such action is merited, based on the nature of the error that gave rise to the over-issuance, the size of the error, and whether such action would advance program purposes.

**Response:** [please use as much space as needed]

Illinois confirms that no attempt to recoup an overissuance of P-EBT benefits will be made against a households SNAP benefits. Childcare PEBT will only be issued if the child was approved for SNAP for a given benefit month. Because of this, overpayment occurrence risk is relatively low. However, Illinois will practice the same threshold of \$500 claim amount before investigating any possible overpayment claim creation.

#### **10. Benefit Issuance Reporting**

The State agrees to complete the FNS-292 form as well as all other normally recurring SNAP reporting, including the FNS 46, 388, and 778 reports, on a timely basis in accordance with requirements.

#### **11. Administrative Funding**

A separate grant to cover State level administrative costs associated with the administration of P-EBT will be awarded to the SNAP State Agency within each State, for the period of performance October 1, 2020 through September 30 2021. As the authorized grantee, the SNAP State Agency will be granted access to the associated letter-of-credit in which the administrative grant funds will be placed. As P-EBT related State administrative costs may be incurred by State agencies other than the SNAP State Agency, the SNAP State Agency will be responsible for entering into interagency agreements in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding, or document of similar construct, with all other respective State agencies responsible for delivering P-EBT benefits. The SNAP State Agency will be responsible for reimbursing the administrative costs of all associated agencies accordingly.

Prior to USDA releasing the grant for administrative funding, each SNAP State Agency will be required to submit a P-EBT Budget Plan using the FNS-366(a) Program and Budget Summary Statement. Funds will not be released to the SNAP State Agency's letter-of-credit until this plan is submitted and approved. The SNAP State Agency's Budget Plan should include the estimated administrative costs for all State agencies that will be handling P-EBT.

As noted in Item 9 above, the SNAP State Agency will be also responsible for reporting all administrative expenditures on a separate FNS-778, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Federal Financial Report designated specifically for P-EBT. The expenditures on the FNS-778 should align with those outlined in the FNS-366(a), Program and Budget Summary Statement. The forms associated with P-EBT will be modified accordingly.

### **12. Release of Information**

Per Section 1101(e) of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act: 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."

### 13. 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.

### 14. Administration of State P-EBT Plan

The State will administer P-EBT according to the terms of its approved State plan. 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.

# Signature and Title of Requesting SNAP and Child Nutrition State Agency Officials:

Leslie K. Cully

Signature Print Name and Title Leslie K. Cully, Illinois SNAP Director

Signature Print Name and Title

Date of Request: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_