

**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
Title of Document:	Amendment to Approved State Plan for Pandemic EBT: Children in School and/or Child Care, Summer 2022
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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:** American Samoa
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: American Samoa elects the U.S. standard benefits for the covered summer period at the rate for Hawaii and the territories. As such, the AS P-EBT State Plan covers a period of 55 days for the summer of 2022 at a daily rate of \$8.28 or \$455 in total benefits per child for 14,050 school children.

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 \$6,392,750
- Estimated amount issued to non-school children in child care - N/A

ci. Estimated total number of children to which the state will issue P-EBT benefits.

- Estimated number of school children 14,050
- Estimated number of non-school children in child care - N/A

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 - October 18, 2022
- Children in child care - N/A
- 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.

Response: The American Samoa Nutrition Assistance Program (ASNAP) is responsible for issuing P-EBT benefits for school year 2021-2022 and the summer of 2022. As such, the ASNAP can easily identify school children who receive P-EBT benefits during the last month of SY2021-2022 as we keep records of all P-EBT issuances.

- 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.

Response: The American Samoa School Lunch Program (SLP) automatically qualifies all children for free meals once they register for school in either public or private schools. Thus, all school-aged children who are verified through the official enrollment list from the ASDOE who registered in a public or private school during SY2021-2022 automatically qualify for P-EBT benefits. Moreover, the AS State Plan for the regular school year only covers the period from February 22, 2022, to June 10, 2022 when school children temporarily lost access to free meals because of the closure of public and private elementary and secondary schools including Early Childhood Education due to the first community spread of the coronavirus in the territory. This includes virtual learning days during the last six weeks when schools resumed on a hybrid schedule from May 2 to June 10, 2022 where students in 1) ECE, kindergarten and grades 1-4 were on full virtual learning, 2) grades 5-7 in big schools were on virtual learning four days weekly, 3) grade 8 in big schools and grades 5-8 in small schools were on virtual learning 3 days weekly; 4) grades 9-11 were on virtual learning 4 days weekly, and 5) grade 12 were on virtual learning 3 days weekly.

- 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 SF As 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 SF As 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).

Response: Given that all children in American Samoa schools are eligible for free meals, the ASDOE's SY 2021-2022 official enrollment list will be used to determine who qualifies for summer P-EBT benefits.

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.

Response: N/A

- 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.

Response: N/A

- 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: N/A

Response: See above.

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: This confirms that our Summer P-EBT State Plan mirrors our approved State Plan for SY2021-2022.

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:



Signature
Talauega Dr. Samasoni Asaeli, Director
American Samoa Department of Education



Signature
Muavaefa'atasi John E. Suisala
American Samoa Department of Human and Social Services

Date of Request: 9/14/2022