



Food and Nutrition  
Service

1320 Braddock Place  
Alexandria, VA  
22314

July 22, 2020

SUBJECT: Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer Program (P-EBT)  
Approval of Rhode Island's State Plan Amendment

TO: Kurt Messner  
Regional Administrator  
Northeast 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 Rhode Island's plan to operate P-EBT on April 13, 2020. FNS approved an amended plan to cover additional school days on May 4 after the State's Governor closed schools through the end of the school year.

On July 16, 2020, the State submitted a second amendment to its P-EBT plan. Rhode Island's previously approved plans did not cover children who became newly eligible for P-EBT benefits between the date that schools closed in March and the end of the school year in June. This amended plan will cover newly eligible children who were directly certified or certified by their school districts by application. The State estimates that its amended plan will extend P-EBT coverage to an additional 560 children.

FNS approves the State's P-EBT plan amendment. The amended plan will increase the number of children receiving P-EBT benefits from an estimated 73,205 to 73,765, and increase the estimated issuance amount from \$26.5 million to \$26.7 million.

Sincerely,

Cindy Long  
Acting Associate Administrator  
Regional Operations and Support