# Amendment to Approved State Plan for Pandemic EBT Children in School and Child Care, School Year 2021-2022

| 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,     |  |  |
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|                          | (1) This document is a template to assist states in the development |  |  |
|                          | of state plans to operate Pandemic EBT for children in schools or   |  |  |
|                          | child care during school year (SY) 2021-2022. (2) This document     |  |  |
| Summary:                 | relates to Section 4601 of the Families First Coronavirus Response  |  |  |
| Summary.                 | 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 of 2021 (P.L. 117-2).                      |  |  |

Additional context and background for this document can be found at: <a href="https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/state-guidance-coronavirus-pandemic-ebt-pebt">https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/state-guidance-coronavirus-pandemic-ebt-pebt</a>

The P-EBT Assistance for Children in Schools and Child Care is covered under OMB Control # 0584-0660, Pandemic EBT (Schools) which expires on August 31, 2021. The collection covers the burden associated with states submitting school year plans and the submission of the FNS-366a and SF-425 reporting forms. FNS has submitted a renewal request for OMB # 0584-0660, Pandemic EBT (Schools) which accounts for the information collection burden associated with the increased complexity of determining benefit levels under the Schools portion of P-EBT, administrative cost grants, and submitting plans for the Child Care and Summer portions of P-EBT which are not currently approved under OMB #0584-0660

# Amended State Plan for Pandemic EBT Children in School and Child Care, 2021-2022

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

American Rescue Plan Act of 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).

- a. The *date range* covered by this state plan or amendment
  - for children in school
  - for children in child care
- 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
- 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
- d. Tentative P-EBT issuance schedule (the dates on which you will issue P-EBT benefits).
  - School children in SNAP households
  - School children in non-SNAP households
  - Children in child care

#### Response:

For details regarding school aged children, see previously approved P-EBT Plan for SY 2021-2022.

Virginia will issue retroactive P-EBT benefits for eligible SNAP recipient children in child care for SY 2021-2022.

The Commonwealth is committed to informing the USDA of any significant changes in the data during the period covered by this amended plan. The children identified under this amended plan includes non-school age SNAP children deemed eligible for childcare services. Virginia

will only issue P-EBT benefits to children who are deemed enrolled in a covered child care facility<sup>2</sup>.

- a. The *date range* covered by this plan amendment for children in child care is September 1, 2021 June 30, 2022.
- b. The estimated *monthly* and total amount of P-EBT benefits Virginia will issue within this plan amendment's date range for children in child care is based on CACFP meal claims for the state.
  - i. Estimated *monthly* amount to be issued to non-school children in child care for September 2021 December 2021 is \$32.91 per eligible child

| SEPTEMBER 2021 | 109,711 | \$3,610,589.01 |
|----------------|---------|----------------|
| OCTOBER 2021   | 116,253 | \$3,825,886.23 |
| NOVEMBER 2021  | 121,020 | \$3,982,768.20 |
| DECEMBER 2021  | 123,694 | \$4,070,769.54 |

ii. Estimated *monthly* amount to be issued to non-school children in child care for January 2022 – June 2022 is **\$28.93 per eligible child** 

| JANUARY 2022  | 122,452 | \$3,542,536.36 |
|---------------|---------|----------------|
| FEBRUARY 2022 | 129,296 | \$3,740,533.28 |
| MARCH 2022    | 134,094 | \$3,879,426.21 |
| APRIL 2022    | 136,709 | \$3,954,991.37 |
| MAY 2022      | 139,089 | \$4,023,844.77 |
| JUNE 2022     | 142,694 | \$4,128,137.42 |

- iii. Estimated **total** amount to be issued to non-school children in child care for September 2021 June 2022 is \$38,759,482.39
- c. Estimated number of non-school children in child care: 1,275,015
- d. Estimated total amount of administrative funds the state needs to complete the work described in this state plan amendment: \$50,000.
- e. The tentative P-EBT issuance schedule to issue to children in child care is as follows:
  - Retroactive benefits for September 2021- June 2022 will be issued on a staggered basis within 90 days of approval of this plan amendment.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The date range covered by the P-EBT state plan or amendment. A state's plan will typically cover the instructional months in the state's school year (September 2021 through June 2022, for example).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Under the December 2020 amendment to the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), all children under the age of 6 will be considered enrolled in a covered child care facility.

## 4. P-EBT for School Children (see Q&As #6-24)

## A. Eligible Children

Standard for P-EBT Eligibility

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

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:

directly certified or determined "other source categorically eligible" for SY 2021-2022, *or* certified through submission of a household application processed by the child's school district for SY 2021-2022, *or* 

enrolled in a Community Eligibility Provision school or a school operating under Provisions 2 or 3,

or

on the school's most current prior year list of directly certified children, children determined other source categorically eligible, or children certified by application *and* the school district has not made a new school meal eligibility determination for the child in SY 2021-2022.

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 2020-2021 graduates and other non-students. (Please review P-EBT Q&As #16-19 on P-EBT eligible and P-EBT ineligible virtual learning models.)
- How will the state determine and/or confirm each child's eligibility for free or reduced-price meals<sup>3</sup>? 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 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.

**Response:** For details regarding school aged children, see previously approved P-EBT Plan for SY 2021-2022.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The burden associated with National School Lunch Program applications is covered under OMB Control # 0584-0026, 7 CFR Part 245 - Determining Eligibility for Free & Reduced Price Meals and Free Milk in Schools, expiration date 7/31/23.

#### **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:

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.

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.).

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.
- Please review P-EBT Q&As #16-19 on P-EBT eligible and P-EBT ineligible virtual learning models.

**Response:** See previously approved P-EBT Plan for SY 2021-2022.

## 5. P-EBT for Children in Child Care (see Q&As #25-33)

Standard for P-EBT Eligibility

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

The child is a member of a household that is enrolled in SNAP in the benefit month. 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.)

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.
- How will the state determine and confirm the child's receipt of SNAP benefits in accordance with relevant SNAP privacy requirements?
- 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? (See Q&A #29)
- 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:
  - o the child's child care facility is closed or is operating with reduced attendance or hours, or
  - o 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?
- 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.)
- Describe how the state will set benefit levels for children once they have been determined eligible for some level of benefit? (See Q&A #29.)
- 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).
- What simplifying assumptions does the state propose? Why must the State make those simplifying assumptions? Please address both of these questions in detail.

## **Response:**

For details regarding school aged children, see previously approved P-EBT Plan for SY 2021-2022

#### For children in child care

The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) is responsible for issuing benefits for both the SNAP and P-EBT programs. VDSS will leverage its enterprise case management system, VACMS, to identify all children under 6 who have been active on SNAP since September 1, 2021. The state has made the reasonable simplified assumption that preschool children under age 6 at the start of school year 2021-2022 but who turned 6 years old during the school year and remained enrolled in child care through the end of the school year. The Commonwealth assumes that these children are eligible for P-EBT because children under 6 were deemed to be enrolled in a covered child care facility.

In SY 2021-2022, Virginia schools across the Commonwealth continued to operate at reduced attendance, hours and non-traditional learning modalities resulting in a reduction in statewide access to child care. The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is a federal program that provides reimbursements for nutritious meals and snacks to eligible children and adults who are enrolled for care at participating child care centers, day care homes, and adult day care centers. Virginia will use CACFP meal claims to set P-EBT benefit levels for children in child care. As such, Virginia concludes that all SNAP-participant children Statewide under the age of 6 reside in the area of an eligible school

Contingent upon plan approval Virginia will issue retroactive benefits for the period of September 2021 – June 2022. To be eligible for childcare P-EBT the child must have been active in a SNAP household for each retroactive issuance month. Virginia will not issue childcare P-EBT benefits to children that are not were not active SNAP household members during the covered period. The state will ensure that children who receive a benefit through P-EBT's child care component did not receive a benefit through P-EBT's school component for the covered period.

Virginia will utilize the approved process we currently follow for school age children to update and re-establish each child's continued eligibility for childcare P-EBT. VDSS will ensure there is no duplication of issuance between existing P-EBT school age children and child care P-EBT children by cross-referencing issuance records for the retroactive benefit months. The VDSS P-EBT Batch Process will identify if an eligible child is on a closed SNAP case. If the SNAP case is Closed and the SNAP recipient child under 6 on the case is eligible for P-EBT benefits, the P-EBT batch process will generate a new P-EBT case and benefits will be issued on a new P-EBT card.

#### 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 2021-2022. The benefit is multiplied by the number of days that the eligible child's status makes them eligible for P-EBT benefits.

| SY 2021-2022<br>July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022 | Free Reimbursements USDA School Meal Programs |           |        |        |
|--|---|-----------|--------|--------|
|  |   |           |        | Daily  |
|  | Lunch   | Breakfast | Snack  | 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
  - 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:**

For details regarding school aged children, see previously approved P-EBT Plan for SY 2021-2022

Senate Bill 1303 mandates that all schools and public school-based early childhood care and education programs offer 180 days or 990 hours of in-person instruction to each student during the 2021-2022 school year, except when health conditions have necessitated classroom or school closures to address the level of transmission of COVID-19 in the school building.

#### For children in child care

- Virginia will use CACFP meal claims to set P-EBT benefit levels
- These figures assume that the school year is 180 days with a start date in September and an end date in June (10 benefit months)
- Virginia will utilize simplified assumptions when determining benefit levels for P-EBT. The state will use the daily total of \$7.10 per day for the standard as shown in the chart below. The payment is based on the standardized number of issuance days.

**Average Number of Virtual Days per Month:** This should equal the number of school instructional days in the year divided by the number of benefit months in the state's P-EBT plan. For Virginia, this is 180 instructional days ÷ 10 benefit months (September through June).

**Number of Months in Semester:** For the fall semester, the number of benefit months in the plan is (Sept-Dec) 4. For the spring semester, the number of benefit months in the plan is (Jan-June) 6.

| Child Care<br>Calculation | Percent Change in<br>CACFP Lunch<br>Claims | Average # of<br>Virtual Days per<br>Month in<br>Schools Plan | Number of<br>Months in<br>Semester | Daily<br>Benefit<br>Amount | Average<br>Monthly<br>Benefit |
|---------------------------|--|--|------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Fall Semester             | 25.75%                                     | 18   | 4                                  | 7.10                       | \$<br>32.91                   |
| Spring<br>Semester        | 22.64%                                     | 18   | 6                                  | 7.10                       | \$<br>28.93                   |

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

Please provide an implementation timeline for SY 2021-2022 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 2020-2021, 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)
  - o P-EBT hotline becomes active (Day #9)
  - o Public notice campaign begins (Day #10), etc.

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?
- 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 2020-2021. This will greatly facilitate the states' ability to report and USDA to maintain accountability for P-EBT.
- 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.
- 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.
- During SY 2020-2021, 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?
- Will you issue *new* P-EBT cards to existing P-EBT households?
  - o If so, who will receive these cards? Non-SNAP households only? Or also SNAP households?
  - o If not, how will you handle cases where the P-EBT household no longer has their P-EBT card?

## **Response:**

For details regarding school aged children, see previously approved P-EBT Plan for SY 2021-2022

#### For children in child care-Timeline

- Day 0: Plan Approval from USDA-FNS
- Day 1: Communicate plan approval to relevant stakeholders
- Day 10: Dry Run/Data ready for issuance approval

Press Release

Websites and Social Media updated

Begin targeted communication campaign for SNAP under 6 children

- Day 12: First File transfer to P-EBT processor
- Day 15: Benefits available on cards for retroactive benefit months September 2021 December 2021
- Day 24: Second File transfer to P-EBT processor
- Day 27: Benefits available on cards for retroactive benefit months January 2022 March 2022
- Day 36: Third File transfer to P-EBT processor
- Day 39: Benefits available on cards for retroactive benefit months April 2022 June 2022

#### **Distribution of Benefits:**

Benefits will be distributed on the household's existing SNAP EBT card. If an eligible child is on a closed SNAP case, then a new case will be established and P-EBT benefits will be issued on a new P-EBT card.

## **EBT Benefit Type:**

The P-EBT benefit type will be used for P-EBT child care cases. This is the same benefit type used for school age SNAP recipients receiving P-EBT.

## **Benefit Spend Priority:**

P-EBT benefits will have the first spend priority.

## **Expungements:**

Expungements will occur according to the current SNAP expungement rules.

#### **Returned Mail:**

Virginia's contract with Conduent requires them to process returned mail specific to P-EBT. Undelivered cards will be returned directly to Conduent who will deactivate the cards. A report will be created and provided to the state.

## **Replacement Cards:**

P-EBT child care recipients may replace the EBT card according to normal SNAP card replacement procedures. Due to the fact that these P-EBT benefits are being issued retroactively for SY 2021 - 2022, it is possible a household's SNAP case may be closed at the time of issuance. These households are entitled to their P-EBT benefits and will be provided access to their benefits with the creation of a new P-EBT case and benefit 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.

USDA strongly encourages states to provide a means to resolve disputes and answer from actual or potential P-EBT households.

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 and caregivers 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 to dispose of the card, etc.
- Describe the information you will provide *directly* to P-EBT participants (this is different from 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 over the past year, 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)

- o 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 email, text messages, social media, website, robo-call, and/or other electronic means?

# **Response:**

See previously approved P-EBT Plan for SY 2021-2022

#### 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.

Please describe how your state will manage P-EBT payment errors.

## **Response:**

See previously approved P-EBT Plan for SY 2021-2022

## 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, 2021 through September 30 2022. 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 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.

## 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 State Agency Official:

| Signature | 9 |
|-----------|---|
| Signatur  | _ |

Dr. Danny TK Avula, Commissioner Virginia Department of Social Services

**Date of Request** 

10/5/2022