



Food and Nutrition
Service

1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA
22314

June 3, 2020

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

**TO: Willie Taylor
Regional Administrator
Southeast 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 declared on January 27, 2020. On March 20, USDA's 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 Tennessee's plan to operate P-EBT for school year 2019-2020 on May 19. FNS approved an amendment to the State's plan on August 7.

On August 31, Tennessee submitted an amendment to operate P-EBT in school year 2020-2021 through the September 30 expiration of the program. Tennessee plans to send a letter to each school district instructing them how to identify eligible children and the number of days that they are eligible for P-EBT benefits. The State will use those responses to calculate benefits and generate P-EBT cards.

Tennessee's amended plan will also issue P-EBT cards for school year 2019-2020 to all households with children identified as eligible in the State's approved May 19 plan, but who did not submit a P-EBT application to the State. The State will provide these cards to the school districts for distribution to the eligible children.

FNS approves the State's P-EBT plan amendment. The State estimates that it will issue an estimated \$36.3 million in P-EBT benefits for the start of school year 2020-2021 through September to 147,600 children. The value of benefits for school year 2019-2020 was included in the State's approved plan and does not represent an increase in program cost. The State agency must notify the FNS Regional Office immediately if it is preparing to issue an amount for the start of school year 2020-2021 different than the estimate in this plan.

Tennessee understands that the State must issue all P-EBT benefits by September 30.

FNS reminds Tennessee of the importance of accurate reporting of P-EBT benefits on forms FNS-292B, FNS-46, and FNS-388. Please refer to FNS's [April 27 memo on P-EBT reporting](#), and do not hesitate to contact your Regional Office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Cindy Long
Deputy Administrator
Child Nutrition Programs