



Food and Nutrition
Service

1320 Braddock Place
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June 30, 2021

**SUBJECT: Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer Program (P-EBT)
Approval of Utah's State Plan for Children in Child Care**

**TO: Bill Ludwig
Regional Administrator
Southwest Regional Office**

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127; the Act) 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) authorized a temporary assistance program for households with certain SNAP-enrolled children in child care during the public health emergency declared on January 27, 2020. Pursuant to the authority granted under Section 1101 of the Act, FNS approves Utah's enclosed plan to operate P-EBT for children in child care.

Summary of State's Plan

The Utah Department of Workforce Services and the Utah State Board of Education will issue P-EBT benefits through the State's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) EBT card system to households with eligible children. The State's plan for SNAP-enrolled children in child care covers the months of October 2020 through May 2021.

Children in child care are eligible for benefits if they are enrolled in SNAP and their child care facility is closed or operating with reduced attendance or hours, or if they live in the area of a school that is closed or operating with reduced attendance or hours. The State will use the best feasibly available data and USDA-approved simplifying assumptions to issue benefits in amounts that are tied as closely as possible to the number of days that eligible children do not receive a meal service through their covered child care facility.

At a minimum, the State will identify all children under age 6 who are enrolled in SNAP at any time since October 1, 2020. The State will not issue child care benefits to any child for months after their SNAP enrollment ends. Finally, the State will ensure that children who receive a benefit through P-EBT's child care component do not also receive a benefit through P-EBT's school component for the same month.

In addition, Utah will:

- confirm monthly eligibility and county of residence for SNAP enrolled children under the age of 6,
- for each month from October through the end of the school year, determine whether the county or any contiguous counties have at least one school that is operating with a predominantly hybrid or predominately virtual schedule:

- if the State identifies at least one school that is operating predominantly virtually, all SNAP-enrolled children under age 6 will receive the State's P-EBT benefit for fully virtual school children,
- if the State does not identify at least one school operating predominantly virtually, but identifies at least one school operating with a predominantly hybrid schedule, then all SNAP-enrolled children under age 6 will receive the State's hybrid benefit, or
- if the State does not identify at least one school operating with a predominantly hybrid or virtual schedule:
 - the State has identified a handful of CACFP centers in such counties that are closed or operating at reduced attendance or hours and will directly issue benefits to SNAP-eligible children enrolled in those centers,
- issue benefits for the months of October through January in a single issuance in July,
- issue benefits for February through May in August,
- issue any remaining benefits missed in the first two issuances in September.

Finally, the State will identify risks for improper payments and ensure a high level of integrity.

Estimated Caseload and Value of P-EBT Benefits

The State will calculate monthly benefits for each eligible child in the household equal to the daily reimbursement for a free breakfast, lunch, and snack multiplied by the number of benefit days calculated as described in the State's plan.

Utah estimates that it will issue \$10.3 million to approximately 35,000 SNAP-enrolled children in child care from October 2020 through May 2021.

Release of Information

Pursuant to Section 1101(e) of the Act, the Secretary hereby authorizes the release of the information necessary to carry out P-EBT in Utah. Section 1101(e) of the Act states, "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."

Plan Timetable and Revisions

Utah will distribute benefits to households consistent with the timeframes identified in the State plan. Should the State encounter challenges or delays that significantly impair its ability to implement the approved P-EBT plan or require substantive changes, the State must notify the FNS Regional Office as soon as possible. The FNS Regional Office will work with the State to identify reasonable solutions and review revised plans for approval or further revision.

Civil Rights

Utah will continue to comply with civil rights requirements, to include providing equal access to individuals with disabilities and individuals who are limited English proficient.

Administrative Funds

The Utah Department of Workforce Services will participate in a P-EBT Administrative Budget Planning process using the FNS-366(a) Program and Budget Summary. When the FNS-366(a) is finalized, that will determine the State's Administrative Grant level. However, the FNS-366(a), Program and Budget Summary, may be updated and revised as the State's operational plan evolves.

Reporting

The Utah Department of Workforce Services will complete the FNS-292B, the FNS-46, the FNS-388, and the FNS-778 reports in accordance with existing requirements.

FNS appreciates Utah's commitment to meet the nutritional needs of children during a challenging time. If you have questions, please contact the FNS Southwest Regional Office.

Sincerely,

Cindy Long
Deputy Administrator
Child Nutrition Programs