



Food and Nutrition  
Service

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June 6, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer Program (P-EBT)  
Approval of Utah's State Plan for Children in Child Care,  
School Year 2021-2022

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

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127; the Act), as amended, 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 (DWS) and the DWS Office of Child Care 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 September 2021 through May 2022.

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 in the benefit month. 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:

- collect monthly lists of child care facilities that experience temporary closures (partial or full) from the Department of Workforce Services' Office of Child Care (OCC),
- collect monthly attendance records for child facilities that experienced a temporary closure from OCC,
- confirm on a monthly basis whether SNAP enrolled children under the age of 6 attended a child care facility that experienced a temporary closure,

- for the months the State identifies that a SNAP-enrolled children under age 6 attended a child care facility that experienced a temporary closure, the child (and any other eligible children in the household) will receive a benefit for each day of the closure,
- provide an application process for parents of children enrolled in a child care facility that had a COVID-related absence outside of a facility closure:
  - parents will initiate a claim for benefits and attest that their children’s absences were COVID-related,
  - Utah will confirm the dates as either a facility-tracked COVID-related absence, if the facility tracks COVID absence codes, or a reported absence,
- issue benefits for the months of September through May 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 October.

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 \$497,000 to approximately 7,000 SNAP-enrolled children in child care from September 2021 through May 2022.

#### **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 exceptional efforts to maintain children's access to nutritious meals, and understands that even as the nation recovers from this difficult time, State agencies and local program operators will still face any number of challenges. FNS stands ready to provide additional support as needed. If you have questions, please contact the FNS Southwest Regional Office.

Sincerely,

Cindy Long  
Administrator