



Food and Nutrition
Service

1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA
22314

MEMORANDUM

TO: SNAP State Agencies
Child Nutrition State Agencies

FROM: Jessica Shahin, Associate Administrator,
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Cindy Long, Deputy Administrator,
Child Nutrition Programs

DATE: August 26, 2021

SUBJECT: Pandemic EBT – State Plans for 2021-2022

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is releasing new guidance today to assist states in the development of Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) plans for school year 2021-2022. States distributed P-EBT benefits to millions of families last school year to replace meals lost by their children as schools and child care facilities closed or restricted their in-person schedules due to the COVID emergency. As we enter a new school year under uncertain conditions, children's access to meals at school and child care remains at risk.

While NSLP-participating schools have the option to serve free meals to all students this school year through the Seamless Summer Option, P-EBT fills a critical gap for children with virtual or hybrid schedules who qualify for free or reduced price meals under standard NSLP rules. P-EBT provides a similar benefit for younger children who participate in SNAP. USDA is committed to working with all states to ensure that P-EBT remains a resource for these children.

Today's new P-EBT guidance consists of an updated state plan template and a set of Q&As. Both documents are available on USDA's P-EBT website ([Click Here](#)). These should look familiar to you; relatively little has changed compared to last year's guidance. USDA encourages you to review these documents and direct your questions to your USDA-FNS Regional Offices.

USDA looks forward to working with you this school year on your new P-EBT plans.

Sincerely,

/s/ original signature on file

Jessica Shahin
Associate Administrator
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

/s/ original signature on file

Cindy Long
Deputy Administrator
Child Nutrition Programs

Attachments

1. P-EBT Q&A – School Year 2021-2022
2. SY 21-22 State Plan for Pandemic EBT