June 4, 2020

SUBJECT: Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer Program (P-EBT) 
Approval of Alaska State Plan

TO: Jesus Mendoza, Jr 
Regional Administrator 
Western 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 that was declared on January 27, 
2020. On March 20, 2020 the 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 
approves Alaska’s enclosed plan to operate P-EBT.

Summary of State Plan
The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and the Alaska Department of 
Education and Early Development will issue P-EBT benefits to current Supplemental 
Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households and non-SNAP households, which 
include children eligible for free and reduced price school meals, through the State’s 
SNAP EBT card system. The State will use procedures described in its approved plan 
to identify eligible children in both SNAP and non-SNAP households. As detailed in 
its approved plan, the State will use existing case information to issue benefits to 
current SNAP households and the State will obtain all necessary data to issue EBT 
cards to eligible non-SNAP households.

The State will issue benefits only to households of children whose schools were 
closed for at least 5 consecutive days during the emergency designation and who 
would have received free or reduced price meals under the Richard B. Russell 
National School Lunch Act if not for the school closures. The State will conduct a 
public information campaign to alert those receiving benefits regarding the purposes 
of P-EBT and how P-EBT benefits and EBT cards are to be used, as described in the 
plan. The State must also provide information to non-SNAP households about what to 
do if they do not wish to receive or use P-EBT benefits. In addition, 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 free breakfast and lunch ($9.16), multiplied by 
the average number of days school was canceled in the month.
The State estimates that it will issue $6.8 million to 14,870 SNAP children and $24.3 million to 53,154 non-SNAP children, for school closures extending from March 16, 2020 through May 22, 2020, a total of 50 days.

The State agency must notify the FNS Regional Office immediately should difficulties arise with card stock volume or production.

**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 Alaska. 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**
The State agency 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**
Alaska will continue to comply with civil rights requirements, to include providing equal access to individuals with disabilities and individuals who are limited English proficient.

**Reporting**
The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services will complete the FNS-292B form on a bi-weekly basis, in accordance with existing requirements. The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services will also complete all other normally recurring SNAP reporting, including the FNS-46 and FNS-388 reports, on a timely basis and in accordance with existing requirements.

The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services will submit monthly reports to FNS with the following information for P-EBT benefits issued in that month:

- Number of children receiving P-EBT benefits, separately identifying the numbers in SNAP and non-SNAP households.
- Number of households receiving P-EBT benefits (as described in your state plan), separately identifying SNAP and non-SNAP households.
- Total dollar value of P-EBT benefits issued, separately identifying the values issued to SNAP and non-SNAP households.
• Average P-EBT issuance amount per household, separately identifying the average for SNAP and non-SNAP households.

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

Sincerely,

CINDY LONG
Cindy Long
Acting Associate Administrator
Regional Operations and Support