



Food and Nutrition
Service

1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA
22314

May 28, 2020

**SUBJECT: Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer Program (P-EBT)
Approval of Arizona's State Plan Amendment for a P-EBT Income
Application**

**TO: Bill Ludwig
Regional Administrator
Southwest 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 Arizona's enclosed amendment to their plan to operate P-EBT.

On April 24, 2020, Arizona asked FNS to approve an amendment to its P-EBT plan. Arizona's approved April 17 plan did not offer a process for newly income-eligible households to apply for benefits. Arizona's amended plan creates a State-administered application for these households. The State estimates that its amended plan will extend P-EBT coverage to an additional 107,000 children.

FNS approves the State's P-EBT plan amendment. The amended plan will increase the number of children receiving P-EBT benefits from an estimated 596,000 to 703,000, and increase the estimated issuance amount from \$186.7 million to \$220.5 million.

Sincerely,

Cindy Long
Acting Associate Administrator
Regional Operations and Support