May 15, 2020

SUBJECT: Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer Program (P-EBT) Approval of California’s State Plan Amendment

TO: Jesus Mendoza
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 approved the State of California’s plan to operate P-EBT on April 24, 2020.

On May 5, 2020, the State asked FNS to approve an amendment to its P-EBT plan. California’s April plan did not cover children who became newly eligible for P-EBT benefits since the date that schools closed. The State’s amended plan will cover these newly eligible children, whether they are newly certified for SNAP benefits, or newly certified by their school districts for free or reduced-price school meal benefits. The State estimates that their amended plan will extend P-EBT coverage to an additional 80,000 children.

FNS approves the State’s P-EBT plan amendment to increase the estimated number of children that will receive benefits. The amended plan will increase the number of children receiving P-EBT benefits from 3.82 to 3.90 million, and increase the estimated issuance amount from $1.405 billion to $1.448 billion.

Sincerely,

CYNTHIA LONG
Acting Associate Administrator
Regional Operations and Support