



Food and Nutrition  
Service

1320 Braddock Place  
Alexandria, VA  
22314

September 18, 2020

SUBJECT: Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer Program (P-EBT)  
Approval of Rhode Island's State Plan Amendment

TO: Kurt Messner  
Regional Administrator  
Northeast 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 declared on January 27, 2020. On March 20, USDA's 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 Rhode Island's plan to operate P-EBT for school year 2019-2020 on April 13. FNS approved amended plans for Rhode Island on May 4 and July 22.

On August 24, Rhode Island submitted an amendment to operate P-EBT in school year 2020-2021 through the September 30 expiration of the program.

FNS approves Rhode Island's P-EBT plan amendment. The State estimates that it will issue \$8.7 million in P-EBT benefits for the start of school year 2020-2021 through September 30 to 73,989 children. The State agency must notify the FNS Regional Office immediately if it is preparing to issue an amount for the start of school year 2020-2021 different than the estimate in this plan.

Rhode Island understands that the State must issue all P-EBT benefits by September 30.

FNS reminds Rhode Island of the importance of accurate reporting of P-EBT benefits on forms FNS-292B, FNS-46, and FNS-388. Please refer to FNS's [April 27 memo on P-EBT reporting](#), and do not hesitate to contact your Regional Office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Cindy Long  
Deputy Administrator  
Child Nutrition Programs