

Food and Nutrition Service

1320 Braddock Place Alexandria, VA 22314 December 14, 2022

SUBJECT: Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer Program (P-EBT)

Approval of California's State Plan Amendment,

School Year 2020-2021 and Summer 2021

TO: Jesus Mendoza, Jr.

Regional Administrator Western Regional Office

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127) (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. Pursuant to the authority granted under Section 1101 of the Act, FNS approved California's plan to operate P-EBT for school year 2020-2021 on June 3, 2021. FNS approved the state's P-EBT plan for the summer of 2021 on July 2, 2021.

California proposes to amend its school year 2020-2021 and summer 2021 P-EBT plans to reissue certain expunged benefits at the request of households. The state will only consider requests for reissuance in cases where the household spent none of the benefit. Households will submit requests for reissuance through California's P-EBT Helpline. The state will accept requests through August 1, 2023 and will reissue no benefits after September 30, 2023. California will expunge reissued benefits after 365 days.

California estimates that 30 percent to 60 percent of eligible households will request a reissuance. That would result in a reissuance of \$241 million to \$481 million to between 205,000 and 410,000 children.

FNS approves California's P-EBT plan amendment to reissue expunged benefits under these limited terms for school year 2020-2021 and the summer of 2021.

FNS reminds California of the importance of accurate reporting of P-EBT benefits on forms FNS-292B, FNS-46, and FNS-388. Please refer to FNS's <u>April 27, 2020 memo on P-EBT reporting</u>, and do not hesitate to contact your Regional Office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Cindy Long Administrator