

EBT in the face of 2020's Challenges - the Federal Perspective

Session 3 - 12/01/2020

IF 2020 WAS A SLIDE



Agenda

- ▶ Families First Coronavirus Response Act
 - ▶ P-EBT and Emergency Allotments
- ▶ Expedited Online Purchasing
- ▶ A new vendor
- ▶ Disaster Response

FFCRA

- ▶ March 18: Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA)
- ▶ Provides Emergency Allotments and establishes P-EBT

Emergency Allotments

- ▶ Supplemental benefits for those not already at the maximum allotment
- ▶ Requirements
- ▶ All States and Territories issued
- ▶ Nationwide approximately \$2B in benefits per month

P-EBT Landscape

- ▶ January 27: National Health Emergency
- ▶ Then, scattered school closings
- ▶ March 13: Presidential State of Emergency
- ▶ March 17: Massive wave of school closures begins
- ▶ Tens of millions of children start missing school meals

P-EBT: The Effect

- ▶ P-EBT did not exist on March 17, 2020
- ▶ In just over six months:
 - ▶ Stood up a brand new program
 - ▶ Approved issuance of \$11.7 billion in benefits
 - ▶ Serving 30 million children

P-EBT: The Players

- ▶ SNAP HQ
- ▶ Child Nutrition (CN) HQ
- ▶ Every FNS Region
- ▶ 52 States & territories; SNAP & CN agencies
- ▶ EBT Processors
- ▶ Over 15,000 school districts
- ▶ Untold numbers of schools

P-EBT Timeline

- ▶ Q&As and State Plan Template published in late March
- ▶ Numerous technical assistance calls
- ▶ First plan approved 4/9/20, last plan approved 8/13/2020
- ▶ Many public inquiries

P-EBT Typical(?) State Plan

- ▶ Benefits = 50 days (at \$5.70/day) = \$285
- ▶ Data matching (not applications)
- ▶ One issuance per household
- ▶ Phases (SNAP vs. Non-SNAP)
 - ▶ SNAP cards *and* P-EBT cards
 - ▶ On SNAP cards, benefits co-mingled

P-EBT August/September

- ▶ FFCRA authorized P-EBT till September 30...
 - ▶ Which means...it is available for August/September
- ▶ Different landscape
 - ▶ No Statewide closures; 15,000+ school districts
 - ▶ Hybrid models (staggered attendance, reduced hours)
 - ▶ Evolving situation (delayed starts, closures after opening)
- ▶ Benefits **MUST** be issued by September 30

P-EBT Extended

- ▶ CR extends P-EBT through FY21
 - ▶ With some changes
- ▶ Guidance issued will take into account lessons learned from Spring/Fall

Expedited Online Purchasing

- ▶ 47 States and 97% of SNAP Households
- ▶ Adding retailers
- ▶ On a monthly basis just under 3% of benefits redeemed online
- ▶ See www.fns.usda.gov/snap/online-purchasing-pilot

A new EBT vendor

- ▶ Welcome Inmar!
- ▶ A collaborative project between the State, their vendor and FNS
- ▶ How the pandemic changed this landscape

Disaster Response

- ▶ Timely Reporting: 22 waivers across 14 states
- ▶ Auto Mass Replacements: 12 waivers across 8 states
- ▶ Hot Foods: 5 waivers across 4 states
- ▶ DSNAP: 9 across 6 states