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TO: Barbara Smith, Program Specialist
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
United States Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service

FROM: Andrea Brayboy, Branch Chief
CalFresh Policy Bureau
Family Engagement and Empowerment Division
California Department of Social Services

SUBJECT: AMENDMENT TO SCHOOL-AGED CHILD AND YOUNG CHILD 2020-21
PANDEMIC EBT PLANS

This memo serves as California's formal request to amend its state 2020-21 school year and Summer P-EBT plans (P-EBT 2.0) for both school-aged children and young children under six. California is proposing an amendment to allow households the ability to request a new P-EBT 2.0 card if the benefits on the initial P-EBT 2.0 card had expunged and no benefits had been spent. California will not automatically issue new P-EBT 2.0 cards or extend the expungement date for all 2.0 cardholders. Rather, the household must submit a request through the California P-EBT Helpline to receive a new P-EBT 2.0 card with an additional 365 days until expungement.

As eligibility for P-EBT 2.0 was automatically confirmed and no client application was required, some eligible recipients were unfamiliar with P-EBT 2.0 or otherwise unaware of P-EBT benefits provided to them. In addition to this amendment request, the state is undergoing extensive client education efforts to inform families of available food benefits to maximize participation in P-EBT 2.0.

These client education efforts include an outreach toolkit that was disseminated to Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) statewide. The outreach toolkit contains P-EBT 2.0 education materials, including: FAQ, fact sheet, flyer, postcard, and an informational letter accompanying the P-EBT 2.0 card. The LEAs can utilize the toolkit provided to educate and inform cardholders that have not yet used P-EBT 2.0 benefits. Additionally, a direct mail postcard outlining program rules and reminding households of available benefits were sent to P-EBT 2.0 young child households that had not yet activated their

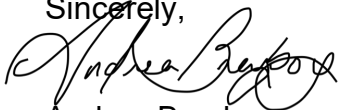
P-EBT 2.0 cards. All materials provide the URL to the P-EBT website and helpline number for access to additional information or assistance.

In addition, the state will implement further client education measures upon approval of this amendment. Additional efforts include updating the P-EBT website to inform families of the availability of the P-EBT 2.0 expungement extension as well as referring families to the P-EBT Helpline to complete the expungement extension request. The state is also contracted with six P-EBT outreach vendors that will assist in directly communicating the expungement extension guidelines to families statewide.

Going forward, California has included expungement language in all communications sent to households. This includes two direct mail postcards that will be sent prior to each benefit issuance for 21-22 P-EBT (P-EBT 3.0) and updated language on the P-EBT website. In addition, the state will gather a list of P-EBT 3.0 cards that have yet to be activated 4-5 months after delivery of the P-EBT 3.0 card to the household. These households will receive an additional direct mail postcard informing them of available P-EBT 3.0 benefits and confirming that P-EBT 3.0 benefits will expunge if not used within 365 days.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at Andrea.Brayboy@dss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Andrea Brayboy
Chief, CalFresh and Nutrition Branch
California Department of Social Services