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December 21, 2023

Cheryl Kennedy  
Regional Administrator  
USDA Food & Nutrition Service  
1244 Speer Blvd Suite 903  
Denver, CO 80204-3581

Dear Cheryl Kennedy,

The Missouri Department of Social Services and the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education hereby notify USDA FNS of our intent to administer the Summer EBT Program in Fiscal Year 2024. The coordinating Summer EBT agency will be the Department of Social Services. The partnering Summer EBT agency will be the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

While Missouri submits this letter of intent to administer the Summer EBT program in 2024, the lack of final guidance – let alone interim final guidance – from USDA Food and Nutrition Services on administration of the program poses potential unforeseen challenges to the implementation of this new program for the 2024 summer. Additionally of note, Missouri's ability to meet state match requirements on administrative funding is subject to appropriation by the Missouri General Assembly, which will not be available until approved by that body. The Missouri General Assembly is set to convene in January, with budget action anticipated later in the spring.

We understand that submission of this notice of intent may allow the Department of Social Services to access an initial allotment of Summer EBT administrative funds. However, we acknowledge that full access to administrative funds will not be granted until FNS has approved our FY 2024 Summer EBT interim Plan for Operation and Management (iPOM).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Knodell', is written over a horizontal line.

Robert Knodell  
Director  
Missouri Department of Social Services

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Margie Vandeven', is written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Margie Vandeven  
Commissioner  
Missouri Department of Elementary  
and Secondary Education

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