

# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT)

Learn more about Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) food benefits, including information on eligibility, timeline of benefits issuance, accessing benefits, and who to contact if you have any issues.

## What is P-EBT?

- The Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 authorized the payment of P-EBT food benefits to households with children who would have received free school lunches under the National School Lunch Act if schools had not closed. These temporary food benefits are to help cover the cost of meals children would have received at school.
- The monthly P-EBT for each eligible child has been calculated based on the number of days schools were closed during the months for which the benefits are being issued: March – \$68.00, April – \$125.00, May – \$119.00, June – \$108.00. The maximum benefit per child will be \$420.

## How do I apply for P-EBT?

- You do not apply for P-EBT food benefits. The state is issuing P-EBT food benefits to all eligible children in three different phases, described below.

## When will I receive P-EBT?

P-EBT food benefits are issued in three different groups over a few months:

- Group 1 (existing SNAP/CA recipients) – Eligible children ages 5-18 receiving cash public assistance and/or SNAP as of March 2020 should have already received P-EBT food benefits on the family's EBT card in **May and June**.
- Group 2 (existing Medicaid recipients) – Eligible children ages 3-18 receiving Medicaid only should have received P-EBT benefits **by the end of July**.

## Are my child/children eligible for P-EBT food benefits?

All children who would have received free or reduced-price school lunches for the days their school was closed due to COVID-19 are eligible to receive P-EBT food benefits, such as:

- Children attending NYC public schools who receive free or reduced-price school lunches.
- Children who attend private, parochial, and charter schools and who received free school lunches.
- 3- & 4-year-old children attending Universal Pre-K and who received free school lunches.
- Young adults ages 19-21 who are still in school and who received free school lunches.
- Foster children who received free school lunches.
- Any children above with any or no current immigration status. Also, receiving this benefit will **not** affect anyone's immigration status in the family.



# 917-661-4500

Bronx Legal Services | 349 East 149<sup>th</sup> Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Bronx | [legalservicesnyc.org](https://legalservicesnyc.org)

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### When will I receive P-EBT? (continued)

- Group 3 (everyone else)– Eligible children ages 3-18 not receiving CA, SNAP and/or MA and students ages 19-21 with a disability (regardless of receipt of CA, SNAP, or MA) will receive P-EBT benefits beginning in **August and continuing through September**.

### How do I access P-EBT food benefits?

- Group 1 – P-EBT benefits were issued on the household's existing EBT card.
  - The P-EBT was added to your SNAP balance. You can check your family's SNAP/P-EBT balance by visiting [www.connectebt.com](http://www.connectebt.com), by calling **1-888-328-6399**, or by logging into your Access HRA account <https://a069-access.nyc.gov/accesshra/>.
- Group 2 – Benefits were loaded onto the Medicaid Common Benefit Identification Card (CBIC) of the head of household OR oldest child on the Medicaid case for all eligible children in the household together on one card. Clients should have received notices in the mail by the end of July explaining P-EBT and how to set up a PIN on the Medicaid card.
  - To set up a PIN, call 1-888-328-6399. The automated system will ask you to select a language and enter the EBT card number. The card number is a 19-digit number. Be prepared to provide security information, including the last four digits of the cardholder's Social Security Number and ZIP code.
  - If this process does not work for the head of household or oldest child's card, you may want to try it with other family members' cards.
  - If you have already received a letter from OTDA notifying you that P-EBT food benefits have been issued to the CBIC that you use for Medicaid and you need to request a replacement card, call the **P-EBT Helpline at 1-833-452-0096**. If you have not already received a letter from OTDA, the P-EBT helpline will not be able to assist you.
- Group 3 – Benefits will be issued on a new card. **Each child** should receive a P-EBT card with an enclosed letter explaining how to create a PIN and use the card.
  - To set up a PIN, call 1-888-328-6399. Be prepared to provide security information, including your ZIP code and the cardholder's date of birth.
  - These P-EBT cards will have "01/01/1900" as the date of birth, "PEBT 2020" as first name, and the last name will include the last name followed by first name (or as many letters as the field can hold).



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### What should I do if I haven't received P-EBT food benefits?

- P-EBT food benefits are **not** SNAP benefits and are being issued by the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA). If you have any questions about P-EBT, you can email OTDA.
- If you have already received a letter from OTDA notifying you that P-EBT food benefits have been issued to your household and you have questions, you can also call the P-EBT Helpline at 1-833-452-0096.
- Group 1 - Email [otda.sm.eisp.PEBT@otda.ny.gov](mailto:otda.sm.eisp.PEBT@otda.ny.gov) with child's name and date of birth.
- Group 2 - P-EBT food benefits were loaded onto Medicaid CBIC cards in July. If you have not received a letter, your child should receive P-EBT benefits in Group 3.
- Group 3 - Email [otda.sm.eisp.PEBT@otda.ny.gov](mailto:otda.sm.eisp.PEBT@otda.ny.gov) with child's name and date of birth. However, OTDA will not finish sending Group 3 P-EBT cards until the end of September, so you may have to wait.

### Other Important Information

- Families who receive P-EBT food benefits will not have to pay back the benefits.
- P-EBT food benefits will remain available and accessible on your EBT card for up to one year from the date they are issued.
- Receiving P-EBT food benefits will not affect the 'public charge' status for non-citizen households.
- **You can call our Access Line for help Monday through Friday from 10am- 4pm at 917-661-4500.**



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