P-EBT | Fact Sheet

Have You Used Your Pandemic EBT Debit Card Yet?

Hard times don't have to be hungry. If your family qualifies for **Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer**, or **P-EBT**, you will automatically receive a debit card(s) in the mail. Keep reading to learn about P-EBT, who it's for, and what you need to know.

Get More Money for Groceries with Pandemic EBT

The pandemic and distance learning has made it harder to feed the whole family. Pandemic EBT is a federal program that gives eligible families additional food benefits on top of CalFresh Food benefits and school meals. P-EBT cards can help you make a smaller budget feel bigger.

You Do Not Need to Apply for P-EBT

If your kids meet the following requirements, a card will automatically be mailed for each eligible kid. Cards will start arriving in **early July through August** for kids 0-6 who got CalFresh between October 2020 and January 2021, and **early September through November** for kids in grades TK-12. Young kids who got CalFresh between January 2021 and May 2021 will get their benefits later.

Healthy Meals For All Eligible Children

Kids 0—6
Have more food at home for those growing up fast. P-EBT food benefits are available for kids who got CalFresh Food benefits between October 2020 and May 2021 and live in a county where at least one school is doing distance learning or a hybrid of both distance learning and in-person learning.

TK—12
Feed bigger appetites with healthier food. Students enrolled in free or reduced price school meals at a school participating in the National School Lunch or Breakfast Programs for the 2020-21 school year and are assumed to have attended school via distance learning or a hybrid of both distance learning and in person learning qualify for P-EBT food benefits.

Children eligible for free school meals based on their attendance at a school where all children can get free breakfast, lunch, or both, are also eligible for P-EBT and will get a card automatically in the mail. This is true even if the child did not individually apply for free or reduced price school meals. Families who feel they do not need P-EBT benefits can choose to not accept P-EBT benefits by destroying their card before using it.

Using P-EBT Will NOT Risk Immigration Status

The P-EBT card is safe for you and your family members. The program will NOT report anyone to immigration services for buying food with this card nor will anyone using this card be considered a public charge.

Every Child Gets Their Own Card

Families with multiple children will receive multiple cards. If they do not arrive at the same time, do not worry. Cards are mailed out in groups based on age and first name.

Payment Accepted In-Store and Online

The same places that take CalFresh Food benefits will take P-EBT. This includes grocery stores, farmers markets, and online at Amazon®, Walmart®, and other retailers. Just like with CalFresh Food Benefits, foods that are served hot or already prepared (like takeout or food bars) are NOT covered.

Cards Are Automatically Reloaded

Each child gets one card, which will be automatically reloaded with money at scheduled intervals. The amount you get may change over time depending on the model of instruction at your child or county's school. If you lose your card, replacement cards can be obtained through the **P-EBT Helpline** at **(877) 328-9677**.

Other Benefits Are Not Affected

P-EBT is extra help during an extra hard time. It does not count as income, and it doesn't affect your eligibility for school meals. You can use P-EBT without worrying that it's going to cause problems for any other benefits.