



## **Pandemic EBT Benefits**

*Updated May 27, 2020*

### **What is Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT)?**

P-EBT are temporary food benefits to help cover the cost of meals children would have otherwise received at school. These benefits are NOT food stamps (SNAP).

### **Who is eligible for P-EBT?**

Families of public school (or participating private school) children between the ages of 5 and 18 (or 3-4 years old if in pre-kindergarten) are eligible for the one-time benefit of \$420 for each eligible child, which represents the value of school meals for the period of time from March when the schools closed until the end of the school year on June 26<sup>th</sup>. Payments will be issued for EACH eligible school-aged child living in the household who is eligible for free or reduced priced school meals.

### **Do I need to apply?**

There is no application process. Funds will be automatically distributed to eligible individuals. Benefits will be issued by the state and they will be using the March 2020 school enrollment data to determine eligibility by age and enrollment status.

### **How will I get the money and how much will I receive?**

Payment will be distributed in 3 groups. Eligible families are in one of these 3 categories. Each eligible child in all three categories will receive \$420 in benefits.

- 1) Families of eligible school-aged children who are currently receiving Food Stamps (SNAP) and Cash Assistance will receive a P-EBT benefit directly added to their existing EBT cards. These benefits will be available on the following schedule:
  - a. On May 19<sup>th</sup>- \$193
  - b. On June 16- \$227
- 2) Families with children receiving Medicaid-only will receive the full payment in the last two weeks of June. These benefits will be issued on a separate benefit card mailed to the family for each child in the household. The benefits will be issued in the name of the case-head (not in the name of the child).
- 3) Families with eligible children who are not living in households currently receiving Cash Assistance, Food Stamps (SNAP) or Medicaid benefits will receive cards in the mail for each eligible child in the household. Benefits are expected to be distributed by the state in July and August 2020.

### **Are these benefits considered a public charge?**

**NO!** These P-EBT benefits are NOT considered to be a public charge, so will not impact an immigrant's ability to get their green card.



**Will the P-EBT food benefit program continue through the summer?**

Currently, P-EBT food benefits will only be issued for those months—March through June—for which schools were closed due to COVID-19 during the 2019-20 school year.

**How do I use an EBT card?**

An EBT card looks and is used like a bank debit card to buy food at authorized retail food stores. For more information on how to use an EBT card visit: <http://otda.ny.gov/workingfamilies/ebt/>.

To find authorized retail food stores near you, the SNAP Retailer Locator can be found at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/retailer-locator>

**What can I purchase with my child/children’s P-EBT food benefits?**

P-EBT food benefits can be used to purchase food at authorized retail food stores. A detailed list of food items that may be purchased with the benefits can be found at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/eligible-food-items/>.

**Who can I call if I have other questions?**

If you have additional questions, you can call a Make the Road New York Food Stamp (SNAP) Advocate/Promotora at: 866-365-2724 Ext. 146 or email the state at [otda.sm.eisp.PEBT@otda.ny.gov](mailto:otda.sm.eisp.PEBT@otda.ny.gov).