

NYS OTDA - PEA B2S
40 N. Pearl Street
Albany, NY 12243

**PANDEMIC EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE-
BACK TO SCHOOL PAYMENT**

August 2022

Case Number :

Amount of Payment:

Dear Recipient:

This notice is to tell you that you are getting a one-time cash payment to help with back-to school costs for the children in your household. This payment is equal to \$214 per child and is based on the number of children in your household who are between the ages of 3 through 17 years old during the month of July 2022 and currently in receipt of Public Assistance (PA) benefits.

This payment is intended to help your family cope with the tough economic times resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 established the Pandemic Emergency Assistance Fund to assist families economically impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are enabling New York State to make these payments to assist families affected by the pandemic in meeting their basic needs.

What can I use the money for?

This payment can be used to buy items such as books, pencils, pens, notebooks, and other essential school items.

How will I be paid the money?

Your money has been paid directly into your EBT cash account. This payment can be withdrawn through an ATM or, it can be spent at retail locations where EBT cards are accepted. If your EBT card is damaged and fails to work at the ATM or store, you will need to contact your case worker at your local department of social services and request a replacement card. You may request that the replacement card be mailed directly to your home. **Please note if you do not use your cash account for a period of 90 consecutive days, any cash benefit remaining in the account that is at least 90 days old will be expunged (removed) from the account.** You should check your cash balance so you can use this benefit before it expires. You may check your cash balance free of charge at an ATM, on the Internet at www.connectebt.com or by calling the EBT Helpline number on the back of your card.

Is this just a one-time payment?

Yes. The back-to school payment for your household is a one-time payment.

Will this money affect my SNAP Benefits, Medical Assistance, PA or other benefits?

No. This one-time payment will not affect your eligibility for the benefits you are currently receiving.

How can I find out about other benefits that I might be eligible for - like cash assistance or help with emergency needs?

If you are in need of assistance and reside outside the New York City area, you may go to www.mybenefits.ny.gov to check your eligibility for other benefits such as cash assistance, the Home Energy Assistance Program, help with rent arrears, and various tax credits that might help you make ends meet during these difficult economic times. New York City residents may go to ACCESS NYC (www.nyc.gov/accessnyc) for assistance.

What do I do if I think the amount of the Payment is incorrect?

Please refer to the Agency Administrative Review page on the bottom of this page.

You should be aware that there is limited money available for Pandemic Emergency Assistance Fund payments. Once the available money is exhausted, no payments will be issued.

Who can I contact if I have questions about this notice or want to request a conference?

You may call the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance at 1-800- 342-3009 if you have questions about this payment or want to request a review.

AGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW - DO YOU THINK WE ARE WRONG?

If you think this decision is incorrect, you can request an administrative review to have the decision reviewed. If you want to request a review, you must do this within thirty (30) days of the date on the letter. To request a review, please call 1-800-342-3009.