



General Information System (GIS) Message

Section 1

Transmittal:	23DC057 Upstate and New York City
Date:	August 14, 2023
To:	Subscribers
Suggested Distribution:	Commissioners, SNAP Directors, TA Directors, Medicaid Directors
From:	Valerie Figueroa, Deputy Commissioner of Employment and Income Support Programs
Subject:	COVID-19 Pandemic EBT Food Benefits for the 2022-2023 School Year and Summer 2023
Effective Date:	Immediately
Contact Information:	P-EBT Bureau email: otda.sm.eisp.pebt@otda.ny.gov with subject line "District P-EBT Question"
Attachments:	None

Section 2

The purpose of this GIS is to advise social services districts (districts) that the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) has begun to issue Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) food benefits to children under the age of six on SNAP for the September 2022 to May 2023 period, and to eligible school-age children for the Summer 2023 period.

The terms and conditions of eligibility for P-EBT food benefits, originally set forth by the Families First, Coronavirus Response Act, 2020, were amended for the 2022-2023 school year by the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021 and Other Extensions Act (P.L. 116-159); the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (P.L. 116-260); the American Rescue Plan Act (P.L. 117-2), and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023. P-EBT food benefits will be issued in accordance with the terms of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) memorandums of [September 8, 2022](#) and [February 16, 2023](#), and in accordance with New York State's federally approved plans.

P-EBT food benefits are issued directly by OTDA. Social services districts have no role in the administration or issuance of P-EBT food benefits. The benefits are issued outside of the Welfare Management System (WMS) and OTDA's Benefit Issuance Control Systems (BICS). Most social services district staff therefore will not have access to any P-EBT food benefit issuance information. However, staff who have access to the EBT Electronic Payment Processing Information Control (EPPIC) system will be able to see the deposit of these benefits into EBT accounts.

P-EBT Food Benefits for Children Under Age Six Receiving SNAP

OTDA has begun issuing P-EBT food benefits to children who were under the age of six on September 1, 2022, and who received SNAP between September 2022 and May 2023. Each eligible child will receive \$29 per month for each month they received SNAP from September 2022 to April 2023, and a prorated benefit of \$14 if they received SNAP in May 2023. Due to the expiration of the federal Public Health Emergency on May 11, 2023, children in this cohort are not eligible for any P-EBT food benefits after May 2023.

If an eligible child is still active on an existing SNAP case, P-EBT food benefits will be deposited into their household's existing EBT account. These deposits were made at the end of July 2023. Eligible children who are no longer receiving SNAP will be issued benefits on an existing P-EBT Food Benefit card if they have already been issued one, or they will be mailed a new P-EBT Food Benefit card with instructions explaining how to activate the card and access the P-EBT food benefits. In August, food benefits will be issued and cards will be mailed out.

Summer 2023 P-EBT Food Benefits for Kindergarten through Grade 12 Students

For the Summer 2023 period, students attending and enrolled in a National School Lunch Program-participating school in June 2023 and certified eligible for free/reduced price lunch are eligible for a one-time \$120 food benefit. Schools have been instructed to submit enrollment information for all eligible students. Once school enrollment data is received and processed by OTDA, all eligible children will receive the Summer 2023 P-EBT food benefit automatically. There is no application for the Summer 2023 food benefit.

Food benefits for Summer 2023 will be issued in August and will continue through September 2023.

All Summer 2023 P-EBT food benefits will be issued in the following manner:

- Eligible children currently receiving SNAP or Temporary Assistance will have their P-EBT food benefits issued to their household's EBT card.
- Eligible children who were previously issued P-EBT food benefits for prior school years on a P-EBT Food Benefit card will receive their food benefits for Summer 2023 on the same card.
- All other eligible children will be mailed a P-EBT Food Benefit card with instructions explaining how to activate the card and access the benefits.

Household Notification of Benefit Issuance

All households with a valid mobile phone number on file and those who have not previously opted out, will receive a text message when P-EBT food benefits have been issued to their EBT account. Text messages may include a link to an OTDA webpage with specific information about their benefit issuance, or to the general P-EBT Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page, where clients can locate the P-EBT helpline phone number and submit questions in writing, should further assistance be needed. All official agency text messages are sent from the OTDA text message short code 696832.

Additional Information

P-EBT food benefits are not SNAP benefits. Under the authorizing legislation, P-EBT food benefit eligibility, and rights and responsibility rules and regulations that apply to SNAP do not universally apply to these benefits. For example, disputes regarding eligibility or the amount of P-EBT food benefits received are not entitled to fair hearings.

However, P-EBT food benefits are subject to the same purchase and use restrictions as SNAP benefits. They are intended to be used to purchase food for the household of the children that received them and may only be used to purchase the same food items that may be purchased with SNAP benefits. P-EBT food benefits will remain available and accessible on the EBT or P-EBT Food Benefit card for 274 days from the date they were issued.

Eligibility for P-EBT food benefits is not limited by immigration status, nor will it impact a family’s “public charge” status.

P-EBT Helpline and Assistance

Families with questions can be directed to the P-EBT Helpline at **1-833-452-0096** or submit a question through the P-EBT information form at <https://otda.ny.gov/PEBT-Info>.

P-EBT Frequently Asked Questions can be found on the OTDA website: <https://otda.ny.gov/SNAP-COVID-19/Frequently-Asked-Questions-Pandemic-EBT.asp>