



DC

DEPARTMENT of
HUMAN SERVICES

UPDATES AND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ) ABOUT THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA (DC) PANDEMIC ELECTRONIC BENEFITS TRANSFER (P-EBT) PROGRAM

Update: This FAQ contains the most current information about DC P-EBT benefits for Summer 2021. If you have additional questions, please visit dhs.dc.gov/p-ebt or contact the P-EBT Call Center at 877-4DC-PEBT (877-432-7328) or TTY: 711, Monday–Friday, 7:30 am – 4:45 pm.



1. WHAT ARE P-EBT BENEFITS?

- P-EBT is a temporary federal food benefit for families who have children who are eligible to receive free and reduced-price school meals (FARM) under the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) but could not receive these meals because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. WHO WILL RECEIVE SUMMER P-EBT BENEFITS?

- DC children are eligible for Summer 2021 P-EBT benefits if they were eligible for these benefits in June 2021 regardless of their school's hybrid, or virtual operating status in June.
- DC children can also become eligible over the summer if they are enrolled in an NSLP school and apply for FARM before August 30th and are approved for SY 2021-2022.
- Children who were under the age of 6 on October 1, 2020, are automatically eligible if they are part of a SNAP household.



3. IF CHILDREN ARE ELIGIBLE, HOW MUCH MONEY WILL THEY GET AND WHEN?

- Each eligible DC children will receive the federally approved flat rate of \$375 for the summer.
- Benefits for Summer 2021 will be issued by the end of September 2021.

4. HOW DO DISTRICT FAMILIES NOT CURRENTLY CERTIFIED FOR FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE MEALS APPLY TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR SUMMER BENEFITS?

- DC children who become eligible for FARM over Summer 2021 are eligible for summer P-EBT as well. A school must receive a child's FARM application before August 30, 2021 and then approve the application before a child can be eligible for Summer P-EBT benefits.
- Families whose child attends a DCPS school that administers the federal FARM program can find more information at dcps.dc.gov/publication/free-and-reduced-priced-meals-farm-application.
- Families who are unsure if their school participates in the federal FARM program should contact their child's school to find out if they can apply. This includes public and charter schools.

5. HOW DO HOUSEHOLDS THAT ALREADY RECEIVE SNAP OR TANF ACCESS P-EBT BENEFITS?

- For eligible children in households receiving SNAP or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), P-EBT benefits will be automatically loaded onto the household's existing EBT card. No action is needed for SNAP or TANF customers.
- If a family did not retain their originally issued card, they can request a new one by calling FIS, the District's EBT partner 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at their hotline (888) 304-9167.



6. HOW DO HOUSEHOLDS WHO DO NOT RECEIVE SNAP OR TANF ACCESS P-EBT BENEFITS?

- New cards are mailed for children whose families do not receive SNAP or TANF.
- To learn how to activate a new card (or a reissued card that was never activated) and create a Personal Identification Number (PIN), go to <https://dhs.dc.gov/page/ebt-card-p-ebt-updates>.

7. WILL HOUSEHOLDS BE NOTIFIED THAT THEY ARE RECEIVING P-EBT BENEFITS?

- Yes. Notices will be mailed to households who received P-EBT benefits when an issuance is made.
- Yes. Automated calls will be made to families with current phone numbers on file. Families can also always log in to www.ebtedge.com or download the free EBT Edge app from the Apple store or Google Play Store to check their balances.

8. WHAT CAN HOUSEHOLDS PURCHASE WITH P-EBT BENEFITS?

- P-EBT benefits work the same as SNAP food benefits. Households that receive P-EBT benefits can use the funds to purchase food only. The intent of these benefits is to provide funds to purchase food to make meals for children that would normally have been provided to them at school.

9. WHERE CAN P-EBT BENEFITS BE USED?

- P-EBT benefits can be used to purchase food at any SNAP retailer. Most retailers have signs stating they accept SNAP or EBT. Authorized SNAP retailers are listed at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/retailer-locator>.
- Families can also visit www.ebtedge.com or download the EBT Edge Mobile app from the Apple or Google Play store to find retailers that accept EBT cards.
- P-EBT benefits can also be used to make online food purchases for delivery at Amazon and Aldi. More information is at: <https://www.amazon.com/snap-ebt/> or shop.aldi.us/.



10. DO THE P-EBT BENEFITS HAVE TO BE USED IN THE MONTH THEY ARE RECEIVED?

- No. The money will carry over from month to month.

11. WHAT IF AN ALREADY-ISSUED EBT CARD HAS BEEN LOST OR CUT UP?

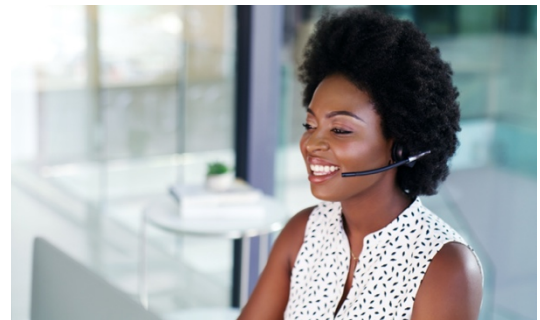
- Please call 877-4DC-PEBT (877-432-7328) or TTY: 711, Monday–Friday, 7:30 am – 4:45 pm (EST).

12. WILL GETTING P-EBT IMPACT A HOUSEHOLD’S “PUBLIC CHARGE” STATUS?

- No. Using P-EBT benefits does not impact parents or their children’s immigration status. The Public Charge rule does not apply to P-EBT benefits.

13. WHERE IS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION LOCATED?

- Visit DHS’ P-EBT page: dhs.dc.gov/p-ebt.
- For case-specific questions, please call us at 877-4DC-PEBT (877-432-7328) or TTY: 711, Monday–Friday, 7:30 am – 4:45 pm (EST).



These resources are available for households in need of food immediately:

Resources	Phone	Website
DC’s Coronavirus Food Resources Page		https://coronavirus.dc.gov/food
Capital Area Food Bank	(202) 644-9800	https://www.capitalareafoodbank.org/
So Others Might Eat (SOME)	(202) 797-8806	https://www.some.org/
Bread for the City	(202) 265-2400	https://breadforthecity.org/