

## **Updates and Frequently Asked Questions about the District of Columbia Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT)**

*Shared below is the most current information on the District's Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) program. This guidance will be updated as needed. If you have additional questions, please contact the Call Center at (202) 727-5355 or TTY: 711.*

**Q: What are P-EBT benefits?**

A: P-EBT is a new and temporary federal food benefit for families who have one or more children who receive free or reduced-price school meals under the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) at their school and are virtually attending a qualifying school.

**Q: Who is currently eligible for P-EBT benefits?**

A: Children who received a P-EBT payment last school year (2019-2020) and who were eligible for free and reduced price-meals again this year, along with eligible children in SNAP households received the one-time federally-authorized payment for the 2020-2021 school year. This was the only payment the District has been approved to make, to date. These funds are non-transferable.

**Q: If I am eligible, how much money will I get?**

A: P-EBT is intended to cover breakfast and lunch that children would have received at their school, for five days a week. The benefit is valued at \$5.86 per child per day, which totals to \$29.30 per week. The benefit amount for each household will depend on the number of eligible children in the household and the number of school days for each eligible child. P-EBT benefits were already issued for the months of August 2020 and September 2020 on September 29, 2020 and the District is not currently approved to issue any additional benefits.

**Q: Can I apply for P-EBT benefits?**

A: You cannot currently apply for P-EBT benefits. Eligibility was determined by information the District has on record about your family.

**Q: How do District families not currently certified for free or reduced-price meals apply for P-EBT benefits?**

A: There are several ways District families may qualify and apply for P-EBT:

- Families of children who attend a DCPS CEP school are automatically eligible for free and reduced priced meals. A list of DCPS CEP schools can be found here [dcps.dc.gov/page/community-eligibility-provision-cep-schools](https://dcps.dc.gov/page/community-eligibility-provision-cep-schools).
- Families whose child attends a DCPS school that administers the federal free and reduced-price meals program (FARM) can find more information here [dcps.dc.gov/publication/free-and-reduced-priced-meals-farm-application](https://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 for FARM.



**Q: I did not receive my P-BET benefits, but I think I am eligible, or I received a notice or robo-call telling me I received P-EBT.**

A: Visit the DHS P-EBT webpage at [dhs.dc.gov/p-ebt](https://dhs.dc.gov/p-ebt) and complete the [P-EBT assistance online web form](#) for case-specific questions, which are sent directly to the P-EBT review team. Web form responses may take 2-3 weeks.

If your family requires immediate assistance, additional food support and resources are available in the District:

Food Resources and Support	Website & Phone Number
DC's Coronavirus Food Resources Page	<a href="https://coronavirus.dc.gov/food">coronavirus.dc.gov/food</a>
Capitol Area Food Bank	<a href="https://www.capitolareafoodbank.org">www.capitolareafoodbank.org</a> ; (202) 644-9800
So Other Might Eat (SOME)	<a href="https://www.some.org">www.some.org</a> ; (202) 797-8806
Bread for the City	<a href="https://www.breadforthecity.org">www.breadforthecity.org</a> ; (202) 265-2400

**Q: How often will I get P-EBT benefits?**

A: At this time, eligible families will receive only the September 29th payment unless the District submits and receives approval for an updated state plan that meets the qualifying conditions set forth by the federal government. Submitting an updated plan was only made possible because of changes passed on October 1, 2020 amending the Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020.

**Q: Where can I use my P-EBT benefits? What can I buy with them?**

A: You can use your P-EBT benefits to purchase food at any store that accepts SNAP. Most retailers have signs stating they accept SNAP or EBT. You may also use the [SNAP Retailer Locator](#) to find authorized SNAP retailers; visit the [EBT Edge website](#) to learn more about authorized SNAP retailers or, download the EBT Edge mobile app from the [Google Play](#) or [Apple App](#) stores to find retailers that accept SNAP benefits.

In addition, you can use your P-EBT benefits to purchase food online for delivery at [Amazon](#).

**Q: Do I have to use all my P-EBT benefits when I get them?**

A: No. The money will carry over from month to month. Benefits that are not used for over a year will be removed from the card.

**Q: Will getting P-EBT impact my family's Public Charge status?**

A: No. Using P-EBT benefits does not impact your or your child's immigration status. The Public Charge rule does not apply to P-EBT benefits.

**Q: What if I lost or cut up the EBT card issued to me but I want my September 2020 payment?**

A: Visit DHS P-EBT webpage at [dhs.dc.gov/p-ebt](https://dhs.dc.gov/p-ebt) and complete the [P-EBT assistance online web form](#) for case-specific questions, which are sent to P-EBT review team. Web form responses may take 2-3 weeks.



**Q: I saw on the news that P-EBT benefits were extended. When will I receive another payment?**

A: On October 1, the Federal government amended the Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020, which authorizes the P-EBT program and allows the USDA to review plans for continuing to issue P-EBT benefits based on qualifying conditions. **DHS is working closely with partner agencies in the District to develop a plan to continue to provide benefits to all eligible children.** Please visit the [DHS P-EBT webpage](#) for ongoing updates about the P-EBT program and benefits.