

P-EBT Updates for SNAP Outreach Partners

SNAP Outreach Unit
Department of Transitional Assistance
April 29, 2020



Department of
Transitional
Assistance

Families First Coronavirus Response Act, H.R. 6201

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act, H.R. 6201 allowed states to:

- Request Waivers
- Push out the ABAWD rules
- Issue Emergency SNAP Allotments
- Issue Pandemic EBT (P-EBT)

P – EBT Overview

P-EBT:

What is P-EBT?

Pandemic EBT or P-EBT is part of The Families First Coronavirus Response Act, H.R. 6201.

Who is eligible?

The P-EBT program provides additional food support for students who would have received **free and reduced-price meals** if not for the school closures due to COVID-19.

Who is on free/reduced price meals?

Income guidelines:

Children in households with incomes between 130 to 185 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) are **eligible** for **reduced-price school meals**.

Eligibility:

- Direct Certification
- Paper applications
- Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)*

**Not all students are subject to above income guidelines.*

Massachusetts Waiver:

MA was approved by FNS to start the implementation of Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT) on April 17, 2020.

Included in the waiver:

- Provide benefits to both SNAP and non-SNAP households
- Total days for MA school closures – 70 days
- Amount of \$5.70 per child per day



Implementation

Identification:

For implementation, DTA is managing the distribution of P-EBT into two distinct groups:

- **DTA Clients**

Includes families with children who are currently **actively** receiving benefits from the Department

- **Non-DTA Clients**

Includes families with children not active on benefits with the Department

DTA Clients:

How much will I receive in benefits?

\$5.70 per student per day of school closure

How will I be notified?

Client notice and text message to grantee

How many P-EBT households currently receive SNAP???

40% are children in a current DTA household. These households will get their P-EBT benefits on their existing EBT card in **April & May**

Non- DTA Clients:

How much will I receive in benefits?

\$5.70 per student per day of school closure

How will I be notified?

Client notice and a **P-EBT trifold flyer.**

How many P-EBT households currently are not on SNAP?

60% are children not in a DTA household. These households will get their benefits on a P-EBT Card.

One P-EBT card per eligible child/student.

Issued in **May and June**

P-EBT Trifold

What now?

¿Qué debo hacer ahora?

Look for the card in the mail in May.

Espera a recibir la tarjeta por correo en Mayo.



Set a PIN for your card. Instructions will be provided.

Establezca un PIN para su tarjeta. Se le proporcionarán instrucciones.

Buy food!
¡Comprar comida!



Cards can only be used at stores where DTA benefits are accepted.

Find approved retailers near you:

Las tarjetas solo pueden usarse en tiendas donde se acepten beneficios de DTA. Busque las tiendas minoristas aprobadas cerca suyo:

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/retailer-locator>

Contact Us

Contáctenos



FoodSource Hotline: 800-645-8333
Monday-Friday 8am-7pm
Saturdays 10am-2pm
Support in 160 languages

Línea directa de FoodSource:
800-645-8333

Lunes a viernes de 8am-7pm
Sábados de 10am-2pm
Asistencia en 160 idiomas

www.MAP-EBT.org



Need more help buying healthy food?
You may be eligible for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Check your eligibility on mass.gov/SNAP.

¿Necesita más ayuda para comprar alimentos saludables?

Puede ser elegible para el Programa de Asistencia Nutricional Suplementaria (SNAP). Verifique si es elegible en mass.gov/SNAP.

Additional Food Funds for Families during COVID-19

Fondos Adicionales para Alimentos destinados a Familias durante COVID-19

Introducing the P-EBT Card!

¡Presentamos la Tarjeta P-EBT!



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P-EBT Trifold

What is P-EBT?

¿Qué es P-EBT?



Pandemic-Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) is additional food support for families during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Transferencia electrónica de beneficios durante la pandemia (P-EBT, por sus siglas en inglés) es un apoyo alimentario adicional para familias durante la pandemia de COVID-19.



Families will receive **\$5.70** per child per day for every day school is closed.

Las familias recibirán **\$5.70** por niño, por día, por cada día que la escuela permanezca cerrada.

Cards will be mailed in **May**

Las tarjetas se enviarán por correo en **Mayo**



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Who will get a P-EBT card?

¿Quiénes recibirán una tarjeta P-EBT?



All Massachusetts families with school aged children who qualify for free or reduced price meals.

Todas las familias de Massachusetts con hijos en edad escolar que califiquen para comidas gratuitas o a precio reducido.



P-EBT benefits are available to households regardless of immigration status and are not considered in a public charge test.

Los beneficios de P-EBT están disponibles para grupos familiares independientemente del estado migratorio y no se consideran en una prueba de cargos públicos.

One card per child will be provided for families not receiving DTA benefits.

Se proporcionará una tarjeta por niño para las familias que no reciban beneficios de DTA.

What can I buy with the P-EBT card?

¿Qué puedo comprar con la tarjeta P-EBT?



For more information

Para más información

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/eligible-food-items>

P-EBT Client Notice

Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance

Mary Jones
101 Main Street
Lawrence, MA 01840

Case Number: 900654321

Date: 04/09/2020

P-EBT Benefit Issuance

Case Number =
900 + 6 digit
system generated
numbers

P-EBT PIN instructions
on the notice

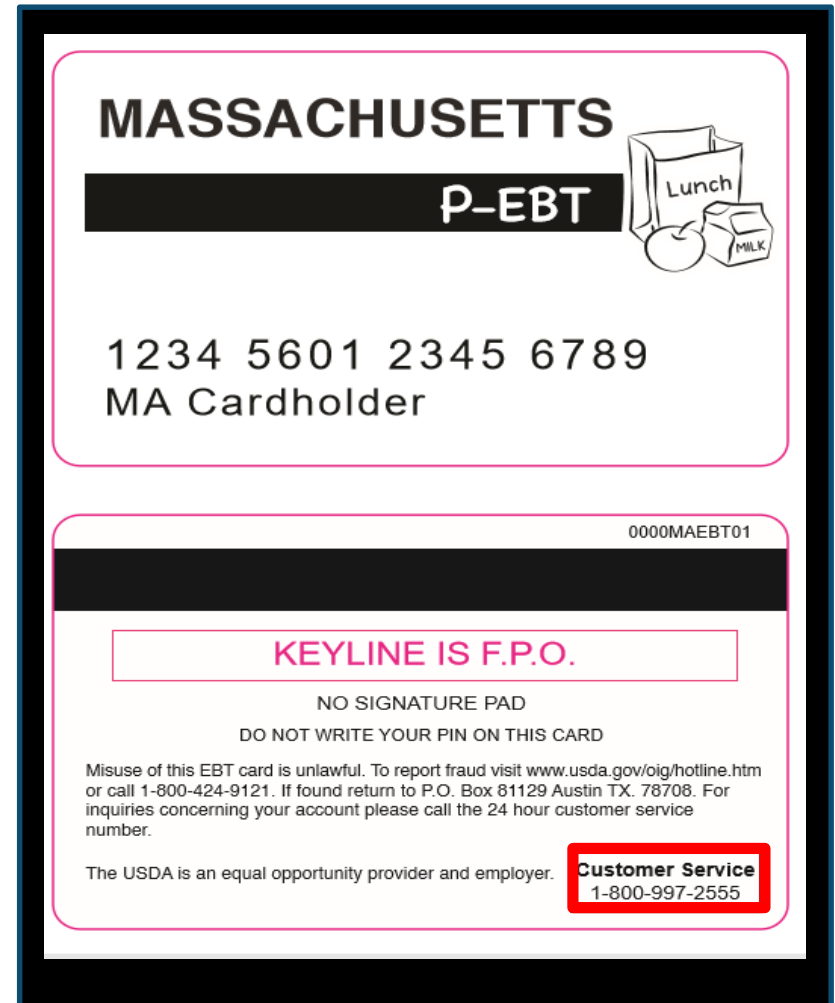
Your child, Sally Jones, is approved to receive \$399.00 in P-EBT benefits for the total school closure period. Your child's P-EBT benefits will be loaded onto a new EBT card in **two payments**, one in May and one in June. The EBT card will be mailed to you in a separate envelope.

You will need the **last 4 digits of your child's case number** (provided above) and your child's **date of birth** to create a PIN for the EBT card. *Note: If you have more than one child in your household, you will receive a separate EBT card for each eligible child.*

P-EBT Card Set up

To PIN the new P-EBT card:

- Call the number on the back of the card – **800-997-2555**
- Select Option 2
- Create a PIN using the last 4 digits of your child's case number provided on the notice and the child's date of birth (using the 2 digit month + 2 digit day: Example: 04/06=0406)



Using the P-EBT Card

- Receipt of P-EBT does not confer SNAP eligibility.
- P-EBT cannot be used to access HIP benefits.
- P-EBT card holders will not have access to DTA Connect
- To check their balance, they can call the # on the back of the card.



Use like an EBT card for purchasing groceries from approved retailers!

Communication

Communication

Communication Roll out

DTA sent out a press release on April 23rd to announce USDA approval on their P-EBT plan.

Current DTA Clients will be receiving:

- A text message from the Department and an alert on DTA Connect on 4/30
- A notice in the mail

Those currently not on DTA benefits will be receiving:

- A notice in the mail with a flyer developed by DTA, DESE, Shah Foundation and Project Bread
- Information potentially from DESE and other partners

**Retailer communication in development
with more to come!**



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How partners can help

Spread the word!

- Post on your social channels
- Send an email to the individuals you work with
- Call families you work with
- Download, print & distribute P-EBT materials
- Encourage individuals to call the Project Bread FoodSource Hotline at **800-645-8333** for support



How partners can help

- Send families to the newly established MA P-EBT website

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Massachusetts P-EBT website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the text "Need help? Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline: (800) 645-8333". Below this, the main content area is divided into several sections. On the left, there is a graphic with various food items like cereal, milk, and fruits. In the center, there is a section titled "ABOUT P-EBT:" with text explaining the program. On the right, there is a circular graphic showing a woman and a child with a shopping bag. Below the main content, there is a red banner with the URL "www.MAp-EBT.org" in white text, which is highlighted with a red box. To the right of the banner, there is a section titled "Partners" with text explaining the program's impact. Below the "Partners" section, there are two columns of links: "Resources" and "School Resources".

Need help? Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline: (800) 645-8333

Massachusetts
Pandemic Electronic
Benefits Transfer Card
(P-EBT Program)

Home Partners FAQs Contact Us

ABOUT P-EBT:

The P-EBT program helps support families by buying healthy food while bringing in more than \$600 million to the Commonwealth's economy. Please help spread the word to inform the individuals and families you serve of these benefits.

Partners

The Pandemic EBT program helps support families buy healthy food while bringing in more than \$600 million to the Commonwealth's economy. Please help spread the word to inform the individuals and families you serve of these benefits.

Resources

- Flyer - Color (English & Spanish)
- Flyer - Black & White (English & Spanish)
- 1 Pager - English
- 1 Pager - Spanish

School Resources

- Template letter or email for families
- Template letter or email for families
- Template - Bilingual / text

www.MAp-EBT.org

FAQs

P-EBT FAQs:

- **What if a child gets free breakfast and lunch, but their family does not receive SNAP?**

DTA will be working with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and our partners at The Shah Family Foundation and Project Bread to reach these households.

- **Will receipt of P-EBT confer Public Charge?**

P-EBT is not considered a public benefit under the public charge policy. Receiving nutrition assistance through P-EBT would not make an immigrant a "public charge."

P-EBT FAQs:

- **Can families apply for P-EBT?**

There is no application for the P-EBT benefit, families qualify for the benefit by applying for SNAP or the NSLP or by being part of a CEP (Community Eligibility Provision) school.

- **Will the materials be translated?**

All information is in English and Spanish, and we are looking into translating into Portuguese, Chinese, Haitian Creole and Arabic as well.

P-EBT FAQs:

- **Families who were not signed up for free and reduced lunch at close of school but would now qualify because parents are currently out of work, can they still apply?**

Those families are encouraged to apply for SNAP because we have no confirmation on the capacity of schools to complete school meal applications at this time.

- **How do I apply for SNAP?**
 - Apply online at DTAConnect.com,
 - Or go to: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/departments-of-transitional-assistance-documents-and-forms> to download an application and mail or fax to:
DTA Document Processing Center
P.O. Box 4406
Taunton, MA 02780
(617) 887-8765
 - Or, reach out to one of our 90 Outreach Partners, for a complete list, go to: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/snap-outreach-partners>

P-EBT FAQs:

- **If applying for SNAP or school lunch now, how much will I get in P-EBT benefits?**

FNS requires that families who become eligible after school closures be issued prorated P-EBT benefits. DTA will apply the proration after initial issuances to all currently active/eligible families.

- **What if I have moved, I have not notified my child's school and did not get my notice or P-EBT card?**

Contact Project Bread FoodSource Hotline at **1-800-645-8333** and provide your child's student ID#. They will notify DTA.

P-EBT FAQs:

- **What if I do not want the P-EBT card?**

If your family does not want/need to use the benefits issued on their P-EBT card, they can destroy the card. The benefits are subject to SNAP expungement rules, if the card is not used in 365 days, the benefits will be removed.

- **Will I get a another card when I get additional P-EBT benefits?**

Families **need to keep their P-EBT** card because a second issuance will be made on the same card. A new card is not mailed each time P-EBT benefits are issued to the family.

P-EBT FAQs:

- **Can families still access the grab-n-go lunches at the schools ?**

Yes, families can participate in both programs.

- **If a family does not have an active SNAP case, will the benefits still go on the EBT card?**

No, at initial issuance benefits will be paid to active DTA clients. If they are receiving NSLP, benefits will be issued on the P-EBT card.

P-EBT FAQs:

- **Can students in private schools also receive P-EBT?**

Yes, about 34 private schools also have free/reduced price meals.

- **If the family is only receiving cash assistance, can they still get P-EBT?**

Yes, they will receive P-EBT as long as they are determined to be receiving or are eligible for free or reduced price meals based on the DESE list.

- **What if you are an undocumented minor, living alone?**

They can also receive a P-EBT card as long as they are determined to be receiving or are eligible for free or reduced price meals based on the DESE list.

P-EBT Information:

General Questions on P-EBT call:



Project Bread
FoodSource Hotline:
1-800-645-8333



To Learn more about P-EBT visit:

<https://www.map-ebt.org/>

OR

mass.gov/p-ebt



Project Contact Information:

General questions about on the SNAP program, DTA Connect, setup or if you need additional assistance:

DTA.SNAPOutreach@MassMail.State.MA.US

DTA Connect issues & adding/removing users:

DTA-DL-ITRequests@MassMail.State.MA.US

Questions on budget, claims, contract or accessing the UMMS portal:

Michele.Brown@umassmed.edu



Questions?



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