



**School Year  
2020-21**

**CNMI**

**PANDEMIC EBT**



## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **General Information**

**1. What is the Pandemic EBT program?**

The Pandemic EBT program, or P-EBT, provides reimbursements to eligible students to replace the cost of meals students would have received at school if not for the lack of in-person instruction or due to school closures during the 2020-21 school year. P-EBT benefits are coupon benefits that are redeemable just as how NAP coupons are redeemed at NAP authorized retailers and vendors.

**2. My child is in child care. Do we get P-EBT benefits?**

A child in child care may receive P-EBT benefits if the child is a member of a NAP household who received NAP benefits between October 1, 2020 to June 11, 2021. In general, a child under the age of 6 and is receiving NAP benefits at any time since October 1, 2020 is eligible for P-EBT benefits.

**3. If I get P-EBT benefits, will it affect my immigration status or make me a public charge?**

No. The Public Charge rule does not apply to P-EBT benefits and P-EBT benefits should not impact immigration status.

**4. My child gets lunches at school. Can I still qualify for P-EBT?**

Yes. P-EBT benefits are additional food benefits. Children may continue to receive grab-and-go meals at school or community sites, or emergency food at COVID-19 emergency feeding sites offered at community locations, even if they are receiving P-EBT benefits.

**5. Where can I pick up a P-EBT application?**

Your child's school will be disseminating applications to your child for you to fill out. However, you must submit the P-EBT application to the P-EBT Application Center located at the PSS Child Nutrition Program office on Capitol Hill, Building No. 1251 or the Nutrition Assistance Program office on As Lito. If you have not received a P-EBT application please visit or contact your child's school office to receive one. Please note the deadline to submit P-EBT applications is on June 11, 2021.

**6. Is the P-EBT application available online?**

No. P-EBT applications are paper-based but a simple one-sheet application. Each school-aged child shall receive a P-EBT application to be provided by their school. Households will only need to complete one application for all eligible children in their home.

## **P-EBT Eligibility**

**7. Who is eligible for P-EBT?**

The CNMI operates the Child Nutrition Program under the Community Eligibility Provision, this means children in schools (both public and private) are eligible for the National School Lunch Program for free or reduced-price meals. If the child's school is closed or operating with reduced in-person attendance, the child will be eligible for P-EBT benefits based on their school's learning model. Children under the age of 6 and are members of a NAP household are eligible for P-EBT benefits.

**8. Where do I submit the P-EBT application?**

Submit your completed P-EBT application to PSS Child Nutrition Program office on Capitol Hill, Building No. 1251 or the Nutrition Assistance Program office on As Lito. Please note the deadline to submit P-EBT applications is on June 11, 2021.

**9. Do I have to provide citizenship or alien status information?**

There is no citizenship requirement for P-EBT eligibility, therefore you do not need to provide citizenship or alien status information.

**10. Do I have to provide any income information?**

No. You will not be required to provide any income information. Eligibility will be based on the child's school enrollment.

**11. I already receive NAP assistance. Do I automatically qualify for P-EBT?**

NAP households with school-aged children may be eligible for P-EBT benefits. Also, children under the age of 6 years old who is in a NAP household may be eligible for P-EBT benefits, however a P-EBT application would still be required.

**12. How do I find out if my child is eligible for P-EBT benefits?**

The CNP and/or the NAP will issue notices to households who are eligible for P-EBT benefits. Households will be provided a P-EBT ID Card in which households will present to the NAP office in order to receive their benefits on a given schedule. The schedule will be published in the PSS and NAP websites, public releases, and social media.

**13. My child is home schooled. Do they qualify for P-EBT?**

No. P-EBT is available only to children enrolled in and receiving education services in a school,

and would normally receive free or reduced-price school meals through the NSLP or SBP if the school wasn't closed or had reduced attendance.

## Getting P-EBT Benefits

### 14. How do I pick up my child's P-EBT benefits?

P-EBT benefits will be distributed through the NAP drive-thru at the NAP As Lito office. The schedule for P-EBT benefit distribution will be posted on PSS and NAP websites, news and social media. The parent or guardian whose name appears on the P-EBT ID Card must provide a valid photo identification card for verification before the benefit can be issued to them.

### 15. Will my benefits be back-dated to the beginning of the school year?

Yes. If a child is determined eligible, we will issue P-EBT benefits back to the beginning of the 2020-21 school year or the month the school became eligible and through the end of the school year 2020-21.

### 16. What if I need a replacement P-EBT ID card because I lost or damaged it?

You may contact the P-EBT contact center at 287-3063 to 287-3065 during business hours 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mondays thru Fridays to request a replacement of lost or damaged P-EBT ID card.

### 17. How do P-EBT benefits look like?

Eligible households will receive two types of P-EBT coupons: Regular and Local. Regular represents 70 percent of their P-EBT benefits which is used to purchase food commodities imported into the Commonwealth. Local represents 30 percent of the benefits which is used to purchase local food commodities.

#### Regular coupons



#### Local coupons



**18. When I can expect to receive P-EBT benefits?**

P-EBT benefits are expected to be issued from June 2021 to August 2021. Benefits issued in June 2021 will cover the period August 2020 to November 2020. In July 2021 will be for the period December 2020 to March 2021, and in August 2021 for the period April 2021 to June 2021.

## P-EBT Benefit Amounts

**19. How much will I get in P-EBT benefits?**

Meals are budgeted at a daily rate of \$7.97, which covers lunch, breakfast and a snack, multiplied by the number virtual days per month for the 2020-21 school year. The P-EBT benefit amount is based on each student's learning situation and can vary from school to school.

Schools will report their learning model for the majority of students for the majority of each month. Each school is unique and may have modified their learning model several times since September 2020. Because of this, each child may receive a different benefit amount. The table below provides the benefit levels based on PSS learning model.

Month	Virtual Days	Daily Rate	Amount
September 2020	14	\$7.97	\$ 111.58
October 2020	16	\$7.97	\$ 127.52
November 2020	9	\$7.97	\$ 71.73
December 2020	13	\$7.97	\$ 103.61
January 2021	15	\$7.97	\$ 119.55
February 2021	11	\$7.97	\$ 87.67
March 2021	13	\$7.97	\$ 103.61
April 2021	11	\$7.97	\$ 87.67
May 2021	12	\$7.97	\$ 95.64
June 2021	5	\$7.97	\$ 39.85
Total (rounded)			\$ 948.00

## Using P-EBT Benefits

**20. Where can I use my P-EBT benefits?**

You can use your P-EBT benefits to buy food at most grocery stores, the Garapan Public Market, roadside seafood vendors, bakery vendors, and water bottling companies. Look for the sign "We Welcome Food Stamp Customers" posted at their front entrance.

**21. What can be purchased with P-EBT benefits?**

P-EBT benefits can be used to purchase food for human consumption, commonly food items and ingredients so a meal can be prepared at home. Households are allowed to purchase seeds and plants which produce food for human consumption. Households may purchase farming and garden tools such as hoes,

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Food Stamp  
Customers**

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STAMP  
BENEFITS**




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rakes, sickles, shovels, and fertilizer. Household may also purchase fishing equipment such as eligible nets, spears, knives, fish lines, fish hooks, harpoons, diving masks, goggles, underwater flashlights, and fishing rods and reels.

**22. What cannot be purchased with P-EBT benefits?**

**P-EBT benefits cannot buy:**

- |  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| - Food that will be eaten in the store | - Any non-food items, such as: |
| - Hot foods that are ready to eat      | • Pet foods                    |
| - Lunch counter items                  | • Soaps                        |
| - Alcoholic beverages                  | • Household supplies           |
| - Tobacco and tobacco products         | • Grooming items               |
| - Betel nuts, pupulu and hafok         | • Cosmetics                    |
| - Vitamins and medicine                | • Butane gas                   |
|  | • Paper products               |

**23. Do I get change back from my P-EBT purchase?**

NAP authorized retailers are not allowed give back P-EBT coupons for change in instances when purchases of eligible items are less than the value of your coupons. Households are advised to plan their purchases. NAP retailers are only required to give change back no more than ninety-nine cents (\$0.99) in U.S. currency for every P-EBT or NAP coupon transaction.

**24. When do the P-EBT coupons expire?**

P-EBT coupons will expire on December 31, 2021. NAP retailers will not accept P-EBT coupons for redemption after this date.

## **P-EBT Contact Center**

**25. Who do I call for P-EBT Questions?**

All P-EBT questions may be directed to the P-EBT Contact Center at 287-3063 to 287-3065 during business hours 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mondays thru Fridays.