

Pandemic EBT-Program Round 2 – September 16, 2020

A program for families with children who receive free or reduced-cost meals at school



What is P-EBT?

The Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program is part of a food assistance plan approved by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, and authorized by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, for eligible students who attend kindergarten through grade 12. The Hawai'i Department of Human Services (DHS) wants families to know that there is a tight turnaround that the federal government has given DHS to allocate these benefits.

Important Information from the Hawai'i Department of Education that will help families receive P-EBT benefits:

- **Ensure that your child's school has the correct mailing address NO LATER THAN September 22, 2020.**
- **If your child is in need and is NOT enrolled in the *Free and Reduced-Price Lunch Program*, (and you would like for them to receive P-EBT benefits) please enroll no later than September 21, 2020 via EZMealApp.com.**

How Does this Work?

There are three ways the P-EBT will be distributed.

1. **SNAP RECIPIENTS**

For families that received P-EBT benefits for the school year 2019-20 and are Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households, P-EBT benefits will automatically be deposited to their existing Kokua EBT card. The P-EBT benefits can be used the same way as their Kokua EBT card.

2. **NON-SNAP RECIPIENTS WHO ALREADY HAVE THE HAWAI'I P-EBT CARD** (white card with black lettering)

Families that had received P-EBT benefits for the school year 2019-20 and are eligible for P-EBT benefits for the school year 2020-21 will have their benefits loaded to the card they had received for their 2019-20 benefits. If a replacement card is needed (Kokua EBT or Hawai'i P-EBT) please call the Fidelity Information Service (FIS) customer service at 1-888-328-4292.

3. **FAMILIES NEW TO THE HAWAI'I P-EBT PROGRAM AND ELIGIBLE**

Families that had not received P-EBT for the 2019-20 school year will be mailed a Hawai'i P-EBT card.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Families new to the program that are mailed a Hawai'i P-EBT card will receive a card in the name of each eligible student. The SNAP and Hawai'i P-EBT cards can also be used in the *Da Bux* program.

Who is Eligible?

- Students who are either enrolled for free or reduced-price school meals at a school that participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) **OR...**
- Students who are enrolled in a school that provides free meals to all students through the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) or another provision. See the link below for CEP school listing:
<http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/TeachingAndLearning/HealthAndNutrition/StudentHealthResources/Pages/CEP.aspx>

Do I need to apply for P-EBT?

No, households do not have to apply for P-EBT. DHS will be provided the records of eligible students. Please see the information under "Who is Eligible?" section.

How Much Will Families Receive?

Eligible families can receive up to the following amount for each child enrolled in school:

August 2020: \$136

September 2020: \$150

Maximum for the 2-month period of School Year 2020-21: **\$286/child.**

The Hawai'i P-EBT benefits will be loaded on the existing Kokua EBT and Hawai'i P-EBT card accounts beginning September 29, 2020. New Hawai'i P-EBT account holders will have their cards mailed beginning September 29, 2020.

For Hawai'i P-EBT Program Inquiries: Email hi.pebt@dhs.hawaii.gov