

# News Release

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## **Oregon to issue an additional \$170 million in Pandemic EBT food assistance to 434,000 children**

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### **Need to know:**

- Oregon will provide an additional \$170 million in food benefits to 434,000 children beginning in late March 2023.
- From late March to the end of May 2023, \$391 in food benefits will be issued to each eligible child.
- These additional food benefits are part of the Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) program, a temporary COVID-19 response program meant to provide additional food support for children whose access to food provided through school programs may have been impacted by COVID-19.

(Salem) – The Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) will begin issuing \$170 million in Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) food benefits to 434,000 students and young children in Oregon beginning in late March 2023.

A P-EBT card containing \$391 in food benefits, which is different from a regular electronic benefit transfer (EBT) card, will be sent by mail to each eligible child. Cards are being sent in batches from late March to the end of May 2023.

“We are grateful to be able to provide these food benefits to eligible students and families with young children in Oregon,” said Claire Seguin, interim director of the ODHS Self-Sufficiency Programs. “As communities continue to be affected by COVID-19 and the rising cost of food, we know that many families are experiencing hardship and are struggling to get enough healthy food for themselves and their children. We encourage anyone who is struggling to meet their basic needs to contact our partners at 211, the Oregon Food Bank and their local Community Action Agency for support during this difficult time.”

### **Who is eligible for P-EBT food benefits**

Children are eligible for Summer 2022 P-EBT if they:

- Were eligible to receive free or reduced-price National School Lunch Program meals during school year 2021-2022 or attended a Community Eligibility Provision school.
- Were under the age of 6 and enrolled in SNAP during the summer 2022 months.

Between March and May 2023, each eligible child will receive two pieces of mail addressed to them:

- A letter notifying them they are eligible to receive P-EBT benefits
- A separate envelope with their P-EBT card that has \$391 of food benefits on it

Households with multiple eligible children will receive individual letters and cards for each eligible child. Households will start receiving notification letters at the end of March and P-EBT cards will begin arriving in April.

These additional food benefits are part of the P-EBT program, a temporary COVID-19 response program meant to provide additional food support for children whose access to adequate and quality food received through school programs may have been impacted by COVID-19.

Visit [pebt.oregon.gov](https://pebt.oregon.gov) for more information about the P-EBT program.

Families with specific questions about their child's eligibility or P-EBT card can contact the **P-EBT Call Center at (844) ORE-PEBT or (844) 673-7328**. The P-EBT Call Center is available Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Pacific in English, Spanish, Russian, Vietnamese, Somalian, Mandarin and Cantonese. Callers may also request a translator for additional languages.

P-EBT does not replace any child nutrition program already offered and families are encouraged to continue to participate in meal programs in their schools and communities.

P-EBT food benefits are issued in addition to regular SNAP benefits. P-EBT benefits are not considered in a public charge test.

### **Resources to help meet basic needs**

- Find food resources in your community: [needfood.oregon.gov](https://needfood.oregon.gov)
- Find a food pantry: [foodfinder.oregonfoodbank.org](https://foodfinder.oregonfoodbank.org)

- Learn about government programs and community resources for older adults and people with disabilities: Aging and Disability Resource Connection of Oregon at 1-855-673-2372 or [www.adrcoforegon.org](http://www.adrcoforegon.org).
- Dial 2-1-1, or text your zip code to 898-211, [www.211info.org](http://www.211info.org)
- Find local resources and support by contacting your local Community Action Agency: [www.caporegon.org/find-services/](http://www.caporegon.org/find-services/)
- [Oregon Department of Human Services COVID-19 help center](#)

### **About SNAP**

Administered by ODHS, SNAP is a federal program that provides food assistance to approximately 1 million eligible, low-income families and individuals in Oregon, including many older adults and people with disabilities. Oregonians in need can apply for benefits, including SNAP, child care, cash assistance and Medicaid. Learn more at <https://govstatus.egov.com/or-dhs-benefits>. For local resources in your area, such as food or shelter, please call 2-1-1 or reach out to the state's Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) at 1-855-ORE-ADRC or 1-855-673-2372.

### **About P-EBT**

Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) is part of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. P-EBT is money for children whose access to adequate and quality food may have been impacted by COVID-19. [Learn more about P-EBT from our FAQ for Families flyer.](#)

P-EBT is a program in partnership with the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) and the Oregon Department of Education (ODE).

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