

# News Release

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## **Oregon to issue an additional \$39 million in Pandemic EBT food assistance to 325,000 children**

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### **Need to know:**

- Oregon will provide approximately \$39 million in food benefits to approximately 325,000 students beginning Aug. 31 and through September.
- Starting Aug. 31 and through the month of September, \$120 in food benefits per eligible child will be issued to Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) cards.
- 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 food provided through school programs.
- Since 2020, Oregon has issued \$1 billion in P-EBT food benefits to help children in Oregon get enough quality and nutritious food.

(Salem) – The Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) will begin issuing approximately \$39 million in Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) food benefits to approximately 325,000 students in Oregon on Aug. 31.

“We are grateful to be able to provide these food benefits to eligible students in Oregon,” said Claire Seguin, 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.”

### **How students will receive P-EBT food benefits**

The P-EBT food benefits will be issued onto the P-EBT cards mailed to students in Spring 2023. Families who lost or threw away their card can contact the P-EBT call center at (844) ORE-PEBT or (844) 673-7328 to request a new card.

Newly eligible students will receive two pieces of mail addressed to them:

- A letter notifying them they will receive P-EBT
- A separate envelope with their P-EBT card that has \$120 of food benefits on it

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

Students are eligible for this P-EBT issuance if they received free or reduced-price National School Lunch Program meals at school or attended a Community Eligibility Provision school in May 2023.

### **More P-EBT food benefits to come for certain children**

Oregon has received federal approval to provide additional P-EBT food benefits to children under 6 years old who received Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program food benefits between July 2022 and August 2023. Details about when and how these children will receive their P-EBT food benefits will be announced as soon as it is available.

### **What is the P-EBT program?**

Since 2020, Oregon has issued approximately \$1 billion in P-EBT food benefits to help children in Oregon get enough quality and nutritious food.

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 seven language options (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](https://www.adrcoforegon.org).
- Dial 2-1-1, or text your zip code to 898-211, [www.211info.org](https://www.211info.org)
- Find local resources and support by contacting your local Community Action Agency: [www.caporegon.org/find-services/](https://www.caporegon.org/find-services/)

## 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.

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