

Pandemic EBT: Summer 2021 Plan
Submitted: July 21, 2021

1. **State:** California
2. **Primary Citation:** Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) as amended by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

3. **Requested Items:**

a. Standard Benefit Opt-In

California will use the U.S. standard benefit for the covered summer period.

b. Estimated Total Benefits

Estimated total amount of Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT) benefits California will issue for the covered summer period.

School age children: \$1,500,016,875
Child care age children: \$375,023,250

c. Estimated Total Children

Estimated total number of children to which California will issue P-EBT benefits.

School age children: 4,000,045
Child care age children: 1,000,062

d. Tentative Schedule

The tentative schedule below provides the anticipated P-EBT issuance schedule for P-EBT for child care age and school age children, inclusive of school year 2020-21 and summer 2021. P-EBT benefits for summer 2021 (June 2021 through August 2021) will be issued to all eligible children during the month of December 2021 (as indicated in yellow below). Each eligible child will receive summer P-EBT benefits totaling \$375 in a single issuance. This single issuance may be the eligible children first, second or third issuance on their existing card depending on when they became P-EBT eligible. Summer P-EBT benefits will be issued onto existing P-EBT cards or, if a child becomes newly eligible during the summer period, onto a new P-EBT card that will be mailed to the eligible child during the month of December 2021.

Tentative Issuance Schedule P-EBT for Child Care and School Aged Children													Mailing and Issuance	
P-EBT Benefit Month														
2020					2021									
Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug		
Child Care Aged Children														
		First Issuance on New Cards												June 21 to July 31
						First Issuance on New Cards AND Second Issuance on Existing Cards							New Cards: Nov	
										First Issuance on New Cards and Second/Third Issuance on Existing Cards			2 nd Issuance: Nov 15-30	
										First Issuance on New Cards and Second/Third Issuance on Existing Cards			New Cards: Dec	
										First Issuance on New Cards and Second/Third Issuance on Existing Cards			2 nd & 3 rd Issuance: Dec 15-31	
School Aged Children														
First Issuance on New Cards													August to October	
						Second Issuance on Existing Cards							Nov 15-30	
										Third Issuance on Existing Cards			Dec 15-31	

e. Identifying Eligible Children

School Aged Children

California will use its “master list” which is a full list of all school age children who have been issued P-EBT benefits for any P-EBT benefit month between August 2020 and May 2021. California will then identify children who were enrolled in school as of the last month of the school year (May 2021) as eligible for summer P-EBT benefits. (Children who exited school or graduated early, transferred to a school not participating in SBP or NSLP, or who transferred out of state, will not be issued summer P-EBT benefits). Finally, California will identify children determined newly eligible for free or reduced-price meals between June 1, 2021 and August 15, 2021 as eligible for P-EBT summer benefits. August 15, 2021 represents the most common start date for instruction statewide based on past school years. These newly eligible children will be deemed eligible for the entire summer period and will only receive summer P-EBT benefits.

The CDE will instruct school districts they must continue to accept National School Lunch Program (NSLP) applications through August 15, 2021 or up until the start of the 2021-22 school year, whichever comes first. For P-EBT, August 15, 2021 will serve as the final NSLP application deadline to determine summer P-EBT eligibility. On October 1, 2021, CDE will pull information from the

California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS) to identify children determined newly eligible for free or reduced-price school meals between June 1, 2021 and August 15, 2021. This timeline provides schools the month of September 2021 to complete the processing of NSLP applications received during the covered summer period and enter relevant information into CALPADS before the CDE pulls the information from the system to determine summer P-EBT eligibility.

Child Care Aged Children

California will use its list of young children issued P-EBT benefits for the month of May 2021, as well as young children who received Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits and would have received P-EBT in the last month of the school year, but didn't because the child's residence was not in a county where a school was closed or operating with reduced attendance or hours in that month. These children must continue to be enrolled in SNAP during the summer period (receiving SNAP at least one month between June 2021 and August 2021) to be deemed eligible for the entire summer period and receive summer P-EBT benefits.

California will then add young children whose SNAP enrollment begins or ends during the covered summer period to this list (receiving SNAP at least one month between June 2021 and August 2021). These newly eligible children will be deemed eligible for the entire summer period and receive summer P-EBT benefits.

In October, CDSS will pull information from the Statewide Automated Welfare System to identify children newly eligible for SNAP between June 1, 2021 and August 31, 2021.

4. Benefit Levels

2021 Covered Summer Period	U.S. Standard P-EBT Benefit		
	Median Length of Covered Summer Period (weekdays)	Daily P-EBT Rate	Standard Benefit
Contiguous U.S.	55	\$6.82	\$375
Alaska	55	10.99	604
Hawaii, Guam, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico	55	7.97	438

Civil Rights Statement

The State will continue to comply with civil rights requirements, to include providing equal access to individuals with disabilities and individuals who are limited English proficient.

Administration of State P-EBT Plan

The State will administer P-EBT according to the terms of its approved State plan. In general, conditions related to benefit issuance reporting, administrative funding, and release of information remain in effect for the covered summer period. If the State wishes to change any of the terms of its plan, the State shall first notify USDA and will, if requested by USDA, submit a plan amendment for USDA review and approval.

Reminder

If the State needs to make any significant changes to its Summer 2021 plan after approval, the State needs to submit an amendment to FNS that describes the change and its impact on operating summer P-EBT. USDA will review the amendment and approve allowable amendments.

Signatures and Titles of Requesting SNAP and Child Nutrition State Agency Officials:



Alexis Fernández
Chief, CalFresh and Nutrition Branch
California Department of Social Services

Kim Frinzell
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California Department of Education

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