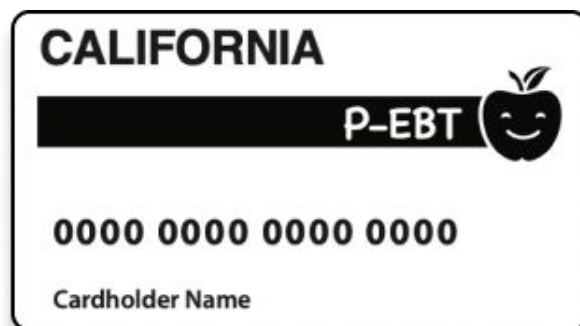


# Pandemic-EBT Info for Children & Families Served by Child Welfare Services

Due to the coronavirus pandemic emergency, children who are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals, including foster youth, will receive food benefits. These food benefits are called Pandemic EBT or 'P-EBT' benefits. P-EBT benefits help caregivers of foster youth buy food while schools are closed.

## Important Information for Youth and Caregivers

- School-aged youth in foster care are automatically eligible for P-EBT benefits. Families with children who are in foster care do not need to apply or complete any forms, including those in Family Maintenance programs.
- P-EBT cards will be issued in the child's name and will be mailed to the caregiver, Foster Family Agency, group home or Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program address on file so that the card is available to the primary individual who cooks and makes food purchases on behalf of the child.
- P-EBT cards will arrive in the mail around May 12 through May 22, 2020
- Each eligible child will receive up to \$365 in P-EBT benefits one time.
- Students can pick up "to-go meals" from schools and get P-EBT benefits. They do not have to choose between one or the other.



Information continued on other side\*

## Important Information for Youth and Caregivers (continued)

- P-EBT cards will be issued in the eligible child's name.
  - If a P-EBT card is received by a caregiver, but the child is no longer in residence, or is on an extended home visit, the card should be returned to the county social worker, case worker, or probation officer so that the card can be given to the appropriate current caregiver.
  - P-EBT cards mailed to Foster Family Agencies should be distributed to the appropriate primary caregiver.
- P-EBT cards can be used to buy food at most grocery stores and farmers markets. P-EBT cards are very similar to CalFresh EBT cards and are used like a debit card:
  - Select "EBT"
  - Swipe the card
  - Enter the private PIN number
- P-EBT cards can be used to purchase food online at Amazon and Walmart. You can learn more [here](#).
- P-EBT benefits can be used to purchase the same foods you can purchase with CalFresh food benefits. Learn more about what you can buy with P-EBT benefits [here](#).

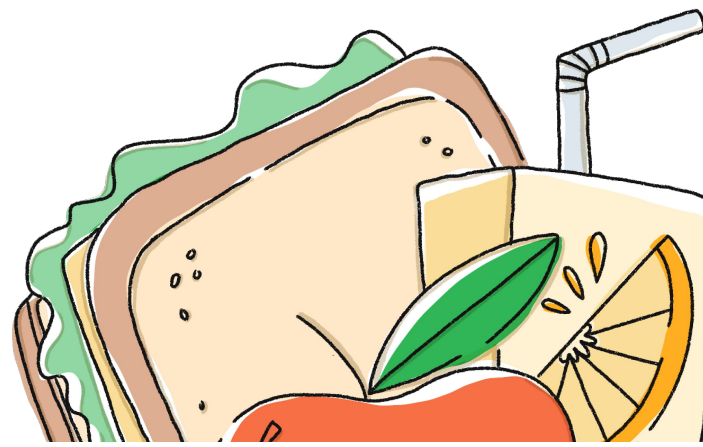
### Additional Resources:

P-EBT benefits will be issued by the State of California, not by local county welfare departments.

More information about P-EBT online: <https://ca.p-ebt.org/info>.

More information for our partners is available on the CDSS website: <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/home/pandemic-ebt>.

California's EBT Customer Service Center is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at **(877) 328-9677** for questions. You should only contact the Customer Service Center if you have not received your P-EBT card by about May 22.



# FAQs about Pandemic-EBT for Children & Families Served by Child Welfare Services

## Are foster youth eligible for P-EBT benefits?

- School-aged youth in foster care are automatically eligible for P-EBT benefits because they are automatically eligible for free school meals.
- If a child was in foster care at any point during the school year, they are eligible for free school meals the entire school year and, therefore, eligible for P-EBT benefits.
- Children ages 0-5 and youth ages 18-21 are only eligible if they were attending a school that offered free or reduced-price school meals through the federal School Breakfast Program or National School Lunch Program.

## How much in P-EBT benefits will each foster youth receive?

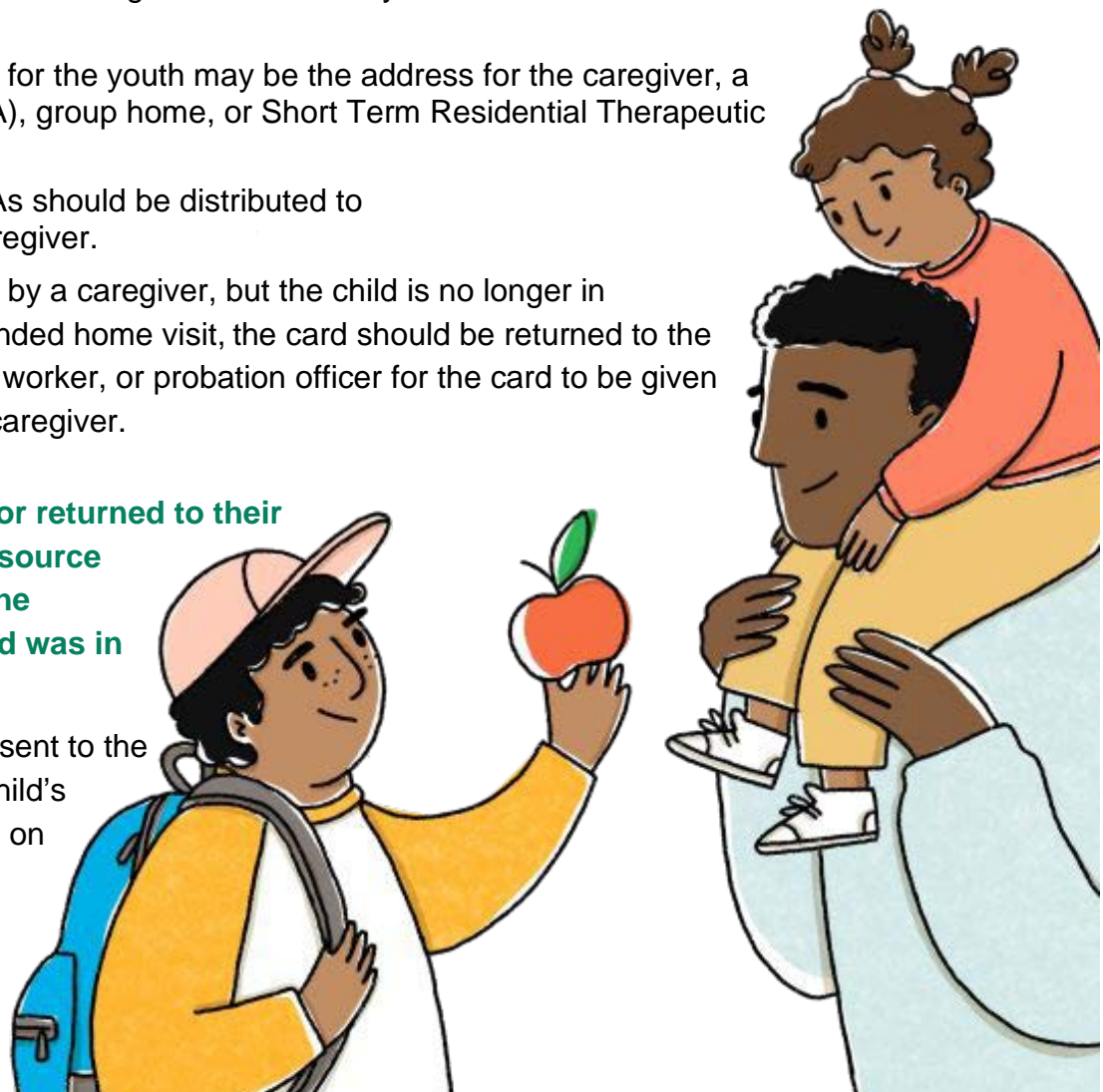
- Each foster youth will receive up to a total of \$365 in P-EBT benefits.
- If a child in foster care became eligible for free or reduced-priced meals for the FIRST time this school year after March 15, they will get less than \$365.

## Where will the P-EBT card be mailed to?

- P-EBT cards will be sent to the caregiver of the foster youth at the current address on file.
- The current address on file for the youth may be the address for the caregiver, a Foster Family Agency (FFA), group home, or Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP).
- P-EBT cards mailed to FFAs should be distributed to the appropriate primary caregiver.
- If a P-EBT card is received by a caregiver, but the child is no longer in residence, or is on an extended home visit, the card should be returned to the county social worker, case worker, or probation officer for the card to be given to the appropriate current caregiver.

## If a foster youth has moved or returned to their biological family, will the Resource Parent receive a portion of the benefits for the time the child was in their care?

- No. P-EBT benefits will be sent to the caregiver purchasing the child's food at the current address on file.



## When will I receive the P-EBT card for a foster youth in my care?

- P-EBT cards will arrive in the mail about May 12 to May 22, 2020.

## Where can the P-EBT card be used?

- P-EBT benefits are clearly labeled “P-EBT Card” and can only be used to purchase food.
- P-EBT cards can be used to buy food at most grocery stores and farmers markets. P-EBT cards are used like a debit card:
  - Select "EBT"
  - Swipe the card
  - Enter the private PIN number
- P-EBT cards can be used to purchase food online at Amazon and Walmart. You can learn more [here](#).
- P-EBT benefits can be used to purchase the same foods you can purchase with CalFresh food benefits. Learn more about what you can buy with P-EBT benefits [here](#).

More information about P-EBT visit: <https://ca.p-ebt.org/info>

If you have not received your P-EBT card by about May 22, you can call California's EBT Customer Service Center at (877) 328-9677. You can reach them 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

