



## June 30 Deadline Approaches for COVID-19 Food Benefit for Kids in Many Texas Families that Include Immigrants

Every Texan (formerly the Center for Public Policy Priorities) and the Children’s Defense Fund-Texas are reassuring Texas families that include immigrants that it is safe to use the “Pandemic-EBT” food assistance (P-EBT), but applications are due by June 30. Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) is designed to help fill the gaps created when school-aged children lost access to school meals due to the coronavirus pandemic. **While response from parents to the benefit has been good, it appears that about 1 million eligible Texas children may not yet have received or applied for their benefit.**

**P-EBT** is for children up to 21 years old who were certified for free or reduced-price meals at school in Texas during the 2019-20 school year. Children who attend a school that offers free meals to all students are also eligible. The one-time benefit is \$285 per child.

Parents of students 5-18 years old whose families were also enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly “food stamps”) in March 2020 already had their children’s funds added automatically to their Lone Star cards and don’t need to apply.

**Families of all other children who are certified for free or reduced-price meals at school in Texas, or who attend a school that offers free meals to all of its students (“Community Eligibility Provision or Provision 2”), but who were not receiving SNAP in March 2020 should apply for Pandemic-EBT.** Parents or guardians should have received a letter from their school district including a link and a toll-free phone number to apply for the benefits for their children. **Your child is eligible if they eat for free at school – even if you never filled out an application.**

If your child received free or reduced-price meals at school, but you did not receive a letter from your school district, you may call 833-613-6220 (in English or Spanish) to find out if your child is eligible for the benefit.

### Two important notes for families:

- **The special P-EBT food relief benefit is fully available regardless of the immigration status or citizenship of the school-age children or of their parents or caregivers.**
- **Accepting P-EBT benefits does not impact a parent or a child’s immigration status. The “public charge rule” that threatens to hold an immigrant’s use of public benefits against them when applying for residency does not apply to P-EBT benefits.**

You can find this information and answers to other questions about P-EBT at the Texas Health and Human Services Commission’s website: <https://hhs.texas.gov/services/health/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-covid-19-information-texans/pandemic-ebt-p-ebt-due-covid-19>

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Since its founding in 1985, **Every Texan** (formerly the Center for Public Policy Priorities – CPPP) has expanded opportunity and equity for Texans of all backgrounds. Based in Austin, Texas, Every Texan is an organization advancing social justice through public policy. Their dedicated team researches, analyzes, and advocates for public policies to expand equitable access to quality health care, food security, education, and good jobs. Learn more about how Every Texan is making Texas the best state to live in at [everytexan.org](http://everytexan.org).

**Children’s Defense Fund-Texas** began in 1999 and has offices in Houston, Austin and McAllen with Tyler. CDF-Texas raises awareness about the challenges facing Texas children; connects children and families to services to help meet their needs; works with community partners to develop innovative programs; and builds broad-based support for legislative action on behalf of children. Through research and advocacy, CDF-Texas champions policies and programs that lift children out of poverty and ensure that every child has an opportunity to succeed. Learn more at [cdf texas.org](http://cdf texas.org).