

Policy Transmittal Office of Self-Sufficiency Programs



Heather Miles, SSP Program Design Manager

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Number: SS-PT-20-012

Issue date: 05/28/2020

Topic: Food Benefits

Due date:

Subject: Pandemic EBT

Transmitting (check the box that best applies):

- New policy
 Policy change
 Policy clarification
 Executive letter
 Administrative Rule
 Manual update
 Other:

Applies to (check all that apply):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All DHS employees | <input type="checkbox"/> County Mental Health Directors |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Area Agencies on Aging: Type A & B | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aging and People with Disabilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Self Sufficiency Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> ODDS Children's Intensive In Home Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County DD program managers | <input type="checkbox"/> Stabilization and Crisis Unit (SACU) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Support Service Brokerage Directors | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ODDS Children's Residential Services | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Child Welfare Programs | |

Policy/rule title:	Pandemic EBT		
Policy/rule number(s):	461.135.0498	Release number:	
Effective date:	5/1/20	Expiration date:	6/2020
References:	Families First Corona Virus Response Act of 2020		
Web address:	https://govstatus.egov.com/or-dhs-benefits		

Discussion/interpretation:

Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) is funded by The Families First Coronavirus Act for children eligible for free or reduced-price meals at a school participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). P-EBT benefits help families in Oregon buy food when schools are closed for more than 5 days.

DHS has partnered with the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to provide these food benefits to over 351,000 eligible children statewide through the Oregon Trail Card system.

P-EBT benefits will start to be issued in June. Families will get up to \$384 per eligible child on an Oregon Trail card to purchase groceries.

Important: P-EBT benefits are not SNAP. P-EBT benefits are not considered in a public charge test.

Implementation/transition instructions:

Who is eligible?

Children enrolled and receiving meals at a free or reduced price in a [school participating in the NSLP](#)

- This includes children receiving free and reduced-price meals regardless of income that attend a school or district with a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP).

Children may be eligible because they attend a head start, including EarlyStart or a Pre-K program providing free meals through the NSLP.

Are any children not eligible?

Some children may not be eligible for P-EBT. This includes those;

- Not enrolled in school; or
- Attending a nonparticipating NSLP school;
 - Including children who are homeschooled or attending a charter school.

Who determines eligibility?

ODE determines eligibility for free and reduced-price meals and verifies that the student is attending a participating school. Parents can check with their local school district or on the ODE website if their school has provided data.

How will households receive P-EBT benefits?

The school must report student data to the ODE for students to receive the P-EBT benefit. Parents can also contact ODE or their local school district with questions.

A list of participating schools is available on the [ODE website](#).

No application is needed for families with children who received or applied for free and reduced-price meals before or since the school closure. Families should update their addresses now with their local school districts if they are no longer valid.

ODE will be sharing P-EBT eligibility information with DHS to issue P-EBT benefits beginning in June:

- Households currently receiving SNAP will receive benefits on the same Oregon Trail card with their SNAP allotment in June.
- Households not receiving SNAP, will be sent an Oregon Trail Card to the address and guardian provided by the school district.
 - These benefits will be staggered based on the date that DHS receives the required data from ODE and builds the case.
 - DHS is not able to break up P-EBT payments between multiple households when parenting is shared.

DHS is working with Child Welfare to ensure that P-EBT benefits are sent to the child's current address. Foster parents who have open SNAP benefits may receive multiple cards if their foster children are not in their SNAP filing group. Special information and outreach efforts are happening to help answer questions. Foster parents should return Oregon Trail Cards with P-EBT benefits for children no longer in their care.

Can families still apply?

There is still time to apply for free and reduced-price meals if a family has had a change in circumstances. The fastest way to apply is through the ODE [online application](#). Applications are also available at their local schools.

Children that are newly eligible for free and reduced-price meals will receive P-EBT benefits starting the month they applied. Newly eligible families will receive P-EBT benefits once DHS receives their information from ODE. Applications received after June 30, 2020 will not be eligible for P-EBT benefits.

P-EBT Coding:

There is special coding to help identify P-EBT cases.

Households currently receiving SNAP;

- HH type of "PBS" will be added; and
- Each eligible child on the case will have an income line coded with "FRM".

New cases with P-EBT only (No SNAP) will have a;

- HH type of "PBO"; and
- The income type "FRM" will be coded for each eligible child.

For general questions about P-EBT households may call or text 211.

Questions about Oregon Trail Card or the P-EBT benefits received can be emailed to ebt.schoolmeals@dhsosha.state.or.us.

A centralized phone message line will be available starting in June. The number will be posted at <https://govstatus.egov.com/or-dhs-benefits>.

The most important action that workers must remember is to change PBO to PBS if opening a SNAP case.

Training/communication plan: The Oregon Trail card and information about how to opt-in to P-EBT by setting up a PIN number will be sent to families not currently receiving SNAP benefits.

Find up-to-date information and frequently asked questions at:

DHS: <https://govstatus.egov.com/or-dhs-benefits>

ODE: <https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/childnutrition/Pages/COVID-19.aspx>

Local/branch action required:

Local branch action is not required.

Central office action required:

Translated versions of the letter accompanying P-EBT benefits will be made available on the Forms Server.

EBT.schoolmeals@dhsosha.state.or.us will provide centralized technical and policy assistance for P-EBT.

A P-EBT Team will be creating P-EBT only cases, issuing benefits, mailing Oregon Trail Cards, and processing returned mail. At this time, we expect one issuance of P-EBT benefits, unless funding is extended.

Field/stakeholder review: Yes No

Filing instructions:

If you have any questions about this policy, contact:

Contact(s): ebtschoolmeals@dhsoha.state.or.us	
Phone:	Fax:
Email: EBT.schoolmeals@dhsoha.state.or.us	