



# Georgia Dept of Early Care and Learning

BRIGHT FROM THE START

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## **Pandemic EBT for Child Care in the CACFP: March 2021 Update**

### **WHAT PROGRAM OPERATORS NEED TO KNOW**

On January 22, 2021, USDA Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) announced that it is increasing the Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) benefit to provide more money to low-income families and millions of children missing meals due to school and child care closures. This document is designed to provide organizations with information on benefit eligibility and timeframes.

### **P-EBT ELIBILITY**

Given that there is a Public Health Emergency designation in place, a child is eligible for benefits under P-EBT's child care component if the following three (3) conditions are met:

1. The child is a member of a household that received SNAP benefits at any time since October 1, 2020;
2. The child is enrolled in a covered child care facility; and
3. The facility is closed or is operating with reduced attendance or hours for at least 5 consecutive days, resulting in the child's inability to attend the facility; or one or more schools in the area of the facility, or in the area of the child's residence, is closed or is operating with reduced attendance or hours.

**Note:** For the purposes of eligibility, all children under the age of 6 are considered "enrolled" in a covered child care facility.

Children ages 6 and above may be eligible for P-EBT benefits if the following three conditions are met:

1. The child is a member of a household that received SNAP benefits at any time since October 1, 2020;
2. The child is enrolled in a covered child care facility and such enrollment is verified; and
3. The child's covered child care facility is closed or has reduced attendance or hours for at least 5 consecutive days, resulting in the child's inability to attend the facility; or one or more schools in the area of the child care facility, or in the area of the child's residence, is closed or has reduced attendance or hours for at least 5 consecutive days.

## **BENEFITS TIMEFRAME**

P-EBT benefits for children in child care are only available back to October 1, 2020, not the start of the current school year.

## **STATE AGENCY PARTNERSHIP**

The SNAP issuing state agency in Georgia is the Department of Human Services, Division of Family & Child Services (DFCS). Accordingly, DFCS will ultimately issue P-EBT benefits to eligible children in Georgia.

Currently, GA DECAL and the Georgia Department of Education (DOE) are working closely with DFCS to ensure that it has all of the information it needs to determine eligibility and issue benefits.

For additional information on P-EBT, please visit:

- [USDA Memorandum, Pandemic EBT – State Plans for 2020-2021, January 29, 2021](#)
- [USDA Q&A, P-EBT, January 29, 2021](#)