



Dena Murphy
Director

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For Immediate Release

Throughout the month of May, families directly certified for school meals through CalFresh, CalWORKS, Medi-Cal or Foster Care benefits, should receive a new EBT card in the mail, which will include additional benefits to help families buy food. This new card is referred to as “Pandemic EBT” or P-EBT. Note: The regular EBT is still valid and should not be destroyed.

In an effort to meet the nutritional needs of the vulnerable in our community and to comply with our Governor’s stay-at-home order, children who are eligible for Free and Reduced Price School Meals at school will received additional EBT food benefits on the P-EBT card.

Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) is a new crisis response benefit that helps families buy food while schools are closed due to COVID-19. Families will get up to \$365 per eligible child on the P-EBT card to use to purchase groceries. The P-EBT cards will look different, however they can be used like regular EBT cards, including the ability to use them for on-line food purchases at Amazon and Walmart.

Families whose children were eligible for Free and Reduced Price meals, and those who receive certain benefits, including CalFresh, CalWORKs, Medi-Cal and Foster Care that resulted in direct certification for Free and Reduced Price school meals are automatically eligible and do not need to apply. This includes students attending public charter schools and private schools as long as the school participates in the federally funded School Breakfast Program and/or to the National School Lunch Program. These families should automatically receive a P-EBT card in the mail starting today through May 22, 2020. Families with children who are eligible for Free and Reduced Price Meals, but who are not receiving benefits that result in direct certification will need to apply online. The online application will be available as of May 22, 2020 through June 30, 2020. Eligible families can apply for P-EBT beginning on May 22 at <https://ca.p-ebt.org/>.

For more information, please visit <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/home/pandemic-ebt> or contact Jana Slagle at slaglej@kerndhs.com or Ally Triolo at trioloa@kerndhs.com.

The Kern County Department of Human Services is committed to making sure the most vulnerable in our community are cared for during this uncertain time.

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