



Lori A. Shibinette
Commissioner

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Director

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF ECONOMIC & HOUSING STABILITY
BUREAU OF FAMILY ASSISTANCE

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May 26, 2020

Dear Superintendent:

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127) (FFCRA or the Act) authorized a temporary assistance program for households with children affected by school closures during the public health emergency that was declared on January 27, 2020. On May 12, 2020 the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approved the New Hampshire State plan for the Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) program.

The State plan was developed by the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (NH DHHS) with support from the New Hampshire Department of Education (NH DOE) and results in a coordinated effort with clearly defined roles and responsibilities to achieve our shared goal of helping to provide children and families with food security during the pandemic.

P-EBT will provide assistance to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households and Non-SNAP households with children eligible for free or reduced price meals under the National School Lunch program and whose school is closed greater than 5 consecutive days due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Households currently receiving SNAP benefits are automatically eligible and P-EBT benefits will be loaded onto their existing EBT card (i.e. households must be receiving a benefit, not just open for SNAP). Households that do not receive SNAP benefits will need to complete a brief application on the NH EASY Gateway to Services (<https://nheasy.nh.gov>). Once a completed application has been validated, Non-SNAP households will get a preloaded SNAP (P-EBT) card in the name of the parent/guardian of the child or children.

Participation in the program is voluntary. If a household chooses NOT to participate, they will be directed to dispose of the card by cutting through the magnetic strip on the card and discarding in a secure manner. P-EBT benefits cannot be transferred to another person.

The benefit per day will be equivalent to the daily reimbursement for free breakfast and lunch as specified by USDA/FNS which is \$5.70 per child per day. The dates covered by P-EBT are March 16, 2020 through June 15, 2020, which equates to a total of 66 days of meal coverage. Based on these figures the benefit amounts per child may be: March \$68.40, April \$125.40, May \$119.70 and June \$62.70. Parents/caregivers will have 90 days to apply for P-EBT benefits. Benefits will be issued within 5-10 days of receipt of data from the New Hampshire Department of Education or upon validated application by Non-SNAP households.

To facilitate the distribution of P-EBT benefits SAUs will distribute a parent letter by email to eligible families that includes information on where to register online and what the program includes. If you have any questions, please contact Maureen Burke, Administrator III, at 603-271-7222 or 603-724-7390. She can also be reached at Maureen.Burke@dhhs.nh.gov.

Sincerely,

Debra Sorli

Debra Sorli, Bureau Chief
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Cc: Maureen Burke
Lindsay Bibeau