



Pandemic EBT for Children Under 6 on SNAP

Since the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) approved the [Colorado](#) and [Vermont](#) Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) child care plans for school year 2021–2022 in April, a growing number of states have been approved. So far, all of the approved plans have used the simple approach to calculate the percentage decrease in lunch participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program compared to pre-pandemic levels to set a monthly benefit amount for children younger than 6 participating in SNAP.

Here is an example of how this calculation works:

September through December 2019: State claimed 15,000 CACFP lunches at child care homes and centers excluding at-risk.

September through December 2021: State claimed 12,000 CACFP lunches at child care homes and centers excluding at-risk.

- This indicates a 20% decrease in participation compared to pre-pandemic levels.
- If state had 18 serving days in September, October, November, and December 2021, and the daily benefit is \$7.10, the full monthly benefit is \$127.80.
- For each of these months (September to December 2021), all children under 6 on SNAP would receive \$25.56 (20% of the full benefit).

Child care plans are much simpler than school-age plans for states to create and get approved, and open a pathway to distribute P-EBT summer benefits to both school-age and young children for states that are struggling to develop a school-age plan. States cannot provide P-EBT benefits this summer if they do not have a child care or school-age plan approved for the 2021–2022 school year.

Some other important things to note:

- USDA has developed a template for each state and is providing CACFP lunch data. The data just needs to be confirmed by the CACFP State agency. This makes it much easier for states to submit an approvable plan.
- Once the plan is approved, states simply add the benefits to SNAP accounts.

Resources:

- [P-EBT Under 6 Outreach Toolkit](#)
- [Summer 2022 Pandemic EBT](#)
- [List of States With Approved P-EBT Plans](#)