



## **Omnibus and Coronavirus Response Package Summary of P-EBT and other Key Child Nutrition Provisions**

The [Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021](#) includes a number of provisions that will support the implementation of the Pandemic EBT program during fiscal year 2021 and provides emergency funding for School Nutrition Programs and Child and Adult Care Food Programs (CACFP). The Act also provides \$42 million for Summer EBT, \$30 million for school meal equipment grants, and \$12,000,000 for Farm to School Grants.

### **Pandemic EBT Provisions**

The Pandemic EBT program was originally authorized through the Families First Coronavirus Response Act to provide nutrition resources to families who lost access to free and reduced-price school meals when schools closed due to the pandemic. Families received an EBT card with the value of the free school breakfast and lunch reimbursements for each day that schools were closed to purchase food. The Continuing Resolution enacted on October 1, 2020 extended P-EBT through fiscal year 2021; expanded benefits to young children; allowed states to make simplifying assumptions and use the best feasibly available data to support providing benefits given the different ways that schools are operating this school year; and provided funding to fully cover states' costs of administering the program. The Act provides additional clarity and flexibilities to make it easier for families to receive and states to distribute P-EBT benefits including:

- Providing P-EBT benefits to all children under the age of six whose households participate in SNAP when school or child care is closed due to COVID-19.
- Allowing simplifying assumptions and best feasibly available data to determine a school or child care facility status as opened, closed, or operating with a reduced number of days or hours; to establish state or regionally based benefit levels (including using state or local public health ordinances); to identify eligible children; and to determine eligibility periods. These flexibilities can be used to provide benefits to school age *and* young children.
- Allowing state agencies, schools, and local units to receive funding to cover their Pandemic EBT administrative costs.

### **Emergency Funding for School Nutrition and CACFP**

School nutrition departments and CACFP sponsors and institutions (which includes those participating in the Afterschool Meal and Snack Program under CACFP) have been struggling due to increased pandemic related costs and significantly lower participation. The emergency funding will help replace the reimbursement lost in April, May, and June 2020, as well as half of the lost reimbursement in March 2020. The amount of funding will be determined by multiplying the difference between the claiming month's reimbursement for meals and snacks from 2019 and the claiming month's reimbursement from 2020 by 55 percent. State child nutrition agencies can use up to 1 percent of these funds to cover their administrative costs of providing these emergency funds.