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Nationwide Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT) Spending Policy Report

Unless our state officials ask for a three-month extension, around \$1.1 billion P-EBT dollars meant for struggling families will go back to the Federal government.

December 2023 Update¹

Summary

- **\$ 1.1 billion in Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT) card dollars meant to help struggling families is now at risk of never getting spent:** Based on the most current United States Department of Agriculture-Food and Nutrition Services (USDA-FNS) P-EBT spending figures, an estimated \$1.1 billion may go back to the Federal Government instead of the intended struggling families. The \$1.1 billion was distributed on P-EBT cards during the months of May to September 2023; but the families never activated the card by spending at least one dollar. If a P-EBT card was never activated, the money will automatically be removed from the card and returned to the Federal Government after 274 days. The main reason why families never activated their card is due to lack of publicity efforts- *they never knew about the latest P-EBT distributions*. USDA-FNS has confirmed that states can request an expungement deadline extension (three or four months) to allow families more time to activate their P-EBT card. According to new USDA report on food insecurity, 17.3% percent of all US households with children (6.4 million households) were food insecure at some time in 2022². P-EBT was intended to help these children. It makes no sense that these dollars are going unspent while millions of Americans struggle with food insecurity.
- **NYS data based on Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request shows that 21.7% of Summer 2021 P-EBT dollars were never spent (and expunged).** A New York State-Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (NYS-OTDA) FOIA letter response shows that for the Summer 2021 P-EBT distribution, a total of **594,146** cards were expunged with a value of **\$222,805,750** or **21.7%** of the total amount of the P-EBT distribution³. What this means is that the families of 594,196 eligible children never spent their P-EBT dollars on free groceries. Now another \$1.15 billion was just distributed in the months of May to October to NYS eligible families. Unless there is a statewide outreach campaign and NYS-OTDA requests at least a three-month extension, it's fair to assume that another \$200 million will be expunged from the cards. A similar story is taking place in at least 20 other states with large amounts of P-EBT dollars not claimed and unspent⁴.

¹ Our first [P-EBT Policy Report](#) was issued in August 2023. With newly released information based on a FOIL Letter request to New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (NYS-OTDA), this policy update report December 2023 P-EBT has been prepared.

² <https://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/pub-details/?pubid=107702>

³ NYS-OTDA estimated that \$1,026,000,000 would be made available for Summer 2021 (school age and childcare eligible children). However, 594,146 cards were never redeemed. $594,146 \times \$375 = \$222,805,750$. A total of $\$222,804,750$ was actually never redeemed or 21.7%.

⁴ A P-EBT is unclaimed as long as not a single dollar has been spent. Once a family uses the card at least once, and buys groceries, the 274 clock is reset and the family has another 274 days to spend down the full amount of the money on the card.

- **The main reason for the high number of unused P-EBT cards is the lack of publicity for the latest P-EBT distributions (Summer 2022, Summer 2023, School Years 2021-22 and 2022-23).** When P-EBT was first announced in 2020, there was extensive publicity about the new resource by school district leaders, leading anti-hunger groups and local elected leaders. The publicity was also strong in 2021. But that was more than two years ago. With the most recent P-EBT distributions (Summer 2022, School Year 2021-22, School Year 2022-23 and Summer 2023), publicity has been inadequate in most states. Moreover, many families never received the card in the mail due to wrong address, threw away or lost their card – problems that were compounded since no one told them that more P-EBT dollars were still coming. To collect their P-EBT dollars, these families would need to apply for a Replacement Card, but had no chance to do so if they never knew to expect the P-EBT distributions in the first place. The result is several million families have not claimed the latest two Summer P-EBT distributions (worth at least \$511 per eligible child) on their P-EBT card.

- **A FOIA data investigation goes nationwide showing unclaimed P-EBT dollars in 20 states:** During 2023, in the months of May, June, July, August and September, a total of \$5.2 billion was distributed to the families with P-EBT eligible children. After seeing such a stunningly large number of unclaimed dollars for New York State, we submitted FOIA requests to 22 other states that had large amounts of P-EBT dollars distributed between May to September 2023⁵. Our state-by-state breakdown of P-EBT dollars distributed May to September 2023 can be found on page five. Unclaimed P-EBT funds will be automatically removed from family P-EBT cards beginning in February 2024 (this is known as expungement). An estimated \$1.1 billion is at risk of expungement beginning in February and ending in June 2024.

- **United States Department of Agriculture-Food and Nutrition Services (USDA-FNS) confirmed by email that state officials can protect people’s right to receive P-EBT dollars now by asking the USDA for a P-EBT plan amendment to allow for at least three months more time to publicize the availability of latest P-EBT dollars so families can collect the unclaimed money:** For almost all states, if a family does not use its P-EBT card within 274 days of issuance, the dollars are automatically expunged from the card. This is known as the Expungement Rule.⁶ But state officials can act now by submitting a P-EBT plan amendment to the United State Department of Agriculture-Food and Nutrition Services (USDA-FNS) asking for at least a three month extension to the Expungement Rule.⁷ An approved three-month extension will allow families with an unused P-EBT card to have more time to learn they have unspent funds and start to spend the P-EBT dollars. The P-EBT dollars are already distributed onto recipient cards, so the Federal deadline for issuing benefits does not apply. Some families may also need to apply for a Replacement Card. The three months extension would give stakeholders (school districts, anti-hunger and community groups, food pantries, local elected government) a critically important opportunity to publicize the P-EBT funds to hard to reach populations.

⁵ Once all of the states have responded to the FOIL requests, we will provide an updated report with the individual figures showing the actual number of P-EBT card holders at risk of expungement.

⁶ In the USDA-FNS required State P-EBT plan for each new P-EBT distribution, every state must explain how it will follow the Expungement Rule. “How will the State handle expungement of P-EBT benefits? USDA recommends that States follow the same expungement rules that the State currently follows for SNAP.” Source: State Plan for Pandemic EBT Children in School and Childcare, 2021-2022.

⁷ Copies of state plans and amendments are posted here: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/state-guidance-coronavirus-pandemic-ebt-pebt>

P-EBT Dollars Policy Report-Part 2

Unless states ask for an extension, around \$1.1 billion in P-EBT dollars meant for struggling families will go back to the Federal government.

1. Around \$1.1 billion in P-EBT free grocery dollars has not been claimed by eligible families. These dollars are sitting on P-EBT cards right now unspent.

- A.** While the Pandemic-EBT program officially ended on May 31, 2023, states continued to issue P-EBT dollars on cards. During the months of May, June, July, August and September, a total of \$5.2 billion was distributed to the families with eligible children. Based on our spending formula (see “B” directly below), we estimate that \$1.1 billion was not spent by families and will be removed beginning in February 2024.

**Household Persons
National Data Bank Version 8.2 PUBLIC - U.S. Summary Table 2a-PEBT/Other: Supplemental
Nutrition Assistance Program (Excludes Puerto Rico) - P-EBT/Other Participation and
Cost/Issuance
Fiscal Year and Month Participation Cost**

FY 2023			
Fiscal Year and Month	Households	Persons	Cost
Oct 2022	8,218,936	9,391,135	2,737,499,690
Nov 2022	8,785,689	10,378,074	2,368,197,629
Dec 2022	4,691,337	6,668,379	2,093,942,369
Jan 2023	1,499,913	1,513,823	208,339,435
Feb 2023	1,701,912	1,712,205	266,921,326
Mar 2023	1,718,490	2,203,114	602,156,024
Apr 2023	1,361,501	1,626,301	191,173,115
May 2023	3,739,228	4,326,459	1,043,612,021
Jun 2023	4,739,604	5,664,981	732,464,917
Jul 2023	11,436,967	13,179,736	1,549,466,385
Aug 2023	10,663,426	11,442,647	1,346,612,371
Sep 2023	3,766,296	4,143,114	547,398,788
May to September			5,219,554,482

Source: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/data/August-2023-keydata-report>

- B. Based on analysis of current USDA-FNS P-EBT, an estimated \$1.1 billion in P-EBT has been distributed to families with a P-EBT eligible child, but the families have not spent the money.** The formula below, based on USDA-FNS data, offers a reliable estimate of the current amount of unspent P-EBT dollars.

- Estimate of number of available but unspent P-EBT dollars is based on FOIL response from New York State-Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (NYS-OTDA) for the Summer 2021 distribution. NYS-OTDA estimated that \$1,026,000,000 would be distributed for Summer 2021 (school age and childcare eligible

children)⁸. 594,146 cards were never redeemed. $594,146 \times \$375 = \$222,805,750$. A total of $\$222,804,750$ was actually never redeemed or 21.7%.⁹

- In 2023, during the months of May, June, July, August and September, a total of $\$5,219,554,482$ ¹⁰ was distributed by states onto P-EBT cards. The $\$5.2$ billion was mainly due to P-EBT obligations from School Year 2021-22, School Year 2022-23, Summer 2022 and/or Summer 2023.

Formula: $\$5,219,554,482 \times 21.7\% = \$1,132,643,322$.

- State officials had until December 31, 2023, to issue any new P-EBT funds to families with eligible children. The dollar amounts months of October, November (and December) have not been calculated here because the data is not yet available from USDA-FNS.

C. Unspent P-EBT dollars is a nationwide story: Several million families with unclaimed funds are at risk of losing their recently distributed P-EBT benefits. All states have what is known as the Expungement Rule (it is the same rule that governs SNAP benefits¹¹). If the P-EBT card was never used in the 274 days since it was issued (nine months), the benefits are automatically returned to the government. States are required to alert all families with unclaimed cards four months prior to expiration. However, if the unclaimed cards are due to wrong phone text or home addresses numbers, it's highly unlikely that families will receive the alert. Between May and September 2023, around $\$5.2$ billion was distributed. The nine months expungement deadline begins in February 2024 and will end on June 30, 2024.



Hey, Texas Families!
P-EBT application opens June 2.
Visit hhs.texas.gov/pebt

For the first two years of P-EBT, states and thousands of school districts were heavily involved with publicizing P-EBT benefits. However, for the last few P-EBT distributions, publicizing efforts have been minimal at best. While each state department of social services updated its website for Summer P-EBT 2022 and 2023, little else happened publicity wise especially for hard to reach population groups.



Need Help Buying Food?

Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) funds for the 2021-2022 school year

⁸ <https://fns-prod.azureedge.us/sites/default/files/resource-files/Amendment-to-Approved-State-Plan-for-NY-Summer-PEBT-CHANGES-8-6-Clean-Copy.pdf>

⁹ NYS-Office of Temporary Disability Assistance Dec. 29 FOIL Letter to the author.

¹⁰ <https://fns-prod.azureedge.us/sites/default/files/data-files/keydata-august-2023.pdf>

¹¹ How will the State handle expungement of P-EBT benefits? USDA recommends that States follow the same expungement rules that the State currently follows for SNAP. Source: State Plan for Pandemic EBT Children in School and Childcare, 2021-2022

**D. State by State breakdown for P-EBT dollars issued between May and September 2023
for unclaimed P-EBT funds, expungement will begin in February 2024**

PANDEMIC EBT (P-EBT) PROGRAM	
(Data as of December 8, 2023)	
State/Territory	Cost Benefits Issued May to September 2023
New York	\$1,149,742,339
California	941,698,266
Pennsylvania	225,429,230
Florida	218,425,715
Illinois	209,922,557
Missouri	194,118,675
Georgia	175,332,358
Michigan	162,569,286
Oklahoma	160,132,441
Washington	139,508,840
Louisiana	120,503,498
North Carolina	118,854,969
Ohio	111,856,832
Virginia	105,003,288
Maryland	94,186,572
Indiana	91,924,979
Massachusetts	85,580,247
Arizona	84,195,378
Tennessee	82,870,273
Alabama	76,061,725
New Jersey	67,263,312
South Carolina	64,429,320
Nevada	58,104,038
Oregon	43,485,560
New Mexico	40,873,929
Colorado	40,213,228
Arkansas	35,597,899
Iowa	29,334,864
Utah	25,474,381
Wyoming	24,372,741
Nebraska	22,537,554
Kentucky	18,871,383
Hawaii	18,255,271
District of Columbia	16,028,864
Vermont	12,421,151

Source and notes: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/data/September-2023-performance-report>
The chart only includes states with \$10 million or more.

- E. An estimated \$1.1 billion in P-EBT expungement will start in February 2024:** Between the months of May to September 2023, a total of \$5.2 in P-EBT was distributed to eligible households nationwide. Our formula based estimate shows that around \$1.1 billion is at risk of expungement. By the last day of June 2024, all of these dollars will be automatically removed if the family never used the card. The chart shows that the distributions vary widely state by state. Twenty states were still sending out large amounts of P-EBT dollars this past summer.
- F. P-EBT publicity is sorely lacking for the latest distributions:** Some states have been conducting extensive publicity while most other states have done just the bare minimum. We would expect our state and local leaders to publicize the P-EBT benefits including school district leaders, local elected officials, food pantries, community-based groups and organizations devoted to fighting hunger insecurity. However, in New York State, publicity has been sorely lacking as these media stories show¹². States wrote in their P-EBT Plans that they would notify families of the expungement rule four months prior to people losing their P-EBT benefit. Practically speaking, this policy is not helpful if the state does not have the correct home address or phone text number. The most effective strategy is publicity (and targeted communication to least likely to know communities with translated materials) so that families can request a Replacement Card. However, a story in [ChalkbeatNY](#) shows that families are having a frustrating time accessing the P-EBT benefits¹³. For recent immigrant families, with limited English language skills, they have struggled with the absence of translated information for ordering a Replacement Card.

2. Two practical strategies for extending the P-EBT benefits 274-day expungement deadline:

A. USDA-FNS has confirmed that states can request a P-EBT plan amendment allowing for a three month extension of the expungement deadline.

There is already a P-EBT precedent for USDA-FNS to amend state plans to allow for three month extensions. Five states have obtained a USDA-FNS plan amendment to extend the time (Expungement Rule) parents have to spend the P-EBT dollars on their P-EBT cards. In an email exchange, USDA-FNS confirmed that any state can still request a plan amendment requesting an extension past the 274 days expungement deadline. Since the P-EBT program began in 2020, at least three states, Massachusetts, California and Tennessee, have provided an extension to the P-EBT Expungement Rule deadline. A USDA-FNS Expungement Rule plan amendment (waiver) is a practical policy solution to help ensure all eligible families spend down the free grocery dollars on their P-EBT card.

¹² <https://ny.chalkbeat.org/2023/10/20/23925858/nyc-p-ebt-pandemic-food-benefit-snap-covid-relief-funds>; <https://www.lohud.com/story/news/education/2023/09/07/school-lunch-reimbursement-available-to-needy-families-what-to-know/70678653007/> ; [https://www.timesunion.com/education/article/123k-n-y-food-stamps-kids-gone-unused-18350552.php?utm_campaign=CMS%20Sharing%20Tools%20\(Premium\)&utm_source=t.co&utm_medium=referral](https://www.timesunion.com/education/article/123k-n-y-food-stamps-kids-gone-unused-18350552.php?utm_campaign=CMS%20Sharing%20Tools%20(Premium)&utm_source=t.co&utm_medium=referral);

¹³ <https://www.chalkbeat.org/newyork/2023/11/15/families-struggle-use-p-ebt-benefits/>

Supporting Documentation: Five states asked USDA-FNS for a P-EBT plan amendment allowing for an extension of the 274 Day Expungement Rule deadline. All five plan amendments were approved by USDA-FNS.

California: SUBJECT: AMENDMENT TO SCHOOL-AGED CHILD AND YOUNG CHILD 2020-21 PANDEMIC EBT PLANS This memo serves as California's formal request to amend its state 2020-21 school year and Summer P-EBT plans (P-EBT 2.0) for both school-aged children and young children under six. California is proposing an amendment to allow households the ability to request a new P-EBT 2.0 card if the benefits on the initial P-EBT 2.0 card had expunged and no benefits had been spent. California will not automatically issue new P-EBT 2.0 cards or extend the expungement date for all 2.0 cardholders. Rather, the household must submit a request through the California P-EBT Helpline to receive a new P-EBT 2.0 card with an additional 365 days until expungement. Source: <https://california.brightspotcdn.com/cb/96/11552461455fb7fdec818ec05934/ca-p-ebt-20-21-plan-amendment-expungement-003.pdf>

Massachusetts: New Expungement Rules: When a client's P-EBT benefit account has not been accessed at all for a total of 274 days, the P-EBT benefits issued 274 or more days prior will be expunged. The P-EBT expungement rule is aligned with the SNAP expungement timeframe of 274 days. When benefits are expunged, P-EBT clients may get a one-time restoration of the expunged benefits if they make the request to restore by 180 days from the date of the notice. The Department will send a P-EBT Expungement Warning Notice to DTA and Non-DTA households that will advise of the date benefits will be expunged and what the household must do to prevent the expungement. This notice will be mailed no later than 30 days before the date of expungement. If after 30 days, the client still has not accessed the benefits, the Department will expunge the benefits and send the client a P-EBT Expungement Notice. This notice will advise of the expungement amount and inform them that they may have expunged benefits restored if they contact the DTA within 180 days of the notice. This Online Guide update advises staff about: the expungement of P-EBT benefits issued from Spring 2020 through March 2021. Source: <https://cohhs.ehs.state.ma.us/DTA/PolicyOnline/olg%20docs/olgtm/2022/34.pdf>

Tennessee: Retroactive P-EBT: The Tennessee Department of Human Services and Tennessee Department of Education made every effort to ensure all qualifying children from previous timeframes/rounds (2020-2021 school year) of P-EBT were provided benefits. In March 2022, eligible children that did not receive assistance through Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) program for the 2020-2021 school year received a retroactive benefit payment. This included any newly income eligible households during that time. Those households were provided Retroactive P-EBT benefits based on the eligibility criteria of each qualifying month. Each qualifying child received P-EBT benefits for the amount owed on an EBT card. If the child already has an active P-EBT card, benefits were added to that card. If a new P-EBT card is needed, please visit www.connectebt.com or call 1 (888) 997-9444. If the child had not received P-EBT before, a new EBT card was mailed to their home. The number of P-EBT benefits varied for each eligible child. Source: <https://www.tn.gov/humanservices/p-ebt>

Arkansas: Arkansas proposes to amend its school year 2020-2021 and summer 2021 P-EBT plans to reissue expunged benefits at the request of households, or, as appropriate, during case review. Arkansas will only consider requests from households that did not spend any of their benefits. Households that did not access any of their benefits for the school year 2020-2021 or summer 2021 may have been unfamiliar with P-EBT or unaware that they had been issued benefits. Reissued benefits will be expunged after 274 or 365 days of non-use, depending on issuance date. Arkansas estimates that it will reissue \$2.3 million benefits to 6,200 children. FNS approves Arkansas's P-EBT plan amendment to allow for the reissuance of expunged benefits. Source: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19/arkansas#snap>

Missouri: Missouri proposes to amend its summer 2021 P-EBT plan to issue benefits to children who were previously determined eligible for benefits but did not receive them. Under Missouri's approved plan, households had to submit an application to provide demographic information to the State to support the creation of EBT cards. Not all households provided information before the deadline for benefit issuance. The State proposes to reopen the deadline for households to submit that information for a two-week period beginning September 27. FNS approves Missouri's P-EBT plan amendment. Missouri estimated that it will issue \$108.4 million to approximately 289,000 school children, and \$56.3 million to approximately 150,000 SNAP-enrolled children in childcare during the 2021 covered summer period. This amendment is not expected to increase the earlier estimates of the number of eligible children or the number of benefits estimated to be issued. Source: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19/missouri#snap>

B. United States Department of Agriculture-Food and Nutrition Services (USDA-FNS) can issue a nationwide waiver allowing more time to publicize P-EBT and conduct targeted outreach to people least likely to know.

A USDA-FNS Expungement Rule waiver will directly help all families eligible for Summer 2023 P-EBT in 45 states. Our policy alert shows that an estimated \$1.1 billion in P-EBT dollars have not been claimed and may end up being returned to the Federal Government instead of several million struggling families. The Expungement Rule will begin to take effect on February 1, 2024. By June 30, 2024 all of these dollars will be automatically removed unless a family starts spending their P-EBT card. Once the dollars are expunged from a family's P-EBT card, they cannot be added back. With a Federal USDA-FNS nationwide waiver, all states can extend the Expungement Rule deadline so that all families can spend down P-EBT dollars. These families do not have to apply for P-EBT eligibility; the money was already issued to them and is sitting on their card. If a family lost their card or never received it in the mail, they can still apply for a Replacement Card. The waiver extension will allow states, school districts, CBO's, local elected officials and anti-hunger organizations more time to publicize P-EBT and target hard to reach communities. Equally important, families will have more time to request a Replacement Card.

3. P-EBT is now permanent with Summer EBT (S-EBT) Dollars beginning to be made available in Summer 2024. Let's fix the glitches now.

Spend the unspent dollar amounts on cards now so in seven months all families will be able to benefit from summer EBT card payments. P-EBT will now become permanent with a new program called *Summer EBT* which begins this coming summer. The USDA-FNS and participating states are setting up Summer EBT for the upcoming summer of 2024¹⁴. It's important for participating states to work out the glitches and barriers to people using their P-EBT now and for the future. Summer-EBT means around \$120 per eligible child. However, if states do not fix their communication to eligible families by undertaking more rigorous publicity and outreach efforts, the same problems with hundreds of millions of dollars unspent will occur.

As of January 3, 2024, the following states told USDA-FNS they will participate in Summer EBT.

Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin

As of January 3, 2024, the following states did not tell USDA-FNS they will participate in Summer EBT.

Georgia, Idaho, Wyoming, Vermont, South Carolina, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota, Oklahoma, Texas, Alaska,

¹⁴ <https://www.fns.usda.gov/sebt>

Appendix:
Household Food Insecurity by State

Table 4
Prevalence of household food insecurity and very low food security by State, average 2020–22

State	Number of households		Food insecurity (low or very low food security)			
	Average 2020–22 ¹	Interviewed	Prevalence	Margin of error ²	Prevalence	Margin of error ²
	Number	Number	Percent	Percentage points	Percent	Percentage points
U.S.	131,744,000	96,426	11.2	0.20	4.3	0.13
AK	273,000	1,155	9.5	2.20	4.2	1.25
AL	2,062,000	1,806	12.4	2.02	4.7	1.07
AR	1,290,000	1,748	16.6*	1.75	6.5*	0.98
AZ	2,953,000	1,517	10.2	1.62	4.0	0.95
CA	14,173,000	8,009	10.3*	0.62	3.8*	0.43
CO	2,401,000	1,054	8.9*	1.95	3.4*	0.93
CT	1,464,000	848	9.6	1.94	3.7	1.18
DC	331,000	1,961	10.0	1.53	3.9	0.99
DE	396,000	1,058	11.5	2.28	4.5	1.41
FL	9,194,000	3,961	11.4	0.92	3.9	0.55
GA	4,253,000	1,942	11.3	1.55	4.4	0.87
HI	490,000	1,378	9.1*	1.56	2.7*	0.82
IA	1,338,000	1,174	8.9*	2.04	3.1*	1.07
ID	732,000	1,766	10.5	1.38	4.1	0.87
IL	5,078,000	2,663	10.6	1.17	4.5	0.80
IN	2,782,000	1,708	10.7	1.54	5.5*	1.05
KS	1,153,000	1,283	9.6	1.76	4.2	1.26
KY	1,833,000	1,150	13.1	1.96	5.6	1.40
LA	1,881,000	2,151	15.2*	1.85	6.1*	1.21
MA	2,776,000	1,888	8.5*	1.22	2.9*	0.69
MD	2,281,000	1,178	9.5*	1.50	2.5*	0.87
ME	583,000	835	10.1	1.71	3.9	0.89
MI	4,146,000	2,253	11.9	1.39	5.3*	0.90
MN	2,276,000	1,424	7.1*	1.77	2.4*	1.07
MO	2,551,000	1,572	12.2	1.81	5.7*	1.13
MS	1,193,000	2,026	15.3*	2.04	5.3*	0.84
MT	483,000	1,805	10.1	1.51	4.6	0.97
NC	4,458,000	2,102	10.7	1.32	3.6	0.77
ND	330,000	1,606	7.7*	1.28	2.1*	0.71
NE	807,000	1,099	12.1	1.75	5.6	1.25
NH	564,000	1,455	6.2*	1.22	2.1*	0.64
NJ	3,485,000	1,833	8.8*	1.30	2.9*	0.86
NM	854,000	1,756	11.2	2.28	4.0	1.59
NV	1,238,000	1,365	11.7	1.49	4.2	0.83
NY	7,754,000	3,549	11.3	1.00	4.2	0.66
OH	4,899,000	2,528	11.5	1.44	4.9	1.18
OK	1,618,000	1,366	14.3*	1.93	4.9	1.01
OR	1,760,000	1,773	11.2	1.72	4.3	0.88
PA	5,173,000	2,670	10.1*	1.04	3.9	0.69
RI	439,000	891	8.6*	1.95	3.0*	1.16
SC	2,196,000	1,527	14.5*	1.82	6.8*	1.32
SD	369,000	1,172	8.9*	1.57	3.4	1.00
TN	2,925,000	2,005	11.5	1.94	4.7	1.11
TX	11,069,000	4,953	15.5*	0.97	5.8*	0.62
UT	1,164,000	1,336	10.7	1.31	4.0	0.95
VA	3,434,000	1,757	9.3*	1.41	4.1	0.93
VT	286,000	1,547	8.0*	1.40	2.7*	0.87
WA	3,095,000	1,930	8.3*	1.26	3.1*	0.76
WI	2,484,000	1,619	9.6*	1.38	3.7	0.97
WV	746,000	1,836	14.2	3.62	4.7	1.32
WY	233,000	1,438	11.4	1.66	4.6	1.09

*Difference from U.S. average was statistically significant with 90 percent confidence ($t > 1.645$). Standard error of differences assumes no correlation between national and individual State estimates.

¹ Totals exclude households for which food security status is unknown because household respondents did not give a valid response to any of the questions in the food security scale. These exclusions represented about 0.2 percent of all households in 2020, 0.2 percent in 2021, and 0.2 percent in 2022.

² Margin of error with 90 percent confidence (1.645 times the standard error of the estimated prevalence rate). Standard errors were estimated using balanced repeated replication (BRR) methods based on replicate weights for the Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 2020, 2021, and 2022 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplements.

P-EBT FACT SHEET

October update

Here is some good news you didn't know about!

New Summer Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT) payments mean \$1.3 billion for NYS families to buy food.

Hundreds of thousands of struggling families now have extra money to spend on groceries.

The estimated \$1.3 billion comes from the NYS-Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) **COVID-19 Summer P-EBT program**. All families should have received two new \$ distributions this summer on their P-EBT card: *\$391 and \$120 for a total of \$511 per eligible child. A total of \$511 per eligible child for struggling families is unexpected great news! However, thousands of families have unused P-EBT cards.*

MORE PUBLICITY IS NEEDED.

The families of 90,000 New York City school children have not claimed their Summer P-EBT funds!

The families of 292,000 New York State school children have not claimed their Summer P-EBT funds!



School Year 2021-22 P-EBT: In addition to Summer P-EBT 2022 and 2023, NYS-OTDA has also been distributing around \$1 billion, beginning this past April, for School Year 2021-22 P-EBT. School Year P-EBT is only for families with a child that missed 5 or more consecutive days during the school year 2021-22.

Did you lose or throw away your old P-EBT card: Parents, you can check your P-EBT account to see if you received the \$511 per eligible child by clicking on: <https://www.connectebt.com/> If you lost or threw away your previously issued P-EBT card, it's easy to get a replacement card by calling **1-888-328-6399**. For more information including if you need to apply for a P-EBT card, see the [FAQ on the NYS-OTDA website](#) or see page 2. NYS-OTDA is asking all families that need a replacement card to make the request as soon as possible.



NYC public and nonpublic school children are eligible: All households with a NYC-DOE school enrolled student will automatically receive the Summer P-EBT benefit of **\$391 and \$120 for a total of \$511** child. School children enrolled in a nonpublic school that operates the National School Free Breakfast/Lunch program may also be eligible to receive Summer P-EBT benefit. For each additional eligible child, a total of \$511 will be deposited on your P-EBT card.

Summer 2022 and 2023	1 Child	2 Children	3 Children	4 Children
Total P-EBT Card amount	\$511	\$1,022	\$1,583	\$2,044

Sources: [New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance; https://ny.chalkbeat.org/2023/10/20/23925858/nyc-ebt-pandemic-food-benefit-snap-covid-relief-funds;](https://ny.chalkbeat.org/2023/10/20/23925858/nyc-ebt-pandemic-food-benefit-snap-covid-relief-funds)