



*Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
Department of Transitional Assistance*


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Governor

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Secretary

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Lieutenant Governor

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Commissioner

**Online Guide Transmittal 2021-63  
August 19, 2021**

**To: Department of Transitional Assistance Staff**  
**From:  Sarah Stuart, Associate Commissioner for Change Management**  
**Re: Cross Program: Retroactive P-EBT Payments to Households with Children Under the Age of 6**

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**Overview**

The Continuing Appropriations Act of 2021 extended Pandemic EBT (P-EBT), a benefit initially included in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. This is a food benefit for families with children who qualify for free or reduced-price school meals through the federal School Breakfast Program (SBP) and/or National School Lunch Program (NSLP). P-EBT benefits are meant to compensate for the value of school lunch and breakfast for each eligible child.

Massachusetts received approval from the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to amend its current P-EBT plan. This approval expands P-EBT benefits to children under the age of 6 who were present in a SNAP household that received expedited benefits **only**, even if the household was not approved for ongoing SNAP benefits.

The Department will issue retroactive P-EBT benefits on July 25, 2021 to eligible households that received expedited benefits only, from October 2020 through March 2021, for the month in which they received expedited benefits. The retroactive P-EBT benefit amount will correspond with the most common learning model reported for school-aged children statewide in the corresponding month.

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**Purpose**

The purpose of this Online Guide Transmittal is to advise staff of the change to eligibility for P-EBT for children under the age of 6 who were part of a SNAP household, and retroactive P-EBT payments to these households.

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**Revised Online  
Guide Pages**

Topic: COVID-19  
Book: P-EBT  
Page: P-EBT Eligibility and Amounts

Topic: COVID-19  
Book: P-EBT  
Page: P-EBT Issuance

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**Questions**

If you have any policy or procedural questions, after conferring with the appropriate TAO personnel, please have your Systems Information Specialists or TAO management email them to DTA.Procedural Issues.

Systems issues should be directed to the Systems Support Help Desk.

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