



UPDATED INFORMATION

Deadline extended for families to apply for \$365 through federal hunger relief

Pandemic-EBT program provides food benefits while schools are closed

San Diego, July 1, 2020 – The State of California has extended the application deadline for Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT) to July 15, 2020. The hugely successful program has experienced an unexpectedly high volume of applications which has lengthened the amount of time it takes for a family to be approved to up to three weeks. To accommodate the high demand and provide time for California families to learn about this important program, the State applied for an extension with the United States Department of Agriculture, which was granted at the end of June.

According to the San Diego Hunger Coalition, an estimated 250,000 children and youth in San Diego County are eligible to receive the benefit. The Hunger Coalition's Executive Director, Anahid Brakke, said, *"I want to say to families across San Diego County, this is a difficult time and if you are struggling, you are not alone. P-EBT is available, it's safe, it's \$365 per [eligible] child. When in doubt, apply."*

Families have until July 15, 2020 to apply for P-EBT benefits online at ca.p-ebt.org.

"The simple reality is that no one in America should ever go hungry and a lot of folks are working really hard to ensure that's a reality," said Supervisor Nathan Fletcher, Co-chair of the County's COVID-19 Subcommittee.

COVID-19 has increased food insecurity throughout San Diego County due to heightened unemployment and reduced incomes associated with reduced hours and closed businesses. While school districts and community sites across San Diego County continue to provide *grab-n-go* meals through the summer season, many families that rely on school meals to make ends meet have limited access to these summer offerings. P-EBT can help to fill that gap.

"This is a safe program to sign up for. It's not going to put your family in harm's way in any way, especially regarding immigration issues," said Richard Barrera, Vice President of the San Diego Unified Board of Education. *"We need you to sign up and take advantage."*

P-EBT and school meals are not a Public Charge benefit and will not affect an individual's legal status. Additionally, P-EBT may be used in combination with other forms of federal food assistance including summer meals, WIC, and CalFresh. Hunger Relief advocates encourage families to make use of all available resources during the pandemic to avoid experiencing food insecurity or hunger.

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A recording of the June 11th press conference with Supervisor Nathan Fletcher and SD Unified Board of Education VP Richard Barrera is available for download at sdhunger.org/press-room.

Interviews with community members and hunger relief experts may be arranged upon request. Please email Joe Shumate, San Diego Hunger Coalition, at joseph@sdhunger.org or call him at 310.903.7480.

Additional information about P-EBT is available at sdhunger.org/p-ebt.

Additional information about school meals during COVID-19 are available at sdhunger.org/meals-for-kids