



## NEW YORK'S PANDEMIC EBT PLAN APPROVED AND WILL BEGIN ROLLING OUT SOON

Dear Friends,

We hope you are well. We want to thank you for the wonderful and helpful feedback about our updates. We are pleased to inform you that NYC's emergency food response continues to grow. There are now more than 500 School Meal Hubs across NYC, serving over 500,000 grab-and-go meals every day. These meals—along with the City's increase in food delivery to homebound individuals and other food assistance efforts—have been a lifeline for many New Yorkers.

We want to share some good news that there will soon be additional financial support for families with children in NYC public schools. Last week, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) approved New York State's plan to administer Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) to students in the state who would have received free or reduced-price lunch while in school.

**Since NYC public schools have universal free school meals, all 1.1 million students are eligible for P-EBT.**

### **P-EBT: What it is and how it will work**

- There is no application for P-EBT and it will not impact eligibility for or participation in other programs.
- Benefits will be issued automatically to households of all NYC public school students.
- P-EBT benefits can be used to purchase food similar to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps.
- Each household will receive \$5.70 per child per day, approximately \$120 per child, per month. The benefits are retroactive and cover the days that schools are closed March 16 through June 25, 2020.
- For households already receiving SNAP or Public Assistance (PA) benefits, the amount is in addition to their existing benefits.
- Families can continue to retrieve free grab-and-go meals from School Meal Hubs and other food assistance once they receive their P-EBT benefits.

### **P-EBT benefits will roll out over the next few months**

The NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) will distribute P-EBT benefits directly to the 1.7 million eligible students in New York State.

### **This is the timing as we know it:**

- For current SNAP and PA recipients, families should receive their P-EBT benefits by the end of May.
- For families receiving Medicaid, new cards will be issued and should be distributed by the end of June.
- For all other families, it is estimated they will begin receiving benefits in July and August.

CFA and our partners will be actively monitoring P-EBT's roll out. We will let you know if the timing changes.