

Question Summary		
	Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) dedicated site: https://dfcs.georgia.gov/pandemic-electronic-benefit-transfer	
Metro Atlanta Food Security Response Coordination and Regional Conversation #6: SNAP, WIC and P-EBT		
#	Question	Answer(s)
1	Which vendors are accepting online EBT? USDA website states in GA the vendors include Amazon and Walmart. Are Publix and Kroger a part of the program now? Is there any planned expansion of adding other vendors?	Amazon and Wal-Mart are the current approved vendors for SNAP EBT online. Some additional grocery stores are accepting EBT for curbside pickup.
2	Regarding WIC, with a prescribed food package, are there any considerations for food allergies/dietary restrictions due to varying faith beliefs?	Within limitations, we work with participants to accommodate these concerns. This is done during the nutrition assessment and nutrition education that is held when a person applies. Some alternate food packages are available to accommodate common allergies and possibly locate alternatives based on other concerns.
3	How can households access the P-EBT benefits if they don't receive regular food stamps benefits	There is a website that will roll out later this month through which parents can fill out a short application. Through that website we will connect the parent to the child's name on the DOE rolls, and then send out an EBT card to the family
4	P-EBT is available for Free/Reduced lunches if they are on SNAP already, or everyone that is on Free/Reduced lunches even if they aren't on SNAP?	Both. We estimate 600000 children already on SNAP, another 430000 who are not currently receiving SNAP. P-EBT is for all children who were on free & reduced price breakfast and lunch. If the family has a current SNAP EBT card, the P-EBT benefit will automatically be loaded there. Families who do not have an active EBT card will need to complete a simple online application. We are all eager to work together to spread the word about this important opportunity!
5	How long will seniors get the extra SNAP benefit?	Unsure. GA was just approved to issue the P-SNAP benefit for July as well. USDA appears to be approving this on a month by month basis.
6	How do SNAP families access the P-EBT vs. families that are not receiving SNAP? Does everyone have to apply for these specifically?	SNAP families will see their EBT cards automatically loaded and they do not have to do anything.
7	Why did they decide to lift the waiver for automatic renewals so early? Wouldn't the addition of P-EBT app online increase the work load for community partners through end of September, esp for vulnerable families? Is there any talks about possibly implementing automatic renewals again to make time for new applications. Esp- since the renewals is about 2/3 of the work.	USDA permitted a postponement of renewals due to the pandemic, but they only authorized these waivers through the end of June. The federal government would have to decide on this change.
8	What is the plan of action for families without proper access to wifi and online resources to continue or begin receiving SNAP?WIC benefits?	Telephonic applications are taken on demand using the call center number 877-423-4746. Community partners also take applications in person and over the phone.

9	What is the particular data point(s) that will connect the student to the DOE website? Is it student # combined with school name? Also - what if their address has changed vs. what is in the school roles?	DFCS has told us that the "Georgia Testing ID," which is the same as our kids know as their "student ID", is the unique data point or identifier. The reason families need to submit the application if they don't already have SNAP EBT, is so they can provide the current address where the P-EBT card should be sent.
10	When will the benefits for children be uploaded	This is the site with FAQs about P-EBT that DFCS has already created: https://dfcs.georgia.gov/pandemic-electronic-benefit-transfer
11	Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) dedicated site: https://dfcs.georgia.gov/pandemic-electronic-benefit-transfer	The P-EBT application will be live in the upcoming weeks. We will post a media update and inform our partners as soon as it is live.
12	Question for DR. Dodson- How are you guys making sure that school districts are getting this info and how do they get it to the families. I know I personally have spoke to some education folks that have not heard of this program (P-EBT). Can this info be shared through school distric websites? Whats a creative way to share so that we are reaching the families/children in need?	The Child Nutrition program has created an infographic with basic information about P-EBT and it will be shared with all school systems so they can use it to alert eligible families. School systems will decide how to promote P-EBT. Up to now there has not been an official start date for the application going live, but as soon as it is available, schools can begin sharing that too.
13	Why did they stop the enhanced SNAP benefit for seniors? What can seniors raising their grandkids eligible for?	It has not been stopped. Seniors that are eligible for SNAP should also be receiving P-SNAP which gives the senior the maximum amount of SNAP benefits. Those come in the last week of the month. Grandparents can apply for SNAP if their household meets income eligibility and they can apply for \$100 a month in TANF benefits. There are also some subsidies available through DHS' Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program.
14	Will P-EBT be able to be used at farmers markets that participate in the double up food bucks program in the same way SNAP benefits are?	Yes.
15	Currently foster parents do not receive SNAP for foster children nor can a foster family receive SNAP in order to foster. Will this pandemic change the trajectory for foster families? Very thankful to be able to apply for P-EBT! We have all been home since March, with little to no help or consideration of how this effects our food budget	SNAP is based on household income. There are no provisions for foster children to make a household eligible.
16	So P-EBT applicants will also have a phone support method to apply? Assume Spanish and other language service as well?	Yes, but we (food bank and partner agencies) are also working to promote the program directly to families and through non-English media outlets so they understand the importance of applying.
17	Will this new P-EBT Program will interfere with immigrant families/residents path to getting legal documentation in the future?	NO. Congress created P-EBT as a program that is not allowed to count as a "public charge" in paths to citizenship. DFCS has also provided clear information about this. We will still need community partners to help convey this message.
18	For WIC, many of our clients didn't want to apply for WIC because they didn't want to take thier babies in for the appointment or have to pick up the vouchers in person. Until September, parents don't have to take children in to be seen to receive vouchers?	Since early April families have been able to access WIC exclusively online. There is a phone number they can call to get connected.

19	Is there a way to regulate to make sure parents aren't committing fraudulent activity with the benefits ? The goal is to make sure the children are in fact eating.	The EBT system allows data tracking and vendor monitoring that helps to prevent fraud.
20	Going back to senior benefits they are \$194/mo still?	\$194 is the maximum benefit for a household of 1. The minimum benefit is \$16/mo.
21	Can the P-SNAP benefits be used at authorized farmers markets the same as regular SNAP? Can they be doubled by farmers markets in partnership with Wholesome Wave on fresh produce like regular SNAP?	Yes.
22	Is there advertisement for Amazon and Walmart EBT shopping? Where can we find the instructions for seniors?	Wal-Mart and Amazon have instructions on their websites on how to use the EBT cards.
23	Is Pandemic EBT- actually Same as SNAP dollars, or a specific FNS funding- with restrictions?	P-EBT is a separate program for children who were receiving free & reduced price breakfast and lunch during the school year. P-EBT benefits can be spent exactly the same way that SNAP benefits can be spent.
24	Will there be a time limit to apply for the P-EBT? One month two months?	Yes. All the benefits need to be claimed by September 30th. GA will not be allowed to pay P-EBT benefits after September 30th so time is of the essence!