



STATE OF MICHIGAN
**Department of
 Health and
 Human Services**

Economic Stability Administration

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ESA 2020-21

Memorandum

To: BSC Directors
 County Directors
 District Managers

Date April 10, 2020

From: Terrence M. Beurer
 Director, Economic Stability Administration (ESA)

Subject: COVID-19 RESPONSE Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT)

MDHHS is providing benefits to Michigan families with students, ages 5-18, eligible for free or reduced-price meals to help those families meet food needs. MDHHS under the direction of the federal government, will provide Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT) benefits to both FAP and non FAP households with children, ages 5-18, who have temporarily lost access to free or reduced-price school meals due to pandemic-related school closures. Children who would receive free or reduced-price meals under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act if not for the school closure are eligible. The value of the school meals is equal to the Federal reimbursement rate for breakfast and lunch at the free rate, as specified by USDA. Benefits will be issued in two payments: \$193.80 for March and April and \$182.40 for May and June.

These changes demonstrate active efforts by the department to take steps necessary to provide benefits to Michigan’s families with children in maintaining adequate food supply during this state of emergency.

Benefits for children who are part of an active FAP case:

The supplement will be added to the EBT card associated to the case on which the children are active. Benefits will be available to view on the Bridges Benefit Summary Inquiry screen. The detail description “COVID-19 child age 5-18 supplemental FAP assistance” will be used. Additionally, a Bridges case note referring the supplement with detail description will be entered. This will not produce additional Bridges correspondence. The information about this benefit will be done via a public notice (press release). If local office staff are unable to resolve client questions about eligibility for this payment should send questions to: MDHHS-Central-Unit-Exception-Processing@michigan.gov ,

The March/April benefit will be issued between approximately 4/16- 4/24.

The May/June benefit will be issued to closely align with the regular issuance schedule.

Benefits for children who are not part of an active FAP case:

Eligible families not currently receiving food assistance benefits will receive a notice (attachment A) ahead of a pre-loaded EBT card in the mail. The EBT card will be issued under the name of the eldest child in the household. Because there is no FAP case, these students and associated benefits will not display in Bridges. Inquiries from this population should be referred to the Special Processing Office at 833-905-0028.

The March/April benefit will be issued between approximately 4/24-5/6.

The May/June benefit will be issued in mid-May.

Questions related to these changes should be collected and referred to your BSC specialist.