



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor

KODY H. KINSLEY • Secretary

YVONNE COPELAND • Director, Division of Child and Family Well Being

May 12, 2022

Dear County Directors of Social Services

Attention: Food and Nutrition Services Managers and Supervisors

Subject: Child Care Pandemic-EBT (previously called Children Under Six (6))

Priority: Information and Action

I. General Information

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act; Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 provides the Secretary of Agriculture authority to approve State agency plans to provide P-EBT for children in child care who are five (5) years old and younger (**previously called P-EBT for “Children Under 6”**).

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) submitted the 2021-2022 Child Care plan and received approval from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to implement Child Care P-EBT.

Child Care P-EBT provides benefits to households with children five (5) years old and younger who received and/or will receive FNS benefits between September 2021 and May 2022.

II. Policy Procedures

A. Who is eligible for Child Care P-EBT?

There is no application for P-EBT. A child is automatically eligible to receive benefits under Child Care P-EBT if **BOTH** conditions below are met:

1. The child is five (5) years old or younger (as of September 1, 2021), **and**
2. Is included in an active FNS case
 - Households with children five (5) years old or younger who submit an FNS application or add an eligible child to their FNS case after September 2021 will receive benefits beginning the month of approval.

Please note: even if a child turns six (6) years old during the school year, they may continue to receive P-EBT so long as they are still included in an active FNS case and not identified in the Student P-EBT population. If a child's FNS case closes, Child Care P-EBT benefits will end with the month of case closure.

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING

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B. How much will children receive?

A statewide benefit amount will be issued each month based on guidance from USDA. All eligible children across the state will receive the same amount. The amounts are posted on the P-EBT website ncdhhs.gov/PEBT. However, the amount will likely change each month.

C. How will households receive Child Care P-EBT benefits?

1. Benefits will be issued to the FNS EBT card associated with the most recent FNS case that the child is included in.
2. Households who have lost or damaged their card may call the EBT Call Center for assistance.
3. Undeliverable cards will be returned to FIS, who will keep a record of the undeliverable cards.
4. The food benefit cannot be transferred to anyone else or used by someone outside of the household that it is intended for.

D. When will Child Care P-EBT benefits be issued?

1. The first issuance for Child Care P-EBT benefits for this school year will begin May 17, 2022. These benefits will be issued on the households existing FNS EBT card to children five (5) years old or younger in an FNS household.
2. Ongoing benefits will be issued retroactively typically between the 26th and the end of each month. Benefits will be staggered over three (3) days with respect to Student P-EBT and other food assistance benefits to allow for adequate supply at grocery stores.

Note: For more information about eligibility, amount, issuance schedule, and to view the full eligibility notice, visit the updated P-EBT website at ncdhhs.gov/PEBT.

Tentative Issuance Schedule

Benefit Month(s)	Issuance Month (2022)
September and October 2021	May
November and December 2021	June
January and February 2022	July
March, April, and May 2022	August

E. Notices

Notices will be issued to FNS households with children eligible to receive Child Care P-EBT. The notice will include information about the program, eligibility, issuance, and will inform the household that they will receive P-EBT for their eligible children on their current FNS EBT card.

F. Issuance Reports

Reports outlining Child Care P-EBT benefit issuances will be uploaded into NCFAST. The BIRT reports will be updated with the Child Care P-EBT issuances this year. It is strongly recommended that counties use all available reports in NC FAST Help, as well as the toolkits provided to assist households when they call or visit the office with specific questions regarding P-EBT benefits.

Note: The information provided on the P-EBT reports is for county use only and cannot be released to callers or to clients who may come into the office.

G. Toolkits

1. Child Care P-EBT Toolkit

The toolkit (attached) has been developed to assist county workers and partner agencies in troubleshooting and answering questions. The toolkit includes the following information:

- *Desk Reference: high level overview of Child Care P-EBT*
- *Child Care P-EBT Eligibility Flowchart (English and Spanish): self-guided flow to determine a child's eligibility*
- *SY 21-22 Child Care P-EBT Flyer (English and Spanish): informational flyer that can be posted and will be included on the P-EBT website and distributed*
- *Child Care P-EBT Stock Images*
- *Website and Social Media Content: monthly stock content to be utilized on partner/stakeholder websites and social media handles to community partners*
- *Child Care P-EBT FAQs (English and Spanish): Q and A for commonly asked questions*
- *SY 21-22 Child Care P-EBT Call Logics: resource for assisting customers and troubleshooting customer questions and concerns*
- *Child Care P-EBT Notices (English and Spanish)*

III. Overpayments

NCDHHS does not intend to pursue claims against households or children if it was discovered that they were incorrectly issued benefits to which they were not entitled.

NCDHHS will contact counties in regard to cases where a child's benefits went to the incorrect household. County staff must investigate the case to determine if the children were listed on the household's regular benefits in error. If children were listed on the case in error, only complete a claim of over issuance for regular FNS benefits. Do **NOT** include Child Care P-EBT benefits.

When NCDHHS discovers instances where a child's benefits went to the wrong household or child, NCDHHS will research those cases individually and issue benefits only when the state confirms that its original issuance was made in error.

- **Do not enter Child Care P-EBT overpayments into NC FAST.**
- An error in issuance will occur only when there is a system issue that resulted in an overpayment.

- Failure to list correct or to update guardian or address information with the local school system does not constitute an error in issuance.
- NCDHHS will not issue duplicate benefits in cases of disputed guardianship if the state believes the original issuance was correct.
- If an overpayment is discovered that includes both Child Care P-EBT benefits and regular benefits, establish the claim only for the regular FNS benefits and do not include any Child Care P-EBT benefits.
- P-EBT overpayments will be determined by NCDHHS and tracked on a central spreadsheet at the state level.
- Report all county discovered Child Care P-EBT Overpayments via dss.pi.questions@dhs.nc.gov.

V. Implementation Instructions

This policy is effective upon receipt for all active FNS households. If you have any questions, please submit them to the Continuous Quality Improvement Team (CQI) dss.policy.questions@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,



Madhu Vulimiri, MPP
Deputy Director
Division of Child and Family Well-Being



Carla West
Senior Director for Economic Security
Division of Social Services, Economic and Family Services

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Attachments (11)

Child Care P-EBT Desk Reference
Child Care P-EBT Eligibility Flowchart English and Spanish
SY 21-22 Child Care P-EBT Flyer English and Spanish
Child Care P-EBT Stock Images
SY 21-22 Child Care Social Media and Website Content
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