



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: media@dss.virginia.gov

Additional P-EBT Benefits to be Issued August 25

Richmond, VA (August 9, 2021) – The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) will issue additional [Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer \(P-EBT\)](#) benefits to eligible households this summer to further assist students in meeting their nutritional needs while schools are out of session. Under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, students who qualified for free or reduced-price meals during the 2020-2021 school year, regardless of the learning method (*fully remote, hybrid or in-person*), will receive a one-time, lump sum benefit of \$375 on August 25, 2021.

The additional P-EBT benefit will provide approximately \$295 million in food assistance to more than 790,000 students to help fill the nutritional gap during the summer months. Benefits for each eligible student will be loaded onto existing P-EBT cards or mailed to newly qualifying households.

“Food security during the summer remains a challenge for many Virginians, particularly for households that depend on school-provided meals,” said **VDSS Commissioner S. Duke Storen**. “The expansion of programs like P-EBT and access to community-based food programs have a measurable impact on decreasing food hardship and provide a critical lifeline to families in meeting their nutritional needs during the vulnerable summer months.”

Households that do not qualify for P-EBT benefits or in need of additional food resources may be eligible for assistance through the following community-based programs:

- The **Summer Food Service Program and the Seamless Summer Option** provides meals at schools, public housing centers, community centers, playgrounds, camps, parks and houses of worship. Households may use the online [USDA Meals for Kids Site Finder](#) for locations and times of the closest meal sites. Families may also text “food” or “comida” to 877-877 for a list of nearby meal sites. Meals are free for all children aged 18 or younger, and no application or proof of income is needed.
- SNAP households can also utilize the **Virginia Fresh Match** program, which matches SNAP benefits dollar-for-dollar when purchasing fruits and vegetables at participating

farmers' markets and neighborhood grocery stores. A list of participating locations can be found using the [interactive map](#).

- The **Women, Infants, and Children Program** (WIC) is offering a recurring cash benefit value of \$35 for the summer months. WIC is a supplemental nutrition program administered by the [Virginia Department of Health](#) for women that are pregnant, breastfeeding, or recently had a baby in the last six months, in addition to infants and children. Participants receive an electronic benefit to purchase nutritional foods that will supplement a healthy diet. Households can view [eligibility](#) or [apply](#) online.
- The **Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services** is partnering with the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, ten local Area Agencies on Aging, and Emporia city government to operate the [Farm Market Fresh Program](#). The program helps eligible seniors get locally grown fruit, vegetables, and herbs, while supporting local farmers and farmers' markets in Virginia.
- The [Federation of Virginia Food Banks](#) provides a list of food banks across Virginia. To access the Virginia Food Bank Locator, click [here](#).

Virginians in need of additional food resources can call 2-1-1 or visit the [211 website](#) for available programs.

For more information or assistance regarding the summer P-EBT benefit, visit [PebtVA.com](#) or contact the P-EBT Call Center at 1-866-513-1414 from 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. Monday - Friday.