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Wisconsin Approved for Pandemic-EBT ***Families with school-aged children receive additional aid to purchase food***

MILWAUKEE – (March 8, 2021) – In February, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services announced that Wisconsin is approved for a second round of Pandemic-EBT, a program that will provide additional aid for food to low-income families with school-aged children in virtual learning settings. Hunger Task Force is working to identify and inform eligible families to ensure maximum participation in the program.

Within Milwaukee Public Schools, 82% of students qualify for free or reduced-price meals, and more than 36,500 participate in the breakfast program every day. With the continuation of the pandemic and safety protocols of learning virtually or a hybrid of in-person and virtually, many students who rely on school meals may not have enough to eat. Pandemic-EBT provides increased food-buying power to continue supporting hungry families—Wisconsin families could receive up to \$1,248 per child.

To be receive Pandemic-EBT, parents must have school-aged children who learned virtually or from home at some point during the 2020-21 school year *and* whose children are eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals at school. Eligible families currently receiving FoodShare will receive Pandemic EBT benefits directly on their Quest card and don't need to apply. Eligible families who do not receive FoodShare will receive a white P-EBT card in the mail. Pandemic-EBT benefits and cards can be used everywhere that FoodShare is accepted in Wisconsin.

“Pandemic-EBT will provide a food buying benefit for households with children who have been learning from home. This is truly a lifeline for families with hungry children who have relied on school breakfast and lunch to make ends meet,” said Sherrie Tussler, Executive Director of Hunger Task Force. “P-EBT will go a long way in keeping families afloat until children are able to return to school.”

P-EBT benefits will be issued in four rounds based on certain months of the school year. The first round issuance is March 25. This chart shows the maximum benefit per child per issuance.

Benefit Issue Date	Amount per Child
March 25	Up to \$361 (Aug-Nov)
May 25	Up to \$484 (Dec-Mar)
July 25	Up to \$293 (Apr-Jun)
September 25	Up to \$109 (Sept 2021)
Total Benefit per Child	\$1,248

To spread the word, Hunger Task Force is offering weekly webinars on Fridays at 10 a.m. (English) and 11 a.m. (Spanish). Registration, eligibility information and an innovative benefits estimation calculator are all available as a resource for parents on Hunger Task Force's website at www.HungerTaskForce.org/pebt.

Hunger Task Force is Milwaukee's Free & Local food bank and Wisconsin's anti-hunger leader. The organization provides healthy and nutritious food to hungry children, families and seniors in the community absolutely free of charge. Hunger Task Force was founded in 1974 by a local advocacy group who then formed Milwaukee's first food bank. Today, Hunger Task Force is 100% supported by the community and provides a safety net of emergency food with dignity to a network of 75 food pantries, soup kitchens and homeless shelters. Through legislative analysis, education and community organizing, Hunger Task Force continues to advocate for anti-hunger policy at the local, state and federal level. For more information, visit HungerTaskForce.org.

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