

Frequently Asked Questions Childcare Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) & Summer Childcare P-EBT

2020-2021 School Year (*July 15, 2021*)

Q1: What is Childcare P-EBT?

A: It is a temporary food benefit approved by the federal government to help households with children under 6 years old during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Q2: Who is eligible for Childcare P-EBT benefits?

A: Vermont households receiving 3SquaresVT benefits with children under the age of six. Childcare P-EBT benefits will be issued for each month beginning October 2020 through June 2021 to eligible households.

Q3: What is Summer Childcare P-EBT?

A: Summer Childcare P-EBT is an extension of Childcare P-EBT benefits over the summer.

Q4: Who is eligible for Summer Childcare P-EBT benefits?

A: Vermont households receiving 3SquaresVT benefits with children under the age of six at any point during the summer period (July and/or August 2021) will receive the full Summer Childcare benefit.

Q5: How much is the Childcare P-EBT benefit?

A: The childcare P-EBT benefit is equal to the school P-EBT hybrid rate, which is \$71.61 per child per month for October 2020 – February 2021. The rates for March – June 2021 are lower due to the decrease in the school P-EBT rates as schools returned to more in-person learning in the spring:

- o March \$38.19
- o April \$37.51
- o May \$33.42
- o June \$30.69

Children eligible for the P-EBT Childcare benefit will receive payments for each month starting in October 2020 through June 2021, or the last month of the household's 3SquaresVT enrollment, whichever date is earlier.

Q6: How much is the Summer Childcare P-EBT benefit?

A: The total benefit for childcare summer P-EBT is \$375 per child. Unlike the regular monthly Childcare benefit, the Summer Childcare P-EBT benefit is a flat-rate one-time benefit that covers both summer months of July and August.

Q7: When will Childcare P-EBT and Summer Childcare P-EBT benefits be issued?

A: The first round of benefits (for October 2020 - May 2021) will be issued in late July/early August 2021. Benefits for June 2021 will be issued in late September 2021, along with the Summer Childcare P-EBT benefit. These dates are subject to change, please continue to check this site for updated FAQs.

Q8. How do I find out if my household is eligible?

A: Economic Services Division (ESD) will determine if your child is eligible, based on the criteria above. If you are eligible, you'll get a letter from ESD that explains how and when you'll get the benefit.

Q9: If we are eligible, how will we receive these benefits?

A: Childcare P-EBT benefits are issued on the EBT card that was issued to your household for your 3SquaresVT benefit.

Q10: Custody for my child is split between two households. Who gets the benefit?

A: The benefit will be sent to the adult who is listed as the 3SquaresVT Head of Household by ESD.

Q11: What can I buy with this benefit?

A: See the [list of eligible food items](#) on the USDA website.

Q12: Where can I use my EBT card?

A: You can use it to buy food at any location that accepts 3SquaresVT. This includes grocery stores, supermarkets, convenience stores, and many farmers markets in Vermont. Learn more on DCF's [EBT web page](#).

Q13: I don't have children in childcare. Do I get this benefit?

A: Yes. All children under the age of six and who are receiving 3SquaresVT are eligible.

Q14: I have other children older than six. Are they eligible for the childcare P-EBT benefit?

A: No. The benefit is only available to children who are receiving 3SquaresVT and are under the age of six. Please see the School P-EBT FAQs for more information about benefits available for school-age children.

Q15: What if I don't want this benefit?

A: Participation is voluntary. If you choose not to participate, don't use the extra benefits issued on your 3SquaresVT EBT card.

Q16: Will P-EBT benefits expire if they aren't spent?

A: Yes. P-EBT benefits will expire if the card is not used within 274 days.

Q17: I have more questions. Where can I learn more?

A: Go to <https://dcf.vermont.gov/esd/covid19/P-EBT> or call 1-800-479-6151 option 7 for more information.

