1. **What is Pandemic EBT (P-EBT)?**
   P-EBT is an optional federal program designed to provide food benefits to children who have temporarily lost access to free and reduced-price meals at school due to school closures triggered by COVID-19.

   Children Under Six P-EBT provides benefits to households with children ages zero through five who received SNAP benefits between September 2021 and May 2022.

   Children Under Six P-EBT is administered by the South Carolina Department of Social Services.

2. **Who is eligible for Children Under Six P-EBT?**
   A child is eligible for benefits under this round of P-EBT if he/she is under the age of six and is a member of a household that received SNAP benefits at any time during the months of September 2021 – May 2022.

3. **How do I apply for Children Under Six P-EBT?**
   There is no application process for Children Under Six P-EBT. Eligible SNAP children are automatically approved and will be issued a P-EBT card.

4. **How will I receive my Children Under Six P-EBT benefits?**
   Children eligible to receive Children Under Six P-EBT will receive a new P-EBT card issued to the address associated with the SNAP case where they received SNAP benefits. If multiple children in the household are eligible, each child will receive a separate P-EBT card.

5. **How much is the Children Under Six P-EBT benefit amount?**
   The monthly benefit amount for Children Under Six P-EBT is $46. Benefits will be paid for each month the child was a participant in an active SNAP case and was under the age of six between September 2021 and May 2022. The maximum benefit amount (for the entire 2021-22 school year) is $414 per child.
6. **Do I or my child have to be a citizen to be eligible for P-EBT?**
   
   No. Children Under Six P-EBT benefits are for children ages zero through five who are a member of a household that received SNAP benefits at any time during the months of September 2021 – May 2022.

7. **When can I expect to receive Children Under Six P-EBT benefit for my child?**
   
   Children Under Six P-EBT cards should be mailed out on or before August 1, 2022.
   
   Due to the high volume of P-EBT cards entering the mailing stream, delivery times for P-EBT cards will vary.

8. **Can I receive my child’s P-EBT benefits faster by calling my county office?**
   
   Calls to local County DSS offices or to the State DSS office will not result in faster processing of P-EBT benefits. **Please do not call your local DSS County office with questions about P-EBT.**

9. **What should I do if I feel my child should have received Children Under Six P-EBT benefits but did not?**
   
   If your child(ren) did not receive Children Under Six P-EBT benefits and your child meets the eligible criteria outlined in Question #3, please email the P-EBT Benefits email box at PEBTBenefits@dss.sc.gov.

10. **How do I request a replacement card?**
    
    To check your balance or report your P-EBT card lost, stolen, or damaged, call 1-800-554-5268.

11. **Do I have to use all my P-EBT benefit when I get it?**
    
    No. The benefit will carry over from month to month. Benefits not used within 270 days of issuance will be automatically removed from the card.

12. **When will my P-EBT benefit expire?**
    
    P-EBT benefits expire nine months (270 days) after issuance.

13. **What if an eligible P-EBT household does not want to participate in the P-EBT program?**
    
    If an eligible household receives a P-EBT card and does not want to participate in the program, the household should destroy the P-EBT card. The P-EBT card and food benefit **cannot be transferred** to anyone else or used by someone outside your household.
14. What can be purchased with the P-EBT benefit?
Purchasing rules are the same for SNAP and P-EBT. P-EBT benefits can be used to purchase food for a household, such as:

- fresh, frozen, canned, or dried fruits and vegetables
- meat, poultry, fish, dairy products, eggs
- cereal, bread, pasta, rice
- any ingredients you use for cooking
- baby formula
- diabetic foods
- snack foods and non-alcoholic beverages
- seeds and plants for growing food at home

P-EBT benefits CANNOT be used to buy:

- beer, wine, liquor, cigarettes, or tobacco
- vitamins, medicines, and supplements
- prepared foods, hot foods
- non-food items (pet foods, cleaning supplies, paper products, hygiene items, or cosmetics)

15. What retailers accept P-EBT?
P-EBT benefits can be used to purchase food items at retailers displaying a SNAP logo/signage. Find the closest retailer where you can use your benefits at: https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/retailer-locator

16. I am a grocery retailer interested in becoming an approved SNAP/P-EBT merchant. What do I need to do?
Grocery retailers/food stores in SC who are interested in accepting SNAP/EBT must contact the USDA for approval. Visit online at: https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/apply-to-accept.