



**Department of Human Services**  
**311 West Saratoga Street**  
**Baltimore MD 21201**

**FIA INFORMATION MEMO**

**Control Number: # 24-28**

**Effective Date: UPON RECEIPT**

**Issuance Date: January 8, 2024**

**TO: DIRECTORS, LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES DEPUTY/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS FOR FAMILY INVESTMENT, FAMILY INVESTMENT SUPERVISORS AND ELIGIBILITY STAFF**

**FROM: AUGUSTIN NTABAGANYIMANA, ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**RE: NO ADDITIONAL P-EBT ISSUED AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2023**

**PROGRAM IMPACTED: SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
 TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE**

**ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF PROGRAM OPERATIONS**

**SUMMARY**

The purpose of this Information Memo is to inform the Local Department of Social Services (LDSS) staff that the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) ended on December 31, 2023. No additional issuance can be made after this date.

Through P-EBT, the Maryland Department of Human Services (MDHS) provided money to children unable to access free school meals as well as pre-school children whose families receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) benefits to purchase food. MDHS has issued nearly \$1.4 billion dollars in P-EBT benefits since the program began in April 2020.

Because of restrictions in the authorizing legislation, states are not permitted to issue P-EBT benefits after December 31, 2023. The [P-EBT webpage](#) has been updated to reflect this change. LDSS staff should be aware of the following key points as this program concludes:

- P-EBT benefits get expunged after 274 days of inactivity. Clients who still have benefits on their card may continue to access them until they are exhausted.
- LDSS staff may continue to replace lost P-EBT cards using vault cards. If a customer is unable to come to the office to pick up a vault card, he or she may be instructed to call

the EBT Toll Free line at 800-997-2222 to request a new card.

- There have been reports of P-EBT benefits being stolen. Please encourage customers to visit <https://dhs.maryland.gov/prevent-ebt-theft> for tips on how to protect their benefits.
- Sixty percent of P-EBT recipients are not enrolled on SNAP or any of the safety net programs that our agency offers. LDSS staff are encouraged to talk to clients about DHS programs and ways in which interested families may apply.

**INQUIRIES:**

Please direct policy questions to FIA Policy by completing the [FIA Policy Information Request Form](#) found on Knowledge Base or via email at [fia.policy@maryland.gov](mailto:fia.policy@maryland.gov) for Montgomery County only. For systems questions, please email [fia.bsdm@maryland.gov](mailto:fia.bsdm@maryland.gov).

cc: DHS Executive Staff  
FIA Management Staff  
Constituent Services  
DHS Helpdesk  
Office of Administrative Hearings