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

Manitowoc, Wisconsin (March 31, 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.

Manitowoc County’s Food Insecurity Coalition is working hard to spread the word to eligible families in the community to ensure maximum participation in the program. Through the Pandemic-EBT program, eligible Wisconsin families could receive up to $1,248 per child for groceries. P-EBT benefits can be used everywhere that FoodShare is accepted in Wisconsin.

To be eligible for P-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 should receive P-EBT benefits directly on their Quest card and don’t need to apply. Eligible families who do not receive FoodShare or are not otherwise known to the state through Badgercare or another program will have to apply through a simple application that will open on April 12th. A link will be posted on the P-EBT program webpage when available. Those households will receive a white P-EBT card in the mail.

“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 Ashley Bender, Executive Director of United Way Manitowoc County, a member of Manitowoc County’s Food Insecurity Coalition. “P-EBT will go a long way in keeping families afloat until children are able to fully 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 scheduled for late March, with additional benefits being delivered in May, July and September.

Families who have questions specific to their child’s situation can reach the Wisconsin Department of Health Services at pebtsupport@wisconsin.gov or at their P-EBT hotline: 1-833-431-2224.
Manitowoc County’s Food Insecurity Coalition: Manitowoc County’s Food Insecurity Coalition is a group comprised of local nonprofit and food pantry leaders, public school representatives, and other stakeholders who play a role in ensuring everyone in Manitowoc County has access to adequate food resources.

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