**Making Sense of all the Food Share Updates**

There have been lots of questions and confusion about FoodShare Wisconsin and the changes/additional benefits during this time. Gina from MMSD has tried to synthesize all the information she has gotten below for you to help your staff and families understand the changes and benefits.

**P-EBT (Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer) Basics:**

* P-EBT is different from the emergency benefits that were added to some people’s Quest cards earlier this month.
* Eligibility for P-EBT is based on children receiving Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL). These benefits are tied to FoodShare (FS) benefits. A family might not be eligible for FS, but still receive P-EBT if they have FRL.
* The state is rolling out these benefits in different stages. The state is using current info in their system for FRL to determine eligibility. **In most cases, no action is necessary to receive this benefit.**
* If a family with kids on **free/reduced lunch has a Quest card they should have received $176/child on their Quest card over the weekend for March/April.**
* If a family with children on **free/reduced lunch and BadgerCare (BC), but not FS, they will receive a P-EBT card in the mail (white with an apple on it) with the same benefit amount per child. No action necessary.**
* If a family has children on FRL, but no other Wisconsin assistance programs, they can apply beginning **5/9/2020.**
* If families need help signing up for Badgercare, please contact MMSD Family Health Liaison, Guillermina Montes, at [gmontes@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:gmontes@madison.k12.wi.us) or 608-576-1197.
* If families need to sign up for FRL, they can do so through our MMSD website, <https://food.madison.k12.wi.us/reduced.htm>, and fill out an application.  Once it is submitted it should take an overnight upload to update the student information (depending on what time of day the application was submitted) the process should take 1-2 days.  We send out notification letters to all families via email. If a family needs a letter sent in the mail, that would take longer, but it can be done.
* If a family is already Free or Reduced and would like a copy of their verification letter, they should email Sue Cotter ([slcotter@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:slcotter@madison.k12.wi.us)) or Mary Engelhart ([mengelhart@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:mengelhart@madison.k12.wi.us)).
* For helpful PDF handout, <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02647.pdf>
* For more Forward Health- COVID 19/Foodshare info, visit [Food Benefits](https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/forwardhealth-foodshare.htm)
* To apply for FoodShare, visit [Apply for Benefits](https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/forwardhealth/apply.htm).
* For current FoodShare income limits, visit [FoodShare Monthly Income Limits](https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/foodshare/fpl.htm).

**Two additional Resources:**

**Second Harvest Foodbank Mobile Pantries**:

Second Harvest Foodbank Mobile Pantries are open to anyone in need of food.  No identification or verification needed, no geographic restrictions.  Information and a calendar can be found here: <https://www.secondharvestmadison.org/find-food/mobile-pantries>

**FoodShare Outreach**:

Second Harvest Foodbank FoodShare Outreach Specialists can help individuals and families apply for FoodShare benefits that come on a QUEST card.  FoodShare benefits can help people through rough patches by providing money for groceries until they get back on their feet. The QUEST Card is accepted at most grocery stores in Wisconsin.  For more information and to apply over the phone, call or text 608-807-9006 (se habla Español) or visit [getaquestcard.org](http://getaquestcard.org/)