

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Wednesday July 5, 2023

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## **FAMILIES OF 32,500 STUDENTS IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY HAVE ONE MONTH TO CLAIM \$1,192 IN FOOD BENEFITS**

SAN DIEGO – On Friday July 7<sup>th</sup>, San Diego Hunger Coalition will hold a press conference with an urgent announcement to inform households in California that they can request a reissuance of the P-EBT (Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer) 2.0 card. Households who think they qualify but did not receive a P-EBT 2.0 card should call the helpline number 1.800.887.8230. Families only have one month to claim these benefits from June 29 through August 1, 2023.

P-EBT is a federal program that was set up to provide money for groceries while schools and childcare were closed during the Public Health Emergency. Benefits are issued on an EBT card to the families of children who were eligible to replace the free or reduced-price meals served at childcare or schools that children may have missed because of the pandemic.

P-EBT 2.0 benefits were issued to children who were eligible for free or reduced-priced meals and/or in the CalFresh program from October 2020 - August 2021. All P-EBT 2.0 cards should have been received by December 2021, however, data uncovered by San Diego Hunger Coalition revealed that an estimated 32,500 students in San Diego County who were eligible did not receive their cards. The average P-EBT 2.0 benefit amount for each student is \$1,200 which is approximately \$38.7 million available to families if they call California Department of Social Services in the month of July to reclaim their lost benefits.

P-EBT 2.0 reissuance is made possible by the successful advocacy efforts spearheaded by San Diego Hunger Coalition and San Diego County elected officials at the state and federal level, some of whom will be present at this press conference.

WHAT: P-EBT 2.0 card reissuance announcement

WHO: **Assemblymember Christopher Ward**, 78<sup>th</sup> District

**Assemblymember David Alvarez**, 80<sup>th</sup> District

**Jesus Mendoza**, Western Regional Administrator, USDA Food and Nutrition Service

**Anahid Brakke**, President & CEO, San Diego Hunger Coalition

**Joshua Kohler**, District Community Schools Coordinator, Chula Vista Elementary School District

**Teresa Blanco**, Northgate Gonzalez Market

**Amanda Mascia**, Director of Programs, San Diego Hunger Coalition (available for interviews post press conference)

**Alondra Alvarado**, Director of Marketing and Communications, San Diego Hunger Coalition (available for interviews in Spanish post press conference)

WHEN: Friday July 7, 2023 at 11:00 am

WHERE: Northgate Gonzalez Market, Produce Department | 1950 Main St, San Diego, CA 92113

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*Founded in 1974, the San Diego Hunger Coalition is a 501(c)(3) organization that leads collaborative action to end hunger supported by research, education, and advocacy. Its vision is that everyone in San Diego County has enough food for an active, healthy life. Learn more at [www.sdhunger.org](http://www.sdhunger.org).*

