Additional P-EBT cards were issued this week

SANTA FE – A new P-EBT hotline has been established for parents who have questions about eligibility or would like additional information about P-EBT benefits, the New Mexico Human Services Department announced Oct. 15. The new (833) 415-0569 P-EBT hotline will be staffed from 8 am to 6 pm Monday through Friday to assist families who have flooded current phone lines with questions about P-EBT.

The P-EBT program provides nutrition assistance to New Mexico families to offset meals missed because schools were in a remote learning mode in August and September. New Mexico households with children who receive free or reduced-price meals will receive benefits of $5.86 per child per day for the dates their individual school was 100 percent virtual, up until the day their school instituted a hybrid model, or Sept. 30; whichever was earlier.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture allocated more than $45 million in additional SNAP benefits for New Mexico – enough to feed more than 243,000 vulnerable children in the state. This follows federal approval of the state's amended P-EBT program for the months of August and September.

Eligibility for the P-EBT benefit is determined by the New Mexico Public Education Department, which shares student information with the Human Services Department to distribute the P-EBT cards and issue benefits. A total of 72,659 P-EBT cards have been issued and were mailed out this week for families to access the fall benefit amount. Only one card will be issued in the eldest child's name per household — if there are multiple children in the same household, all the benefits will be issued on the same card.

For additional information or eligibility questions please call the NEW P-EBT hotline at (833) 415-0569.