

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**COMMUNITY BRIDGES**  
**PUENTES DE LA COMUNIDAD**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**A new benefit offers families help buying food**

*P-EBT benefits are here!*

WATSONVILLE, CA – A new California Department of Social Services program will help families in crisis feed their children. Targeting families with children that receive free or reduced-price meals, the Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) benefit will provide access to food during the COVID-19 public health crisis, in addition to meals they may be receiving at their children’s schools. Most families receiving CalFresh, CalWorks, Medi-Cal, or Foster Care will receive a P-EBT in the mail by May 22, 2020. Families enrolled in these social services do not need to apply to receive this benefit.

Families with children who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals, but do not receive CalFresh, CalWorks, Medi-Cal, or Foster Care, must apply online before June 30, 2020 to receive the P-EBT card. The online application will be available beginning May 22, 2020 at [ca.p-ebt.org](http://ca.p-ebt.org).

Families will receive up to \$365 per eligible child on their P-EBT card to use on food and groceries. “The P-EBT benefit supports the nutritional needs of underserved children in our communities and is helping fill a gap where free school lunches and afterschool programs who cannot operate or provide food would usually help,” says Ray Cancino, Community Bridges CEO. “Our four family resource centers are available to support families in accessing the services they need. Our staff are here to remove language and technology barriers that may prevent food from getting on the table of families in need.”

The bilingual staff at Community Bridges four Family Resource Centers are available to provide drop-in enrollment assistance to any eligible family.

**ABOUT THE FAMILY RESOURCE COLLECTIVE**

The compassionate and knowledgeable staff at the four Family Resource Centers (FRCs) offer a warm, friendly, safe place for the Santa Cruz County community to access resources that offer stability and hope for the future. Bi-lingual and bi-cultural advocacy services meet the long and short-term needs of families at no or low cost. FRCs help our community access benefits and resources such as housing, employment, healthcare, disability, unemployment, immigration, mental health counseling, literacy education, youth tutoring, substance abuse recovery, domestic violence prevention, nutrition, and child care.

Watsonville: La Manzana Community Resources

521 Main St, Suite Y Watsonville, CA 95076  
<https://communitybridges.org/lmcr/>

Live Oak: Live Oak Community Resources  
1740 17th Ave, Santa Cruz, CA 95062  
<https://communitybridges.org/locr/>

Felton: Mountain Community Resources  
6134 Hwy 9, Felton, CA 95018  
<https://communitybridges.org/mcr/>

Santa Cruz: Nueva Vista Community Resources  
711 E Cliff Dr, Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
<https://communitybridges.org/nvcr/>

### **ABOUT COMMUNITY BRIDGES**

Community Bridges envisions a thriving community where every person has the opportunity to unleash their full potential. Together, our family of programs delivers essential services, provides equitable access to resources, and advocates for health and dignity across every stage of life. To learn more, please visit [www.communitybridges.org](http://www.communitybridges.org).

The Community Bridges family of programs includes the Child & Adult Care Food Program, Child Development Division, Women, Infants and Children (WIC), La Manzanita Community Resources, Live Oak Community Resources, Mountain Community Resources, Nueva Vista Community Resources, Elderday Adult Day Health Care, Lift Line and Meals on Wheels for Santa Cruz County.

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