

From: [Peel, Jackson](#)
To: [Press](#)
Subject: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Florida Democrats to Governor DeSantis: Apply for the Federal Government's Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer Program
Date: Friday, September 10, 2021 5:13:26 PM
Attachments: [Re Nixon - Gov DeSantis Sign-On - \\$820MM Food Aid - with signature.pdf](#)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 10, 2021

CONTACT

Taj Johnson
Office of Representative Angie Nixon
Taj.Johnson@myfloridahouse.gov
(904) 924-1500

Florida Democrats to Governor DeSantis: Apply for the Federal Government's Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer Program

Tallahassee, Fla. – Today, Democratic members of the Florida Legislature sent a letter **Governor Ron DeSantis** urging him to apply for the federal Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer program. To date, the DeSantis administration has not applied for up to \$820 million in food assistance through this program.

Representative Angie Nixon (D-Jacksonville) offered the following:

“Our request is simple: stop playing partisan politics with our babies. With over 2 million children in need, this can make a huge difference for Florida’s struggling families, especially those impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The governor is the only one that has refused to apply for millions in federal funding to help. This is not a game, and letting one child go hungry is unacceptable, Floridians deserve better.”

The letter is attached and reads as follows:

Dear Governor Ron DeSantis,

We are writing today urging you to apply for the federal government's Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer program. We join over 80 advocacy groups that have reached out to encourage you to apply for this vital assistance to struggling Florida families impacted by the on-going pandemic.

This program will deposit money to a card for families of children who qualify for free and reduced meals at their school. The federal government created it last year to ensure that children were still being fed while they attended school remotely, but remote learning is **not** a required status in order for children to benefit from this program.

Parents of children who qualify for free or reduced lunches are missing out on an extra \$375 to help pay for their children's meals this summer and fall, thanks to Florida's inaction on this application. If we apply now, families can receive the money retroactively.

For families struggling to make ends meet due to Florida's on-going affordable housing crisis and broken unemployment assistance program, an extra \$375 can make a world of difference. Children in the state of Florida shouldn't go hungry because of partisan politics. Child hunger is not a partisan issue, and the children of Florida are its future. We request that you apply for these funds today.

###