

# Summer EBT Implementation Considerations & Promising Practices



SUMMER NUTRITION SUMMIT 2024



## Summer EBT

- Permanent program providing grocery benefits to eligible households with school-aged children to support food access during summer break.
- Increases summer food options for students that receive free and reduced price school meals but may struggle to access traditional summer meals programs.



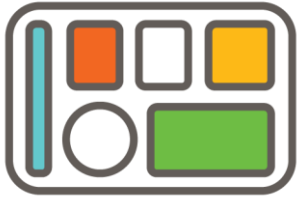
# Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children



- Beginning in 2011, SEBTC piloted the use of electronic benefits transfer in providing food assistance to children with low-incomes during the summer.
- Tested SNAP and WIC models at \$30 and \$60 benefit levels through select states and Tribal Organizations.
- Impact:
  - Reduced very-low food insecurity by a third.
  - Increased children's consumption of whole grains, fruits, vegetables, and dairy.



# Pandemic EBT



- Temporary program that provided grocery benefits to families with children qualified for free or reduced price school meals when schools were closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Guidelines, eligibility, and benefit levels changed and evolved, as the pandemic did, to adapt to hybrid situations and changing legislation.



# Summer EBT: Policies & Program Requirements

Summer Nutrition Summit

January 23, 2024



# S-EBT Policy: Administration



- Creation of permanent, nationwide program option
- SNAP/NAP option for states & territories, WIC option for ITOs
- 50% admin funding
- Must be a partnership between CN & SNAP, and between ITOs & states
- Ongoing timelines for interim and final plans each year

# S-EBT Policy: Eligibility

- Students can be eligible to receive S-EBT benefits if:
  - They can be **streamline certified** (receive benefits automatically) by being
    - school aged\* and directly certified by SNAP, TANF, FDPIR, or Medicaid (in direct cert pilot states)
    - individually certified for free/reduced price meals
  - They complete **an application** to become individually certified
- Students in special provision schools must complete an application if they cannot otherwise be directly certified
  - By 2025, agencies must have state-wide application
  - 3% of applications must be verified, and any application can be verified for cause

\* *School aged is currently defined state-by-state using compulsory age for school attendance*

# S-EBT Policy: Benefits

- \$40/month or \$120 for the summer period in 2024
  - Indexed to inflation
  - WIC benefit should be equivalent in value
- Delivered on EBT card or other methods as approved by FNS
  - Can be on an existing or new EBT card
- Benefits intended to be used in summer
  - 4 month/122 day expungement period



# Panel Discussion

- Lorraine Ward, MA
- Ashley Puffenbarger, WV
- Andrea Brayboy & Katie Tully, CA

