

Who is Summer EBT for?

1 Summer EBT (also known as SUN Bucks) is a program for school-aged children who are income-eligible for free or reduced price school meals or receive a public benefit program like SNAP (food stamps). Summer EBT provides \$120 (amount varies in some areas) in grocery benefits over the summer to families of eligible children, to shop at places they normally go like grocery stores, farmers markets or online.

Is Summer EBT available in my state/Tribe/territory?

2 Likely, yes – many states, territories, and eligible Tribal agencies are operating Summer EBT in 2024. However, some states are not operating the program this summer. Visit the [United States Department of Agriculture's SUN Bucks website](#) to learn who is and is not participating.

Is Summer EBT automatic or do parents need to sign up?

3 It depends on the child. Most eligible children will receive Summer EBT automatically. Some will need to apply. Want to know more?: The programs used to automatically enroll a child in Summer EBT vary slightly by state. In general, children within your state's "compulsory school age" who live in a household that receives SNAP or certain other benefit programs should receive benefits automatically. Children (of any age) who applied for AND were approved for free or reduced-price meals via an application to their school should also receive benefits automatically.

Children (of any age) who don't receive Summer EBT automatically may be eligible if their income is within 185% of the federal poverty level (see [here](#)) AND they attend a school that operates the National School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program. (Most public and charter schools and some private schools operate these programs.) These children must apply.

If someone needs to apply for their child, how can they do so?

4 States/tribes/territories are handling this in different ways. Please see their Summer EBT website. In general, many states have online and/or paper applications for Summer EBT, and some are accepting applications over the phone. Others are using school meal applications or your state/district's alternative income form (name varies).

When should I tell families to sign up?

5 Many families will receive benefits automatically. If you know families fall into one of these categories, you can help them understand they don't need to sign up. Otherwise, you can encourage families to apply as soon as an application is available in your state. Once benefits have been issued in your state to those receiving them automatically, encourage anyone who hasn't received benefits but thinks they are eligible to apply ASAP.

When will families get Summer EBT?

6 Timing will vary in Summer 2024. Some states are aiming to issue benefits in June or July, while in others benefits may be in hand at the end of summer. Most states are doing one large issuance for children receiving Summer EBT automatically, so many children in your area will likely receive Summer EBT around the same time. States will continue issuing benefits to those who apply for Summer EBT through the summer, and in some cases, into the fall.

How will families get Summer EBT?

States/territories/Tribes are issuing benefits in different ways:

7

- Some are providing Summer EBT benefits on existing EBT cards for families that already have them (such as those receiving SNAP), and issuing new cards to families that do not.
- Some are providing new Summer EBT cards to all families, or even issuing new cards to each eligible child individually.
- A small number of states are issuing benefits on Pandemic EBT cards if a family or child previously participated in that program.

For benefits being issued automatically, mailing addresses will be pulled from a public benefit case (like a SNAP case) or school records. Check your state's Summer EBT website for instructions on how to update a mailing address if that's needed - usually it's calling a Summer EBT customer service center or through a self-service portal.

For families that need to apply, once they are approved, benefits will be issued and mailed to the address provided on the application.

Can we receive this benefit regardless of my or my child's immigration status?

8

Yes, you or your child's immigration status is not considered for Summer EBT eligibility, and you do not need a Social Security Number to apply for Summer EBT. Applying for or receiving Summer EBT does not affect the immigration status of your child or family. Receiving Summer EBT will not make you, your child or family members a public charge.

How long do families have to use their Summer EBT benefits?

9

Benefits must be used within 4 months from issuance (when benefits are loaded onto EBT cards). This is different from SNAP benefits, which have a longer timeline before they expire.

What if families have questions I can't answer?

10

All states, territories, and Tribal agencies operating Summer EBT have a website providing information about the program, and many have FAQ sections. They also have customer service call centers and often an email address.

Does this program operate year-round? Is it a one-time program?

11

Summer EBT is only available in the summer months (\$120 benefit, per child, each summer), but it is a permanent program that will be available to families next summer and each summer after, if your state opts to participate.

What about summer meals?

12

Summer EBT is complementary to summer meals, NOT in place of summer meals. Families are encouraged to use both programs.

Additional Resources with State-Specific Information

- Get connected to the specific information for your state/territory/Tribe at [USDA's SUN Bucks website](#).
- [summerebt.org](#) includes a tool for families to check eligibility for each state/territory/Tribe
- Spreadsheet of [state-level Summer EBT Information for Community Advocates](#)