

# Summer EBT guide for partners

SUMMER EBT  
IS BACK!

**Summer EBT** provides **\$120** in extra grocery benefits for each eligible child over the summer. It's just one way to make sure that kids in our community have access to the healthy food they usually get at school.

**Most eligible children are automatically enrolled in the program, but some will need to apply.**

Trusted community members (like you!) can help spread the word about **Summer EBT**. This partnership is crucial to ensuring no child goes hungry during summer break. Help families in your community understand, apply for, and use **Summer EBT** support by sharing information about this program.

## KEY MESSAGES TO SHARE WITH FAMILIES THIS YEAR



### Spring Messaging AFTER YOUR SPRING BREAK

Sign up for **\$120** in extra grocery support over the summer! Visit [summerebt.org/states/YOUR STATE](http://summerebt.org/states/YOUR STATE) to see if you're automatically enrolled or if you need to apply.



### Over the Summer Messaging A MONTH BEFORE DEADLINE

Don't miss out on **Summer EBT support**! If you haven't received **Summer EBT** yet, there's still time! The deadline to apply is **DATE**.



### End of School Messaging THE LAST MONTH OF SCHOOL

When school is out, **Summer EBT** is in! Summer EBT benefits are **loaded onto your existing card or mailed to your address**. If you haven't received Summer EBT, you can still apply.



### Back to School Messaging WHEN STUDENTS RETURN

Are your **Summer EBT** benefits **still on the shelf**? Be sure to use them before they expire after 4 months.

# Understanding Summer EBT

## UNDERSTANDING SUMMER EBT

### Who's eligible for Summer EBT?

Families with children attending school are eligible for **Summer EBT** if they are at or below 185% of the federal poverty guidelines. If the child receives other food or medical assistance, is experiencing homelessness, or is in foster care, they are probably eligible for Summer EBT too.

### Who receives Summer EBT automatically, and who needs to apply?

Most eligible children are automatically enrolled in **Summer EBT** through other programs they already participate in, but some eligible families will need to apply. If a family has a child attending school who doesn't receive the program automatically, we recommend encouraging them to apply if they need extra support with groceries over the summer. Students of any age who meet the income and school attendance requirements are eligible to apply.

Families can check their eligibility and find out if they should apply at [summerebt.org/states/STATE](http://summerebt.org/states/STATE).

### How do families apply for Summer EBT?

Families with children can apply for Summer EBT at [statewebsite.gov/SEBTapp](http://statewebsite.gov/SEBTapp) or through a paper application. (It's a great idea for schools to print the application off the website to have it ready for families who aren't online!)

### When is the application deadline?

State-specific date.

## TROUBLESHOOTING

### What should someone do if they lose their card?

This is a state-specific answer and may take multiple lines. Families can contact their state's Summer EBT office for support.

### How can a family activate their card?

Example: Families can activate new Summer EBT cards by calling the number on the back of the card. When asked for the primary cardholder's date of birth, enter the 8-digit birthday of the oldest child in the household. If the oldest child's birthday doesn't work, they should try the birthday(s) of other children in the household.

## RECEIVING SUMMER EBT

### What information or instructions do families receive about Summer EBT?

Families who are enrolled in the program will receive a Summer EBT "issuance notice" in the mail before the benefits arrive. This notice includes helpful information about how to activate their cards when they arrive in a separate envelope, so it's helpful to keep it.

### What should a family do if they have moved or need to change their address?

This is a state-specific answer, and it will probably take two lines because it's either contacting the school or contacting the state, and instructions may differ depending on how they are eligible.

## USING SUMMER EBT BENEFITS

### How are Summer EBT benefits delivered?

This is a state-specific answer, and it will be something like: Summer EBT funds are either issued onto existing EBT cards or a new EBT card that will be sent to the family's mailing address on file.

### When are Summer EBT benefits delivered?

Benefits are issued as a **one-time payment**, and they arrive for families at different times. Most benefits will arrive between **April and August**.

### What other grocery or food support programs are available over the summer?

Summer EBT works alongside Summer Meals programs to help make sure kids get nutritious food all year round.

### Do Summer EBT funds expire?

Yes! The \$120 benefit expires 122 days (about 4 months) after it's issued. Remind families to use their funds so they don't miss out. This is an important message to share with your families during back-to-school season!

### What should families do with the Summer EBT card once they're done with it?

Families should keep any new Summer EBT cards, since they may be able to use them again next year. [If your state is not reissuing on the same card, delete this question.]

Have questions or need extra support?

Visit **[State website]** or call **[State phone number]**.