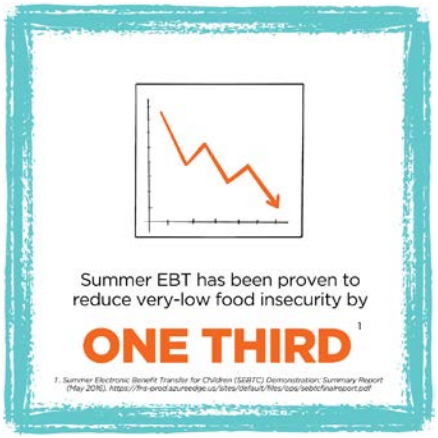
Summer EBT 101

Summer EBT (or SUN Bucks) is a new federal nutrition program that provides $120 in grocery benefits per eligible child each summer (amounts vary in Alaska, Hawaii, and US territories). Benefits are typically provided on a debit-style EBT card to purchase food at stores, farmers markets, and online.

Summer EBT is one of multiple new options that help ensure children have food during the summer. Children and families can participate in both Summer EBT and summer meals (both congregate and non-congregate meal options).

Eligibility

Many school-aged children will qualify and receive Summer EBT benefits automatically. However, some families with eligible children need to apply.



Generally, school-aged children are automatically eligible if they are approved for free or reduced-price meals at their school, or if their household receives a public benefit program like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

If a child does not qualify automatically, a family can apply to receive Summer EBT. To qualify, a family must meet the income guidelines and their child must be enrolled in a school operating the National School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program. Most public and charter schools and some private schools operate these programs.

Unlike with Pandemic EBT, children attending schools that provide free school meals to all students will not automatically receive Summer EBT unless they meet automatic issuance criteria.

Immigration and citizenship status are not a consideration for Summer EBT eligibility. Receiving Summer EBT will not affect a family or child's immigration status and will not make anyone a public charge.

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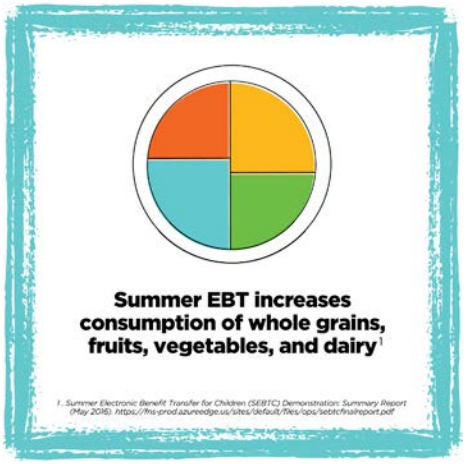
Spread the Word



Summer EBT is a new program, so many families may not know about it. Helping families to understand the program and how to access it will help more families utilize it. Here is important information to know and share:

- Know where to find information on Summer EBT for your area.
  - Sun Bucks (Summer EBT) from USDA - this website provides Summer EBT information about states, including state agency, territory and tribal websites where more details can be found.
- Know when benefits are being automatically issued in your area, and on which card(s) so you can prepare families.
- Help families understand if they automatically qualify and don't need to do anything or if they need to apply.
  - Once automatic issuance has happened, if a family did not receive Summer EBT and they are within the income guidelines, encourage them to apply and offer to help.
  - Know the application deadline for this summer in your area.

Resources to Stay Up-To-Date on Summer EBT

Summer EBT basics for families from No Kid Hungry - this website provides a helpful overview of Summer EBT, specific to families, and includes information on eligibility guidelines, ways to apply for Summer EBT, and information about SNAP and WIC.

Summer EBT overview and resources from No Kid Hungry - this website provides an overview of Summer EBT, along with information for state agencies, and resources to support outreach to families.