Combatting Summer Hunger: Introducing Summer EBT & SUN Programs

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Advocates for Ohio’s Future (AOF) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan coalition of over 500 state and local health and human services policy, advocacy, and provider organizations that promotes health and human service budget and policy solutions so that all Ohioans live better lives.

Our coalition believes in investing in our state’s most valuable resource—our people—to ensure that they are safe, healthy, and can access pathways to prosperity for themselves and their families.
Starting summer 2024, grocery benefits will be available to eligible families with school-age children during summer break.

First new, permanent federal assistance program in almost 50 years!
STUDENT ELIGIBILITY FOR SUMMER EBT

Brigette Hires, Administrator
Office of Nutrition
SUMMER EBT FACTS

- Anticipated 837,000 Ohio children will receive the benefit.
- Summer EBT is also known as SUN Bucks.
- Benefit is a one-time $120 amount, even if approved later in the summer.
- First round of funding received by July 31
- Summer operational period runs through August 16

sebt.ohio.gov
SUMMER 2024 S-EBT STREAMLINE CERTIFICATION

• The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) will share all children ages 6-18 that have participated in SNAP and Ohio Works First (OWF) from July 1, 2023 – August 16, 2024.

• Ohio Department of Medicaid will share all children ages 6-18 participating in Medicaid that meet the income criteria for free or reduced meals from July 1, 2023 – August 16, 2024.

• Schools participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) will share their current year free or reduced-price meal certified students (of any age).

  • Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) and Provision 2 non-base year schools cannot submit any student without a current year free or reduced-price meal certification.
CHILDREN AUTOMATICALLY ELIGIBLE FOR SUMMER EBT

SNAP and OWF
ages 6-18

Streamline Certification
No Action Needed by Households
Will Automatically Receive Summer EBT

Free or Reduced-Price Meal Certified by Schools, any age

Medicaid (within income requirements) ages 6-18
SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAM HOUSEHOLD APPLICATION

- Households may report a SNAP or Ohio Works First (OWF) Case Number.
- Households may report homeless, migrant or runaway status.
  - Verified by a school coordinator
- Households may report children as foster.
- Households may report income, max is 185% of federal poverty line.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household size</th>
<th>Yearly</th>
<th>Monthly</th>
<th>Weekly</th>
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<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Each Additional Person:</td>
<td>9,509</td>
<td>793</td>
<td>183</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
STUDENT ELIGIBILITY SHARED BY SCHOOLS

• Schools will report school year 2023-2024 free or reduced-price meal certified students.
  • Approved through the direct certification process, extended direct certification, Free or Reduced-Price Household Meal Application, or otherwise categorically eligible.
    • Categorical eligibility includes HeadStart, migrant, homeless, runaway students and foster students with current year court documentation.
  • Schools can accept new applications through August 16, determine eligibility, and submit students for Summer EBT.
STUDENT ELIGIBILITY DATA SHARED BY SCHOOLS

• Includes free or reduced-price meal certified students enrolled in a National School Lunch Program school at any time in the school year.
  
  • Including graduating students and students no longer enrolled unless evidence of out of state school enrollment.
  
  • Student meal eligibility is school year long.
    
    • Example: a student homeless in the beginning of the school year and certified for free meals is still free meal eligible and will receive Summer EBT in 2024 even if no longer homeless at the end of the school year.
  
• Schools will submit school year 2023-2024 students with access to the National School Lunch Program/ School Breakfast Program.
  
  • If a school has fully virtual/online students or is a fully online school with no access to the meal program, the school will not submit those students.
    
    • The students will receive S-EBT if they are currently on SNAP, OWF, or Medicaid income eligible.
COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION AND PROVISION 2 SCHOOLS

• In PEBT could submit full enrollment
• NOT the case in Summer EBT
• CEP and Provision 2 schools can submit categorically eligible and direct certification students
• Households with children not directly certified or categorically eligible will have access to a statewide Summer EBT application
STATEWIDE SUMMER EBT APPLICATION

- Available soon
- sebt.ohio.gov
- Primarily for households with children attending CEP and Provision 2 schools who are not categorically eligible for free meals.
- Households can not apply for online or fully virtual students
- Households may submit applications up to Aug 16
SUPPORTING SUMMER EBT STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

• Help spread the word if children are streamlined certified they will receive the benefit automatically and do not need to apply.

• Remind households through multiple channels they can apply for free and reduced-price school meal benefits throughout the school year which also approves the children for Summer EBT.

• Encourage households to update their address with their benefits provider (ODJFS for SNAP and OWF and Office of Medicaid for Medicaid) or their school before June 1.
Summer EBT (S-EBT) Benefit Issuance and Utilization

Laura Harper
Assistant Deputy Director
Office of Family Assistance
S-EBT Benefit Issuance

• One-time issuance for the summer in the amount of $120
  • $40 for each summer month provided in one issuance
• S-EBT benefits will begin being processed in mid-June
  • Not all issuances will occur at the same time
• How S-EBT benefits will be issued:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Households currently receiving SNAP benefits:</th>
<th>S-EBT benefits for each eligible child in the household will be issued on the families existing Ohio Direction card.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Households not currently receiving SNAP benefits:</td>
<td>A new S-EBT card will be mailed for each child eligible to receive S-EBT benefits to the household.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
S-EBT Benefit Issuance

• New S-EBT cards for households not currently receiving SNAP benefits will be mailed a S-EBT card:
  • A card will be mailed for each child
  • The card will be in a plain white envelope
  • Information about the program will be included with the card

• Must create 4-digit PIN when activating card
  • Self-created PIN
S-EBT Benefit Expiration

• Benefits will expire 122 days after they have been issued
  • Note: expiration is based on date of issuance, not last transaction date as it is for SNAP benefits
• The approval notice will clearly state the benefits will expire 122 days after issuance
Using S-EBT Benefits

- The S-EBT card will be accepted at the same retailers as the Ohio Direction Card
- The S-EBT card may be used to purchase: fruit, vegetables, meat, dairy, seafood, non-alcoholic beverages, canned foods, and other cold grocery items at major retailers or online
- Highly recommend using the lock and unlock feature for the S-EBT card when not using to prevent any possible fraud
- Additional information on using benefits can be found on the JFS 07501 “Program Enrollment & Benefit Information” form
Summer Food Support

Michelle M. Brown
President & CEO
Children’s Hunger Alliance

- Statewide agency focused on food access, nutrition education, and advocacy
- USDA Sponsorship of CACFP for in-home daycare, childcare centers, afterschool programs, SFSP summer programs
- School breakfast & summer program expansion
- Weekend, holiday and summer meals
- Nutrition education, physical activity programming & training
USDA Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Sponsorship

Statewide sponsor

2023 Sponsor 120+ site locations in 21 counties

2024 Projecting 180-200 including outside SFSP

Able to be a gap-filler where other sponsors or school districts cannot operate

Partner with No Kid Hungry to support other sponsors & school districts with summer growth
Other Summer Meals

- Components are all shelf-stable, individually packaged, and require no preparation before consumption. All components meet USDA meal pattern requirements.

- During summer months, boxes supplement summer meal service programs that provide meals during the week, or in areas where sponsors cannot distribute non-congregate food for weekends.
Summer Meals

- In Ohio, 4 million more meals were served in 2021 versus 2019 due to USDA waivers. In '23 Ohio increased vs. U.S. total decrease.

*Charts provided by No Kid Hungry/Share Our Strength*
Additional Summer Food Access

- SNAP / Online access
- Produce Perks
- Produce Bags and Mobile Markets
SNAP Online

The following list of retailers accept SNAP online orders, though SNAP does not cover fees:

ALDI ● Amazon ● BJS ● Wholesale Club ● Buehler’s Fresh Foods ● Dave’s Supermarket ● Earth Fare ● Giant Eagle Gordon Food Services ● Jerky Pro Just Dash It ● Kroger ● Local Matters Lucky’s ● Meijer ● Sam’s Club ● Scan and Go ● Seaway Marketplace ● Stark Fresh ● Target ● Walmart ● Whole Foods
Produce Perks Midwest

Fresh Food in the summer

• $1 for $1 match on SNAP/EBT purchases up to $25/visit for Fruits and Vegetables

• Extensive network of farmers’ markets and retailers

https://produceperks.org/locations/
Produce and Mobile Markets

Fresh Food in the Summer

• Produce bags that are portable

• Mobile Markets to enhance access
Questions?

Connect With Us!

• Facebook - @CHAOhio
• Instagram - @childrenshungeralliance
• LinkedIn - @chaohio
• www.childrenshungeralliance.org
Outreach Strategies

Ensuring *all* Eligible Children and Families’ Access Summer-EBT/SUN Bucks
Reaching Immigrant, Refugee, and New American Families

Will receiving Summer-EBT/SUN Bucks affect children or families’ immigration status?

**NO!** Receiving Summer-EBT does NOT Affect Children or Families’ Immigration Status. The U.S. citizenship or immigration status of your household members does not affect your child’s eligibility for Summer-EBT/SUN Bucks benefits.

Will my child or I be considered a public charge if I apply for or receive Summer-EBT/SUN Bucks benefits?

**NO!** Summer-EBT benefits do not “count” toward public charge. In other words, you or your children will not be deported, denied entry to the country, or denied permanent status because you apply for or receive Summer EBT/SUN Bucks for your children.
Outreach Strategies

• Formal and Informal Channels
  • Flyers (translated flyers)
    • Literacy barrier
  • Text Messages (in multiple languages)
  • Robocalls from school (in multiple languages)
  • Summer-EBT website (accessible by phone)
  • USDA and State resources (USDA has Summer-EBT toolkit)
  • Social Media
  • Letters from trusted partners
  • Partnerships with community-based organizations (pay them for their time if you can!)
  • Presentations/Webinars
  • Outreach at grocery stores in the community
  • Voice/Video messages through WhatsApp, Telegram, Viber
Real Life Example (based on ARPA CTC outreach)

- Family lives in Columbus (parents are not US citizens, 4 children born in US)
- Children attend Columbus City Schools
- Family makes around $60,000 per year (about 150% of FPL)
- Not on public benefits for fear of public charge
- Found out about the CTC through a Whatsapp message sent from community-based organization that we work with.

In this scenario:

4 children x $120.00 = $480.00

$\$$
Promoting Access to Help with Food in the Summer!

Joree Novotny & Hope Lane-Gavin
Where have we been on nutrition benefits?

• From the early pandemic response in 2020 through February 2023, Ohio households participating in SNAP received at least $95 per month in additional dollars to buy food.

• Roughly 670,000 households lost an average of $90 per person, per month when increases to SNAP benefits ended, totaling about $126 million less per month in grocery purchasing power across Ohio.
**FIGURE 2**

Losses Will Vary Across Households, But Average 1-Person Household Will Lose $132 When SNAP Emergency Allotments End

Households receiving under regular SNAP rules:
- Maximum benefit (41% will lose $95 in benefits)
- Between minimum and maximum benefit (43% will lose an average of $127 in benefits)
- Minimum benefit (15% will lose $258 in benefits)

Note: Figures may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.

Source: Estimates based on CBPP analysis of fiscal year 2019 SNAP Household Characteristics data with income and expenses inflated to fiscal year 2023 values

**FIGURE 3**

Losses Will Vary Across Households, But Average 3-Person Household Will Lose $197 When SNAP Emergency Allotments End

Households receiving under regular SNAP rules:
- Maximum benefit (32% will lose $95 in benefits)
- Between maximum and lower-benefit (50% will lose an average of $177 in benefits)
- Lower-benefit households (<$400) (18% will lose an average of $441 in benefits)

Note: Figures may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.

Source: Estimates based on CBPP analysis of fiscal year 2019 SNAP Household Characteristics data with income and expenses inflated to fiscal year 2023 values
Pandemic EBT (P-EBT)

• In summer 2021, 2022, and 2023, Pandemic EBT benefits were issued to many Ohio students during summer, out-of-school-time months.

• These benefits provided help with groceries not only to eligible school-aged children, but in summers 2021 and 2022, to children under 6 in SNAP households not attending K-12 school.

• Benefit amounts varied each summer but were comparable or higher than the permanent Summer EBT program.
Federal commodities are declining

• Foodbanks have helped to fill gaping nutrition gaps for several years thanks to one-time and emergency investments in programs like The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). For example, the USDA has utilized Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) funds to help surge additional foods to hunger relief providers.

• Without a Farm Bill that increases investments in TEFAP and permanently funds the Local Food Purchase Assistance Program (LFPA, or Ohio CAN), Ohio’s foodbanks and their ~3,600 local partners in hunger relief (food pantries, hot meal programs, shelters, and supplemental feeding sites) simply won’t have the food we need.
What does that mean for summer hunger?

• From October through December 2023, we provided take-home groceries to 3.8 million people in 1.3 million households. More than 30 percent were kids.

• Those families will only need intensified help with food in the summer when daily school breakfasts and lunches are not available and costs are higher to cool their homes and provide out-of-school-time child care.
Important to help families apply for Summer EBT *if they have to* and prevent unnecessary applications.

**How To Get S-EBT**
Learn how to apply online or to learn more if your child is automatically enrolled.

**How To Use S-EBT**
Swipe your Ohio Direction Card or S-EBT/SUN Bucks card at locations that accept WIC or SNAP EBT benefits.

**FAQs**
Still have questions about the upcoming S-EBT program?
Some examples...

Child A lives in a family that participates in SNAP. They receive Summer EBT benefits on their Ohio Direction Card automatically.

Child B is covered by Medicaid, but their family’s income when they enrolled in Medicaid was 197% of the federal poverty level. They will not automatically receive Summer EBT benefits. They may still be eligible if their income has changed since applying for Medicaid.

Child C receives free school meals in a district where all students receive free school meals. Their family’s income is 155% of the federal poverty level. They are not enrolled in Medicaid coverage. They are eligible for Summer EBT benefits but will need to apply.

185% of the Federal Poverty Level = Required in All Cases
Important to work together to ensure access to Summer EBT benefits, SNAP, and other resources to meet household basic needs

• We will have more information, including translated outreach materials for grassroots and social media marketing, available at ohiosummerebt.org (coming soon).

• Families who need more help with applying can find an application assister by visiting ohiosummerebt.org (coming soon).

• Those assisters can also help with submitting applications for SNAP. More resources for help with food will be accessible by visiting ohiosummerebt.org (coming soon).
Need a little help feeding your kids when school is out for the summer? Learn how Ohio’s Summer EBT/SUN Bucks program can help you!

Summer EBT/SUN Bucks is a new program in Ohio to help families buy food for their school-aged children during the summer. Families will get $120 for each eligible child to buy groceries during the summer. Children who get Summer EBT/SUN Bucks can still participate in other summer meal programs. Receiving Summer EBT/SUN Bucks will not affect children or families’ immigration status.

How does it work?
Ohio’s Summer EBT/SUN Bucks benefits will be loaded onto a NEW card (see below) and mailed to your home; or added to a household’s existing Ohio Direction Card. If eligible, you can use Ohio Summer EBT/SUN Bucks benefits to buy food like fruits, vegetables, meat, whole grains, and dairy at grocery stores, farmers markets, and other places that accept SNAP EBT benefits.

Scan the QR code to find where you can use SNAP!

Is my child eligible?
Your child is eligible for Ohio Summer EBT/SUN Bucks if:
- Your household already participates in SNAP
- Your child’s benefits will be automatically added to their Ohio Direction card and do NOT need to apply.
- Your child attends a school that offers the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) or School Breakfast Program (SBP), and your student has a free or reduced price lunch application filed.
- Your child participates in Medicaid or OWF and your household income is at or below 185% of the FPL, they’ll be automatically enrolled but will receive a new card in the mail.

Recently Moved?
Update your address to ensure your Summer EBT/SUN Bucks benefits are sent to the correct address!

Scan the QR code to locate your local Job and Family Service office to submit the change of address form.

If your child does not receive SNAP, Medicaid, or OWF, and have not been directly approved for free/reduced price school meals, you may still be eligible based on your household income. If your household income falls at or below these monthly guidelines, you should complete the Ohio Summer EBT application.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Size</th>
<th>185% FPL</th>
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<td>6</td>
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</table>

How do I enroll my child in Summer EBT/SUN Bucks?
Many families will get Summer EBT/SUN Bucks automatically if they are getting other benefits, but some families may need to apply for the program.

If your household already participates in SNAP, OWF, Medicaid, or approved by your school for free and reduced priced meals through application your child will be automatically enrolled in the Summer EBT/SUN Bucks program. You do not need to fill out an application. You will get a card in the mail, or the benefits will be added to your Ohio Direction Card.

If you are not automatically enrolled and believe your child(ren) are eligible, you can apply for Summer EBT/SUN Bucks by filling out a simple application using the QR code below.

To apply online scan QR code!
To learn more please visit ohiosummerebt.org

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GUIDE TO SHOPPING FOR GROCERIES ONLINE WITH SNAP/EBT IN OHIO

For regular updates on new participating retailers, visit:
fnw.usda.gov/snap/online-purchasing-pilot

Can I use my Ohio Direction Card (SNAP/EBT) to buy groceries online?
Yes! Order groceries online using your SNAP/EBT.

Can I pay any fees (like delivery or service fees) with my SNAP/EBT benefits?
No, at this time SNAP benefits cannot be used to pay for fees. You must pay fees with another form of payment, like a credit card or gift card.

Which stores let me shop online with my SNAP/EBT benefits?
The following retailers in Ohio are currently accepting online SNAP/EBT benefits:
- ALDI
- Amazon
- BJ’s Wholesale Club
- Buehler’s Fresh Foods
- Dave’s Supermarket
- Earth Fare
- Giant Eagle
- Gordon Food Services
- Jerky Pro
- Kroger
- Lucky’s
- Meijer
- Sam’s Club Scan & Go
- Seaway Marketplace
- Stark Fresh
- Target
- Walmart
- Whole Foods

More resources for using Summer EBT!

More ways SNAP can help you!
Click each graphic below to learn more.

SAVES YOU MONEY
Along with the SNAP dollars you’ll get for food, you could save hundreds of dollars a year in additional benefits (listed below) that come with being a SNAP participant.

FREE CELL PHONE
The Lifeline Program helps to lower your phone bill and can provide you with a free cell phone.

FARMERS MARKETS
Produce perks stretch your SNAP to afford more fresh foods at some local farmers markets.

SNAP FOR CULTURE
The Museums for All program provides discounted entry to attractions including the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, COSI, Cincinnati Museum Center, and many zoos & museums.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, MEMBERSHIPS, & MORE
Check with your local public transit authority for available savings! You can also get discounts to memberships like Amazon Prime.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS AND SUN BUCKS
Students receiving SNAP qualify for free school meals and SUN bucks, a new Summer EBT program.

ELIGIBLE FOR HEAP
The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) is a federally funded program that provides eligible Ohioans assistance with their home energy bills.

SNAP-ED COURSES
SNAP recipients can participate in evidence-based programming that help make their SNAP dollars stretch further! Learn tools like how to shop and cook healthy meals.

ELIGIBLE FOR WIC
If you qualify for SNAP and are pregnant, breast feeding or have a child under age 5, you may be eligible for WIC nutrition benefits without extra income verification. You can also apply for WIC even if you don’t get SNAP.

This document has been developed and reviewed with Federal funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The contents of this publication do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. For more information about SNAP and other benefits, go to fns.usda.gov.
Have your SNAP (food stamps/EBT) benefits been stolen/skinned?

You may qualify for replacement benefits.

If your benefits were stolen:

You can request replacement benefits within 90 days after the date they were stolen. You can mail or hand-deliver your JFS Form 07011 with your handwritten signature to your local county Job and Family Service (JFS) office.

Find your local county Job and Family Service office here.

*Not available for Summer EBT benefits; no guarantee that replacement benefits for SNAP will continue beyond September 30, 2024

Ohio SNAP Participants-EBT CARD LOCK/UNLOCK IS HERE!

Lock Your EBT Card to Stop Theft, today!

Ohioans now have a quick and easy way to protect their Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards from scammers who steal their food and cash benefits. The card lock feature allows the cardholder to lock their card when not in use. Cardholders should consider setting their card to a locked status until they are actively making a purchase with the EBT card. Once the purchase is successful the cardholder can then lock their card again using the ConnectEBT mobile app.

Follow these 4 simple steps:

1. Download or open the ConnectEBT app* on your mobile device.
2. Securely log in to your account in the app.
3. Tap the new "Lock/Unlock Card" icon on the home screen.
4. Select "Lock My Card Everywhere" and click "OK".

Your card is now locked and your benefits are protected! Make sure you use the app to unlock your card before you go shopping and lock it again after you check out.

It also works for P-EBT!

*The ConnectEBT app by Codent Inc. is available for free in both the Apple and Android app stores. Avoid using third-party apps that offer coupons and require your login information. These may be fake apps trying to steal your benefits. Please be careful.

The ConnectEBT mobile app is the official mobile app of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

Visit benefits.ohio.gov to learn more ways to protect your EBT card account. For more help with emergency food, visit ohiofoodbanks.org and click Get Help.
Questions?
Thank you!

AdvocatesForOhio.org/newsletter
@Advocates4OH