



Ohio Summer EBT 2026 Outreach Guide



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. Your support 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 sebt.ohio.gov/apply to see if you're automatically enrolled or if you need to apply.



End of School Messaging MAY

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.



Over the Summer Messaging JUNE – EARLY AUGUST

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 **AUGUST 14**.



Back to School Messaging WHEN STUDENTS RETURN

Have you spent your Summer EBT benefits?
Be sure to use them before they expire after 4 months.

Didn't get benefits?
It's not too late! Find out if your child is eligible and if you need to apply at sebt.ohio.gov/apply.

Have questions or need extra support?

- Visit sebt.ohio.gov or ohiosummerebt.org
- Families can also contact 866-244-0071 (Option 1) or support@ohiosunbucks.org.

Understanding Ohio Summer EBT

TROUBLESHOOTING

What should someone do if they lose their card?

The quickest way to request a replacement card is by calling **866-386-3071**. Step-by-step instructions/prompts to follow can be found at sebt.ohio.gov/faqs.

How can a family activate their card?

Families can call 866-386-3071 to activate a card or check their balance. Additional instructions can be found at sebt.ohio.gov/faqs.

How can families protect themselves against fraud?

Parents/Guardians with Summer EBT cards are encouraged to download the ConnectEBT app to view account balances, transactions, as well as to help prevent skimming. A new account would need to be created for each child that has an SEBT card in the household.

Families may also call the number on the back of the card (866-386-3071) to listen to the transaction history and check the account balance.

How can families get more information or ask questions?

If families are having trouble understanding, accessing, or using their benefits, they can email support@ohiosunbucks.org or call **866-244-0071** (Option 1).

LOOKING FOR IDEAS ON WHERE TO SHARE THIS INFORMATION? WE HAVE A FEW!

Consider including Summer EBT/SUN Bucks information for families in the following ways:

- Your summer **newsletters** (May-September)
- Posting **flyers on bulletin boards or in public spaces**
- Sharing on **social media**
- Displaying materials in **lobbies or waiting areas**.

Every share helps more families learn about this benefit. Check out the timeline above on when to post what!

USING SUMMER EBT BENEFITS

How are Summer EBT benefits delivered?

If a household receives SNAP or Ohio Works First benefits, funds will be added to their **existing Ohio Direction Card**. All other eligible children will receive a Summer EBT card by mail (sent in a plain white envelope and addressed to the child). If a child received Summer EBT last year, benefits may be added to the same card. Families should keep their card(s) — it may be used for future summer benefits.

When are Summer EBT benefits delivered?

Benefits are issued as a one-time **\$120** payment for each eligible child, and they arrive for families at different times. Most benefits will arrive between **May and July**.

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 and early fall!

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 summer long. Children who receive Summer EBT can also receive free summer meals. Visit bit.ly/3QSlj8w to find free summer meals.

Have questions or need extra support?

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