



## NJ Summer EBT is coming in Summer 2024

In June 2024, New Jersey will launch Summer EBT, a child nutrition program intended to reduce hunger and food insecurity for children during the summer when school is not in session.

Most families will get these benefits automatically, but some parents will need to apply. The new program is in addition to free meals that kids of all ages can get at summer meal sites in their communities.

### Benefits of Summer EBT

- Helps parents and caregivers buy healthy foods for their children.
- Gives families the flexibility to select foods that fit their culture and lifestyle.
- Improves food security and diet quality for children.

### Eligibility and Enrollment

Children are eligible for the program if:

- the household already participates in SNAP, FDPIR, TANF, etc., OR
- the child attends a school that offers the National School Lunch or School Breakfast Program and the household income meets the federal requirements for free or reduced-price school meals.

Many families will get NJ Summer EBT automatically, but some families may need to apply.

### How Summer EBT Works

The benefits will be mailed on a new EBT card for each child and can be used to buy groceries. Families will receive \$120 per eligible child for the summer. Benefits can be used at authorized retailers, like grocery stores and farmers markets, to purchase healthy foods like fruits, vegetables, meats and other protein sources, whole grains, and dairy. [Click here](#) to learn more.

### Help Families in Your Community

Spread the word in your community! Let households know about Summer EBT by:

- Encouraging families who receive benefits through other programs to make sure their mailing address is up to date.
- Telling families who are automatically enrolled to look in the mail for their card.
- Encouraging families who may have eligible children to apply.

Help us make sure we can reach every eligible family. Visit [NJ.gov/SummerEBT](https://NJ.gov/SummerEBT) to learn more about this new program.



## NJ Summer EBT is coming in Summer 2024

Summer EBT is a new-to-NJ child nutrition program intended to reduce hunger and food insecurity for children during the summer when school is not in session. This summer, NJ will be sending an EBT card to every eligible child to purchase food at participating retailers.

### How does Summer EBT work?

Families will receive \$120 per eligible child for the summer. Benefits can be used at authorized retailers, like grocery stores and farmers markets, to purchase healthy foods like fruits, vegetables, meats and other protein sources, whole grains, and dairy.

### Is my child eligible for Summer EBT?

If your child is certified as eligible for federal free or federal reduced-price school meals and attends a school that participates in the National School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program, they will be automatically enrolled in Summer EBT.

In NJ, your child is eligible to receive a Summer EBT card if your child's school participates in the National School Lunch Program AND:

- Your child receives free meals at school AND your household income is at or under 185% of the 2023-2024 federal poverty level; or
- Your household participates in SNAP or TANF; or
- Your child is experiencing homelessness, a migrant, or in foster care; or
- Your child attends a Head Start program administered by the school district.

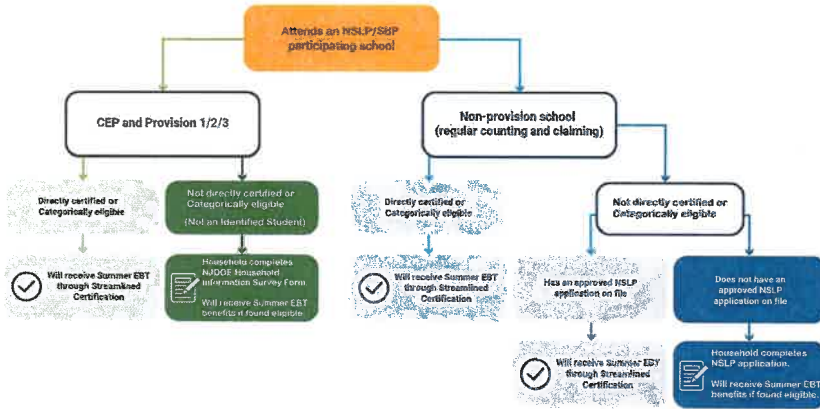
If your child's school does not participate in the National School Lunch Program, they may still be eligible for Summer EBT if your household participates in SNAP or TANF or your child is in foster care.

# ELIGIBILITY FLOW FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE ENROLLED IN NSLP/SBP PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

Intended Audience: Local Educational Agencies (LEAs)

USDA Food and Nutrition Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

New Jersey Department of Agriculture  
Division of Food & Nutrition



**Please follow up with your school district if you are unsure if your child’s school participates in the National School Lunch Program.**

## How do I enroll my child in Summer EBT?

If your child receives free school meals:

If your child has already been certified as eligible to receive free school meals by your school district AND your household income is below 185% of the 2023-2024 federal poverty level, then your child is automatically eligible to receive the federal Summer EBT benefit, and no further action is required.

If your child does not receive free school meals:

If your child is not already directly certified or categorically eligible, and you did not complete and return an application for free school meals to your child’s school, then you are encouraged to submit a School Meals Application to see if you qualify for the federal Summer EBT benefit prior to the start of summer. Applications will still be accepted throughout the summer. To apply for Summer EBT benefits, contact your child’s school. Applications are available online via your child’s school district website, or paper applications may be obtained at your child’s school.

If your child attends a school that provides free meals for every student in the school:

If your child attends a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school, and is not directly certified or categorically eligible, and you did not complete and return a New Jersey Household Information Survey for SY 2023-2024 to your child's school at the beginning of the school year, then you are encouraged to submit a NJ Department of Education Household Information Survey for the federal Summer EBT benefit prior to the start of summer. NJ DOE Household Information Surveys are available online via your child's school district website, or paper applications may be obtained at your child's school.

**Please follow up with your child's school if you are unsure about the status of your child's school meal eligibility.**

How will I receive benefits?

A one-time summer benefit amount of \$120 will be issued to each eligible child.

If I have questions about my card, who do I contact?

If you are having trouble activating your card, viewing your balance, changing your pin, or need to report a lost or stolen card and request a replacement, you can contact EBT Card Customer Service at 1-833-997-3333 or online at [NJFamiliesFirst.com](http://NJFamiliesFirst.com).

If I have questions about eligibility or my school meal application, who do I contact?

If you have questions about your child's eligibility status, the address where your card was mailed, or the date of birth listed for your children, please contact your child's school.

Need a little help feeding your kids when school is out for summer?

## Learn how the new Summer EBT Program can help you!

Summer EBT is a new federal program to help families buy food for their school-aged children during the summer. Families will receive \$120 loaded onto an EBT card for each eligible child, to buy groceries during the summer. Children who receive Summer EBT benefits can still participate in other summer meal programs. Receiving benefits will not affect children or families' immigration status.

### Who is Eligible?

Your child is eligible for Summer EBT benefits if:

- Your household already receives SNAP, TANF, or Foster Care benefits, **OR**
- Your child attends a school that participates in the National School Lunch or School Breakfast Program, **and** your household income meets the requirements for federal free or federal reduced price school meals.

### How to Apply?

**No further action is required if:**

- Your child already gets SNAP, TANF, or Foster Care benefits;
- Your child is experiencing homelessness or is a migrant;
- Your child is already approved for Federal Free or Federal Reduced Price School Meals because you completed a 2023-2024 School Meals Application.

If your child is not automatically eligible, and you **did not** complete and return a School Meals Application to your child's school, but believe your child may qualify, complete a School Meals Application and submit it to your local school district **no later than April 19, 2024**, to see if you qualify for the Federal Summer EBT benefit prior to the start of summer.

School Meals Applications are available online via your child's school district website, or paper applications may be obtained at your child's school. Applications will be accepted throughout the summer.

Please contact your school district for any eligibility questions.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender. For more information, visit: [www.fns.usda.gov/summer](http://www.fns.usda.gov/summer)

The Summer EBT Program in NJ is made possible with funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, and the New Jersey Food Security Initiative (NJFSI) through the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) and the Robert Wood Johnson



Recently moved? Or do one of these programs have an old address for you?

Update your address with your local school district to ensure that your Summer EBT card is sent to the correct address!



# SUMMER EBT IS COMING JUNE 2024!

A new \$120 grocery benefit  
is available this summer.

Benefits can be used at  
grocery stores, farmers  
markets, & other places  
that accept SNAP/EBT.



All eligible lower income families  
can get Summer EBT  
regardless of immigration  
status.



LEARN MORE AT  
[NJ.GOV/SUMMEREBT](https://NJ.GOV/SUMMEREBT)



# ARE YOU LEAVING \$120 ON THE TABLE?

Summer EBT is coming in June,  
don't miss this nutrition benefit!

LEARN MORE AT  
[NJ.GOV/SUMMEREBT](http://NJ.GOV/SUMMEREBT)

