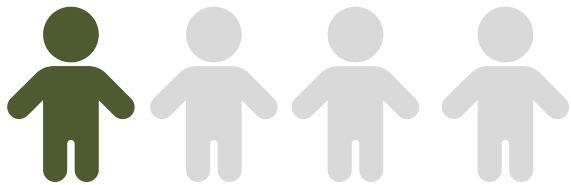


CHILD SUMMER HUNGER

IN TEXAS



1 in 4

**Texas children
experience hunger.**



**More than 1,697,000 Texas
kids are food insecure.**

**Texas has the highest
number of children
experiencing hunger
in the nation.**

NEARLY 1 IN 4 TEXAS KIDS EXPERIENCE HUNGER

Hunger deprives kids of more than just food. According to Feeding America, kids who don't get enough to eat — especially during their first three years — begin life at a serious disadvantage.

When they're hungry, children are more likely to be hospitalized, and they face higher risks of health conditions like anemia and asthma. Childhood hunger is linked to poor academic performance, social stigma, and developmental differences.

SUMMER HUNGER

In Texas, hunger doesn't take a summer vacation. While summer should be a time of fun and relaxation for kids, it can mean up to 90 days without the reliable school meals many kids depend on to thrive.

This loss of school meals and higher summer utility bills can reduce a family's budget for food. Child hunger worsens during this time and Texas food banks see increased need in their communities from families with kids.

Keeping children nourished during the summer improves nutrition and sends them back to school ready to learn.



SOLUTIONS TO CHILD HUNGER

National School Lunch Program

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) is a federally assisted program that serves nutritious, low-cost or free lunches to more than 3 million Texas children in school and residential childcare institutions. Lunches must meet federal nutrition guidelines and are reimbursable to schools based on the number of meals served. The Texas Department of Agriculture administers NSLP.

Summer Meals Program

The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) administers the Summer Meals Program, which provides meals at no cost to children and teens 18 years old and younger and students with disabilities up to 21 years old. Schools, local government agencies, food banks and other nonprofits contract with TDA to operate summer meal sites.

Families can visit SummerFood.org or text FOOD or COMIDA to 304-304 to find a summer meal site near them. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) funds the Summer Meals Program – including the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the Seamless Summer Option (SSO).

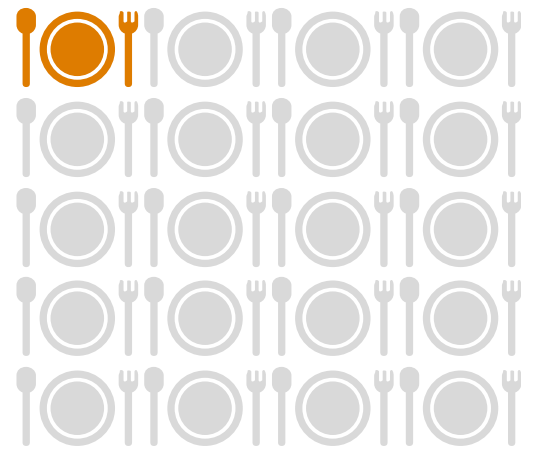
Unfortunately, the program reaches only a fraction of the kids participating in NSLP, serving only 143,716 kids in summer 2022. TDA works with food banks and other community-based organizations to raise awareness of the availability of summer meals.

Summer EBT

Congress established the Summer EBT program in 2022 to increase access to summer meals. Participating families receive approximately \$120 per eligible child for the summer to buy groceries. The USDA estimates that 3.75 million Texas students would be eligible to receive \$450 million in food aid through the Summer EBT program. Texas is not currently participating in the Summer EBT program, but various state agencies are currently discussing possible implementation for summer 2025.

Sources and Resources for Additional Information

- Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap: <https://map.feedingamerica.org/county/2022/child/texas>
- USDA: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/sebt/estimated-children-eligible>
- TDA: <https://squaremeals.org/Programs/National-School-Lunch-Program>
- FRAC: <https://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/summer-report-2023.pdf>



**Only 1 in 20 kids served
by the NSLP were served
by the Summer Meals
Program in 2022.**