

KEEP KIDS FED BY IMPLEMENTING “SUMMER EBT”

1 in 4



Texas children experience hunger.

BACKGROUND

Child hunger spikes in the summer because millions of children lose access to the school breakfasts, lunches, and afterschool snacks they receive during the regular school year.

Summer EBT is a brand-new USDA program that allows low-income families with school-aged children to receive additional benefits when schools are closed for the summer. Summer EBT benefits are 100% federally funded, and administrative costs are split 50/50 between state and federal funds.

ELIGIBILITY & ENROLLMENT

To qualify for Summer EBT, families must meet the income requirements for the National School Lunch Program or be directly certified through SNAP or Medicaid.

Families of children not enrolled in one of these programs can apply for Summer EBT by submitting an application. **Summer EBT provides families with \$120 in food benefits per eligible child** on an EBT card, which families can use like a debit card to purchase groceries.

IMPACT ON TEXAS

With 1 in 4 Texas children experiencing hunger, Texas has the highest number of children experiencing hunger in the nation. The USDA estimates that **3.75 million Texas children could receive approximately \$450 million in federal food aid through Summer EBT.** These dollars also provide a significant boost to retailers and the local economy, particularly for small businesses in rural communities.

Texas missed out on Summer EBT in 2024, but we don't have to miss out again. The Legislature must direct HHSC to implement Summer EBT by March in order to launch the program in Summer 2025.

Income Requirements for Summer EBT & National School Lunch Program

Number of Household Members	Total Household Income	
	Free	Reduced
1	\$19,578	\$27,861
2	\$26,572	\$37,814
3	\$33,566	\$47,767
4	\$40,560	\$57,720