



## **Texas Still Has Time to Accept \$450 Million to Feed Kids in Summer 2025**

***Food bank network and 80+ organizations across the state call for Summer EBT implementation.***

**Dallas, TX, January 27, 2025** – The [North Texas Food Bank](#) (NTFB) joins a coalition of more than 80 organizations in the Texas Food Policy Roundtable in calling on state legislators to implement Summer EBT. In the Summer of 2024, Texas was one of only 13 states that chose not to participate in Summer EBT. This new federal nutrition program provides a grocery benefit to families with low-income students to make up for the loss of school meals during the summer. This [county-level data](#) shows the impact Summer EBT *could have had* and *still can have* in communities across our state.

“Child hunger spikes in the summer because millions of children lose access to the school meals they receive in the regular school year,” said Celia Cole, CEO of Feeding Texas, the state association of food banks. “Summer EBT fills this gap, ensuring that Texas kids stay nourished and ready to learn. The program is particularly important for a state like Texas, where 1 in 6 households are food insecure.”

Summer EBT provides families \$120 in food benefits per eligible child on an EBT card, which families can use like a debit card to purchase groceries during the summer. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) estimates 3.75 million Texas students could be eligible to receive approximately \$450 million in food aid through the program.

“Summer EBT is a valuable economic driver,” said Trisha Cunningham, President and CEO of the North Texas Food Bank. “In the counties served by North Texas Food Bank, an estimated

\$60 million in benefits could help to feed nearly 500,000 children in North Texas. These Summer EBT dollars would provide a significant boost to food retailers and the local economy across our service area, especially for small businesses.”

Impact by County

<b>County</b>	<b>F/RP Eligible SY 22-23</b>	<b>Benefit Amount</b>
Collin County	57,271	\$6,872,520
Dallas County	342,047	\$41,045,640
Delta County	667	\$80,040
Ellis County	22,914	\$2,749,680
Fannin County	3,148	\$377,760
Grayson County	14,138	\$1,696,560
Hopkins County	4,295	\$515,400
Hunt County	11,474	\$1,376,880
Kaufman County	20,797	\$2,495,640
Lamar County	5,539	\$664,680
Navarro County	7,759	\$931,080
Rockwall County	6,791	\$814,920
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>496,840</b>	<b>\$59,620,800</b>

To qualify for Summer EBT, families must meet the income requirements for the National School Lunch Program or be directly certified for school meals through SNAP or Medicaid. [Data from Feeding Texas](#) breaks down the potential Summer EBT benefit amount by county based on current eligibility for school meals in Texas. The data demonstrate the significant local economic impact Summer EBT could have for communities across the state. If Texas chooses not to participate in 2025, the state would be leaving these federal benefit dollars on the table for a second year in a row.

“Texas food banks are already working overtime to meet the increased need from families facing soaring food costs and long wait times for SNAP benefits,” Cole said. “The demand for emergency food assistance is outpacing our supply. Food banks cannot afford for our state to leave hundreds of millions of dollars on the table again in 2025 — and neither can Texas children facing hunger.”

Though Texas missed the January 1 deadline to submit a letter of intent to USDA, there is still time for the Legislature to act. The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) needs direction from the Legislature by March 1 to move forward with the program for Summer 2025.

“If there is one thing all Texans can agree on, it’s that *no child should go hungry*,” Cole said. “Children are our most important asset, and we have a moral obligation to protect their well-being. Their nourishment and development should be a top priority, as children are the foundation of our future. Texas missed out on Summer EBT in 2024, but we don’t have to miss out again. The Texas Legislature should prioritize Texas kids and direct HHSC to implement Summer EBT by March in order to launch the program in Summer 2025.”

**View Data: [Estimated Number of Eligible Kids, Summer EBT Benefit Amount, Local Economic Impact, and Meals by County](#)**

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### **About Feeding Texas**

Feeding Texas is a network of 20 food banks and leads a unified effort for a hunger-free Texas. Learn more and find your local food bank at [feedingtexas.org](https://feedingtexas.org).

### **About the North Texas Food Bank**

The North Texas Food Bank (NTFB) is a leading nonprofit organization that fights hunger and provides children, seniors and families in North Texas access to nutritious food. For over 40 years, we have been at the forefront of hunger relief, committed to ensuring that no one in our community lacks access to healthy food. Our extensive network of 500 food pantries and organizations, volunteers, and donors enables us to deliver more than 100 million nutritious meals annually to those in need. Beyond just addressing hunger, we focus on nourishing lives by offering nutrition education, investing in our

network partners, innovating solutions to eliminate hunger and advocating for policies that tackle the root causes of food insecurity.

Our dedication to excellence is reflected in our 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, highlighting our strong governance, integrity, and financial stability. Additionally, we are honored to be ranked 89th on Forbes' 2023 Top 100 Charities in America. As a proud member of Feeding America, the nation's largest hunger relief network, we are committed to ensuring everyone in North Texas has the nourishment needed to lead a healthy and fulfilling life. For more information, visit [www.ntfb.org](http://www.ntfb.org) or connect with us on social media @NorthTexasFoodBank.

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