USDA | SUN SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS FOR KIDS

# SUN Programs: USDA's Summer Nutrition Programs for Kids



## Fighting Child Hunger During the Summer

A healthier future for our country begins with our children. Children need consistent access to nutritious foods to be healthy now and throughout their lives. About 30 million children participate in USDA's school breakfast and lunch programs during the school year. **However, when schools are closed, kids lose access to these healthy meals and are at higher risk of food and nutrition insecurity.**

Despite best efforts, group summer meal sites historically only reach 1 in 6 children who are eligible for free or reduced-price school lunch during the school year. USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is working with States, Indian Tribal Organizations, territories, schools, and countless other dedicated partners to ensure children have the nourishment they need throughout the summer.

*Experiencing food insecurity as a child can have long-term impacts on academic achievement as well as mental and physical health.*





## What are USDA's Summer Nutrition Programs for Kids?

USDA summer nutrition programs can now reach more kids than ever before. In addition to traditional in-person summer meal sites, there are two more options.

SUN SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS FOR KIDS




Group Meal Service

Non-Congregate Meal Service

Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT)

## There are three ways to serve kids through USDA's SUN Programs:

- **SUN Meals: Group meal sites for kids.** Meals served and eaten onsite at community centers, schools, and other central locations remain a vital part of the summer nutrition programs, providing a sense of community and enrichment opportunities for kids.
- **SUN Meals To-Go: To-go or delivered meals in rural communities.** Summer meal operators have the option to provide meals via grab-n-go or delivery, also known as non-congregate meal service, in rural communities when and where in-person meal service is not available.
- **SUN Bucks: Food benefits for purchasing groceries.** States, Indian Tribal Organizations, and territories can provide families with about $120 per eligible school-age child to buy groceries in the summer months at authorized retailers. This program is also known as Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer or Summer EBT in some locations.







## Our Goals

In partnership with States, Indian Tribal Organizations, territories, community organizations, and other partners, FNS is working to:

**Increase food and nutrition security for children** when school is out through effective implementation of all three approaches to ensure children have access to healthy meals throughout the summer.

**Promote holistic summer programming** that combines access to nutritious food with recreational, educational, and other enrichment opportunities.

**Expand the reach of summer nutrition programs** in rural communities across the country.

**Raise awareness of summer nutrition programs,** including ensuring all families eligible for SUN Bucks have access to its benefits.

FNS is committed to supporting States, Indian Tribal Organizations, and territories with resources, technical assistance, and more as communities offer these available tools.

**Together we can ensure that every child has the nourishment they need during the summer months.**

Learn more >



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