



What is Summer EBT?

Summer EBT, or SUN Bucks, is a nutrition program authorized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to help families buy food for their school-aged children during the summer. Summer EBT for 2026 will provide a \$120 annual benefit to eligible children via an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) issuance by the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS). Complete Summer EBT information for Illinoisians can be found on the [IDHS Summer EBT webpage](#).

Is my child eligible?

Your child is eligible for Summer EBT without an application if they meet one of the following requirements:

- The child's date of birth is between July 2, 2007, and Aug. 14, 2020, and they received Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Aid to the Aged, Blind, or Disabled (AABD) Cash, or federally funded Medicaid (income under 185% Federal Poverty Level) any time between July 1, 2025, and Aug. 14, 2026; or
- The child attended a school that participated in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) during the 2025-26 school year and was deemed income-eligible to receive a free or reduced-price lunch through direct certification or a school meals application at the school.

A child that does not meet one of the requirements above can apply for Summer EBT if they attend an NSLP school during the 2025-26 school year and believe they meet the income threshold. See below for more information on submitting a Summer EBT Application.

Note: If your child attends a school operating the NSLP under the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), alternative applications (such as fee waiver applications) processed at the school cannot be used for Summer EBT issuance. Therefore, all households are encouraged to check the IDHS Summer EBT screener to determine if a Summer EBT application may be needed.

Households should be encouraged to visit the [IDHS Summer EBT webpage](#) where they can access Summer EBT program information, as well as the Summer EBT Screener to check eligibility. If not determined automatically eligible and believe that you meet the requirements, complete and submit a Summer EBT application.

How do I enroll my child in Summer EBT?

If you meet the qualifications above, your child will be automatically enrolled in Summer EBT. You do not need to fill out a Summer EBT application. Your benefits will be issued on your existing SNAP benefits account, or a separate card will be issued to the address provided by your child's school. **Households are encouraged to visit the [IDHS Summer EBT webpage](#) to ensure accurate mailing address.**

If you are not automatically enrolled and believe your children are eligible, you can apply to receive Summer EBT by filling out an application. The Summer EBT 2026 application will be available through Aug. 14, 2026. Households that would like their child/children to receive Summer EBT benefits can apply for SNAP, TANF, AABD Cash, and/or federally funded Medicaid prior to Aug. 14, 2026, and they will be automatically enrolled in Summer EBT for Summer 2026 if all other eligibility factors are met.

Who should I contact if I have questions?

Households should visit the [IDHS Summer EBT webpage](#) for up to date Summer EBT information. If you do not find the needed information online, then the Summer EBT team at IDHS is available by calling 1-833-621-0737 or complete the [Summer EBT General Inquiry Request form](#).

Nondiscrimination Statement

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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the State or local Agency that administers the program or contact USDA through the Telecommunications Relay Service at 711 (voice and TTY). Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form.

To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

1. **Mail:** U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Mail Stop 9410
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. **Fax:** 202-690-7442; or
3. **Email:** program.intake@usda.gov

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