Problem: Kids Face Hunger When School Is Out

Summer EBT is essential to ensure that kids have consistent nutrition when school is closed, setting them on a path to grow up healthy and strong.

The traditional approach of the Summer Food Service Program, which requires kids to get to and from a program site each day, only reaches about 18 percent of the low-income children who receive free meals at school. Many of the kids left behind are in rural and hard-to-reach communities where children and families face logistical and financial barriers to participation.

The Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (Summer EBT) Demonstration Project is designed to ensure nutritional access for low-income kids who aren’t being reached by the Summer Food Service Program.

Bringing the total program investment to $50M will enable Summer EBT to continue current operations and reach a total of 464,000 kids.

Solution: Summer EBT

The Summer EBT Demonstration Project was created to provide food assistance to low-income children during the summer months by leveraging SNAP and WIC EBT technology. Summer EBT demonstration projects began in five states in 2011, serving over 12,000 children. Based on the success of these early demonstrations, Summer EBT was expanded and to-date has reached more than 250,000 children.
Benefits of Summer EBT

✓ Good for Kids

• Consistent nutrition during the summer, helps fight against summer weight gain and summer learning loss.

• Kids are better able to start the school year healthy and ready to learn.

✓ Good for Parents

• Summer EBT would help kids from low-income families who are among the most vulnerable in our community, especially in rural and hard-to-reach communities.

• Summer EBT would allow parents to supplement their tight food budgets with a modest grocery benefit.

✓ Good for the Nation

• Research also shows that food insecurity among children has a long-term impact on issues like graduation rates, health care costs and future job readiness.

• When kids consistently get the nutrition they need, they are better able to break the cycle of poverty and grow up healthy, strong and ready to compete in today’s economy.

Summer EBT → Reduced Food Insecurity
• Prevalence of the most severe food insecurity decreased by one-third

Summer EBT → Healthier Eating Habits
• 1 additional serving of fruit and vegetables per day
• 30% increase in the consumption of whole grains
• 8% reduction in the amount of sugar-sweetened beverages consumed

ABOUT NO KID HUNGRY

No child should go hungry in America. But 1 in 6 kids will face hunger this year. No Kid Hungry is ending childhood hunger through effective programs that provide kids with the food they need. This is a problem we know how to solve. No Kid Hungry is a campaign of Share Our Strength, an organization working to end hunger and poverty. Join us at NoKidHungry.org.

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Resources and Research: