

Summer EBT

An Efficient and Effective Way to End Summer Hunger



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:

- **USDA**, "Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer for Children (SEBTC) Demonstration: A Summary Report," May 2016: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/ops/summer-electronic-benefit-transfer-children-sebtc>
- **No Kid Hungry**, Summer Nutrition Program Social Impact Analysis, 2017. https://www.nokidhungry.org/sites/default/files/NKH_MicroReport_SummerHunger.pdf