



Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

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General Information System (GIS) Message

Section 1

Transmittal:	25DC037 Upstate and New York City
Date:	June 2, 2025
To:	Subscribers
Suggested Distribution:	Commissioners, SNAP Directors, TA Directors, Medicaid Directors, EBT Coordinators
From:	Valerie Figueroa, Deputy Commissioner, Employment and Income Support Programs
Subject:	2025 Summer EBT Program
Effective Date:	Immediately
Contact Information:	Email: SummerEBT@otda.ny.gov
Attachments:	Attachment 1 – 2025 Summer EBT Quick Facts

Section 2

The purpose of this GIS is to advise social services districts (districts) of the upcoming issuance of Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) benefits for the 2025 program year. Summer EBT is a child nutrition program that provides food benefits to low-income families with school-age children to help buy groceries during the summer when kids might not have access to school meals.

Most eligible children will be automatically enrolled and issued Summer EBT benefits without needing to apply. However, some families must apply and be approved to receive the benefit. The Summer EBT benefit will only be issued once, in the full amount of \$120 for each eligible child. Benefits are loaded onto an EBT card and can be used at any Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) authorized retailer.

While districts have no role in the administration or issuance of Summer EBT benefits, they may receive questions from families. This directive outlines program rules, operations, and resources to assist with program inquiries. Comprehensive program information is available at <https://otda.ny.gov/programs/summer-ebt> (short URL is otda.ny.gov/SummerEBT).

Section 3

Eligibility

Most eligible children will be enrolled and issued Summer EBT benefits automatically; however, some families must apply.

Period of Eligibility

A child's eligibility can be established for 2025 Summer EBT benefits **at any time** from July 1, 2024, through September 4, 2025, to receive 2025 benefits. This period of eligibility includes the 2024-25 academic year (July 1, 2024, to June 29, 2025) AND the Covered Summer Period, which is June 30, 2025, through September 4, 2025. Once a child's eligibility is established, they are determined to be eligible for the Summer EBT benefit, regardless if their circumstances change.

Automatically Enrolled (also known as Streamline Certified)

In order to be automatically eligible for 2025 Summer EBT benefits, a child must either:

- Be between the ages of 6-16 **and** received SNAP, Public Assistance (PA) (cash), or Medicaid at any time during the period of eligibility (July 1, 2024 – September 4, 2025),
OR
- Be determined eligible for free/reduced price school meals through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) by their school. This includes children who participate in SNAP, PA, or Medicaid (regardless of age) or who are categorically eligible for free meals if they are homeless, migrant, runaway, foster, enrolled in Head Start, or in an eligible pre-kindergarten program.

These children will receive benefits automatically and **DO NOT** need to apply. Most eligible children will receive their benefits this way. Children who are automatically enrolled will receive an eligibility notice in the mail before their benefit issuance. Copies of the eligibility letters can be found at <https://otda.ny.gov/programs/summer-ebt/school-provider-information/#resources>. These letters will be mailed to households late May through June.

Eligible through an Application

If a child is **not** automatically enrolled, but meets the eligibility criteria below, they must apply and be approved to receive Summer EBT benefits. To be eligible through an application:

- A child must attend a school that participates in the NSLP, **AND**
- The household's income must be at or below the limits for eligibility for free/reduced price school meals (185% federal poverty level). Income Guidelines can be viewed on the Summer EBT website at <https://otda.ny.gov/programs/summer-ebt/#eligibility>.

Summer EBT requires each child who is not automatically eligible through streamline certification be determined eligible for free/reduced price meals, either conferred by their school through direct certification/categorical eligibility or through a Summer EBT application. Attending a

school that offers free meals to all students through the Community Eligibility Provision (**CEP**) is not enough to qualify a child, and does not confer eligibility for Summer EBT.

Summer EBT eligibility requirements have been summarized in the flow chart:
<https://otda.ny.gov/programs/summer-ebt/school-provider-information/SEBT-Eligibility-Verification-Chart.pdf>

Summer EBT Application

Households can apply for Summer EBT benefits using the online application portal on the OTDA website and the application is available in both English and Spanish. A parent/guardian, when applying for more than one child, only needs to complete **one** application for all students in the household. Applications must be completed and submitted **by September 4, 2025**, to be considered for Summer 2025 benefits. Information about the application process, and the application are available at <https://otda.ny.gov/programs/summer-ebt/#apply>. OTDA has also developed a paper application (the [OTDA-5250](#)) which is available to download and print (not available for ordering). The paper application is available in English, Spanish, Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, French, Haitian Creole, Italian, Korean, Polish, Russian, Urdu, and Yiddish.

Benefits

Each eligible child will receive \$120 in food benefits for the summer period. Summer EBT benefits are issued outside of the Welfare Management System (WMS) and OTDA's Benefit Issuance Control Systems (BICS). Most district staff, therefore, will not have access to any Summer EBT benefit issuance information. However, staff who have access to the ebtEDGE system will be able to see the deposit of these benefits into EBT accounts.

Summer EBT Benefit Accounts and Cards

Each eligible child will have their own Summer EBT benefit account and EBT card through which they can access benefits. Summer EBT benefits will **NOT** be issued to any household SNAP EBT accounts. Additionally, Summer EBT cards do not differ in appearance from SNAP EBT benefit cards.

Children who are eligible and successfully accessed their 2024 Summer EBT benefits using a Summer EBT benefit card, or requested a replacement card for 2024 Summer EBT, will have their 2025 Summer EBT benefits issued to that same card and will not receive a new one. Households who may no longer have their child's existing Summer EBT food benefit card and need a replacement card to access Summer EBT benefits can find instructions for requesting a replacement Summer EBT card at <https://otda.ny.gov/card-replacement>.

Children who are eligible and **did not** successfully access their 2024 Summer EBT benefits using a Summer EBT card or are new to the program will receive a new Summer EBT benefit card in the mail for 2025. For new Summer EBT cards, instructions on how to activate/PIN a Summer EBT card are available at <https://otda.ny.gov/programs/summer-ebt/pin-activation.asp>

Children will receive a letter explaining whether their benefits are accessible using their existing Summer EBT card (including instructions about how to reorder their card if they no longer have it), or whether they will receive a new card in the mail.

Summer EBT cards will be issued to the address the school reported for the student or the most recent address reported through Medicaid or SNAP. Sometimes, however, these addresses are not correct. If a household needs to update an address to receive a replacement Summer EBT food benefit card, they **MUST** speak to an agent at the Summer EBT Helpline at 1-833-452-0096.

The card used to access Summer EBT benefits will become the child's permanent Summer EBT card and should be retained for any future years' benefits the child is eligible for.

Benefits Expire

Summer EBT food benefits remain available and accessible on the Summer EBT food benefits card for only **122 days** after the date they were issued. After 122 days, all unused benefits are removed from the card, regardless of when the benefits were last accessed. Once removed, benefits cannot be replaced. Benefits also cannot be replaced if skimmed/stolen, and families are encouraged to freeze their Summer EBT cards between use.

Benefit Issuance Timing

Summer EBT benefits will be issued to eligible children beginning the week of June 16, 2025. Students who are automatically enrolled will receive benefits first. OTDA will continue to issue benefits throughout the summer to students determined eligible through an application. Children who attend non-public schools and who are not receiving SNAP or Medicaid may receive benefits at the end of the summer due to the timing of data reporting from these specific schools. Visit otda.ny.gov/SummerEBT for the most current information on benefit issuance timing.

Households may be notified that benefits have been issued via text messages issued by OTDA (OTDA uses text short code 696832). Households who have not spent all of their Summer EBT benefit will also be notified to use their benefits before they expire, using the same short code.

Summer EBT Outreach

Outreach materials, including flyers in multiple languages and newsletter/website content, are available at <https://otda.ny.gov/programs/summer-ebt/school-provider-information/>. Districts are encouraged to post or distribute flyers to SNAP families with school-age children throughout the summer.

Additional Information

Summer EBT food benefits are not SNAP benefits; however they are subject to the same purchase and use restrictions as SNAP benefits. They are intended to be used to purchase food for the child's household and may only be used to purchase SNAP-eligible food items at participating retailers.

Summer EBT Benefits are not eligible for replacement if stolen, therefore, it is important that families are reminded to freeze their EBT cards after each use and follow other important recommendations to keep their benefits safe from electronic theft. <https://otda.ny.gov/workingfamilies/EBT-scam-alert.asp#cardfreeze>. Additionally, Summer EBT will not affect eligibility for SNAP, TANF, WIC, Medicaid, or other benefits.

Families with children 18 years of age and younger can also receive free meals during the summer at a summer meal site and can call 1-866-3-HUNGRY or 1-877-8-HAMBRE, or visit SummerMealsNY.org to find the location closest to them.

Summer EBT Helpline and Assistance

Any families with questions can be directed to the Summer EBT Helpline at **1-833-452-0096**, which is managed by the Human Services Call Center at the Office for Children and Family Services. Attached to this directive is a reference guide to answer common questions and to assist with directing callers. <https://otda.ny.gov/programs/summer-ebt/school-provider-information/Customer-Service-Contact->

[Information.pdf](#) may also be a useful tool for providers to help navigate families to the contact that best meets their needs.