# New York State Summer EBT Sample Newsletter Articles

## Short article

The Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) program will help low-income families buy food for their school-aged children during the summer. Each eligible child will get $120 in food benefits.

Each eligible child will receive Summer EBT food benefits on their own EBT card. Families can use their Summer EBT benefit to buy food like fruits, vegetables, meat, whole grains, and dairy at authorized grocery stores, farmers’ markets, and anywhere else SNAP is accepted.

Most children will be automatically eligible for Summer EBT and do not need to do anything to enroll. However, some children may need to apply. An online application is available now. Visit [SummerEBT.ny.gov](https://summerebt.ny.gov/en-US/). The deadline for Summer 2025 benefits is September 4, 2025.

**Automatically** **Enrolled**:

* The child is aged 6-16 and received SNAP, Temporary Assistance, or Medicaid at any time during the period of eligibility (7/1/2024-9/4/2025) **OR**
* The child, of any age, has been directly certified by their school for free/reduced-price meals through the National School Lunch Program during the 2024-25 school year.

**Must Apply:**

* The child is **not** automatically enrolled, **AND**
* The child attends a school that participates in the National School Lunch Program, **AND**
* The household meets the income requirements for free/reduced-price school meals. ([185% of the Federal Poverty Level](https://otda.ny.gov/programs/summer-ebt/#eligibility))

Unused Summer EBT benefits **expire** and are **removed** from the EBT card **122** **days** from the date they were issued. Expired benefits **cannot** be restored. Families should use their benefits soon after they are received.

To learn more about Summer EBT, including when and how food benefits will be issued and how to use them, **visit** [**otda.ny.gov/SummerEBT**](https://otda.ny.gov/programs/summer-ebt/).

## ****Long Article****

In 2025, New York State is once again operating the Summer EBT program, a child nutrition program that provides low-income families with food benefits to help cover the cost of groceries when school is out of session. Families with eligible school-aged children will receive $120 in Summer EBT food benefits per eligible child. Most eligible children will receive Summer EBT benefits automatically; however, some families may need to apply.

The New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) will begin to issue 2025 Summer EBT benefits in mid-June and will continue throughout the summer. Children will receive benefits at different times depending on whether they attend public or private school and whether they receive benefits automatically or if they are determined eligible through an application, as outlined below. Visit [OTDA.ny.gov/SummerEBT](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CDOX002%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CB9V1A3LI%5COTDA.ny.gov%5CSummerEBT) for updated benefit issuance schedules.

**Eligibility**

To be automatically enrolled in Summer EBT 2025:

* The child must be aged 6-16 and received SNAP, Temporary Assistance, or Medicaid at any time during the period of eligibility (7/1/2024-9/4/2025) **OR**
* The child, of any age, has been directly certified by their school for free/reduced-price meals through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) during the 2024-25 school year

Children who meet the above criteria will receive Summer EBT benefits automatically and **DO NOT** need to apply. Most eligible children will receive their benefits this way. These households will receive a letter from OTDA in late-May to June, before their Summer EBT benefits are issued, letting them know their child is eligible.

If a child is not automatically enrolled, they must apply and be determined eligible to receive Summer EBT benefits. To be eligible through an application:

* The household must meet the income requirements for free/reduced-price school meals ([185% of the Federal Poverty Level](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/02/20/2024-03355/child-nutrition-programs-income-eligibility-guidelines#p-15)), **AND**
* The child attends a school that participates in the National School Lunch Program.

**How To Apply**

The period of eligibility for Summer EBT 2025 is July 1, 2024, to September 4, 2025. If your household must apply to be considered for benefits, the online application is available at [SummerEBT.ny.gov/](https://summerebt.ny.gov/en-US/) in English and Spanish. The online application is the fastest and easiest way to apply.

Paper applications are available for download on the Summer EBT website in 11 additional languages.

Households only need to submit **one** application, even if they have multiple eligible children.

After applying, households will receive a letter from OTDA acknowledging receipt of the application, followed by a notice of approval or denial once the application is processed.

Applications must be submitted or postmarked by **September 4, 2025**, to be considered for the 2025 Summer EBT benefit.

**How Will Benefits Be Issued?**

Children who used any of their 2024 benefits and those who requested a replacement card for 2024 Summer EBT will **NOT** receive a new card for 2025. Households who may no longer have their child’s existing Summer EBT card and need a replacement card can find instructions for requesting the replacement at [Summer EBT Card Replacement](https://otda.ny.gov/programs/summer-ebt/card-replacement.asp).

Children who were eligible for 2024 Summer EBT but did not use their benefit and children who are new to the program will receive a new Summer EBT benefit card in the mail for 2025.

Summer EBT benefits will **NOT** be issued to a household's existing SNAP/TA EBT card.

The Summer EBT cards issued should follow eligible children; if an eligible child leaves a household and now resides elsewhere, the Summer EBT card should go with them.

Once benefits are issued, families will have 122 days from the date they are issued to use the benefits. All unused benefits will **expire after 122 days**.

**Need Help?**

Visit the [OTDA Summer EBT website](https://otda.ny.gov/programs/summer-ebt/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) for information on eligibility, Summer EBT card replacement/activation, and when benefits will be issued, as well as a detailed FAQ, application link and instructions, information for schools, and outreach materials. Check back frequently for updates.

Call the Summer EBT Helpline (1-833-452-0096) for general questions, case questions (beginning June 16, 2025), and to opt-out of the Summer EBT benefit for 2025. The Helpline can also answer questions about applications and update the address on file for Summer EBT.