



# OFFICE OF POLICY, PROCEDURES, AND TRAINING

## POLICY BULLETIN # 24-29-ELI

### SUMMER 2024 ELECTRONIC BENEFIT TRANSFER (EBT) FOOD BENEFIT PROGRAM

Date: June 28, 2024	Subtopic(s): Summer EBT
	<p>The purpose of this policy bulletin is to inform Benefits Access Center (BAC), Non-Cash Assistance (NCA) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Center, and HIV/AIDS Services Administration (HASA) Center staff that the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) has launched the Summer EBT program. The Summer EBT program provides low-income families with school-age children access to food benefits to help buy groceries during the summer when kids might not have access to school meals. Most eligible children will receive the Summer EBT food benefit automatically, but some families may need to apply with OTDA.</p> <p>The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, signed into law on December 29, 2022, established a permanent Summer EBT program.</p> <p><b>Eligibility</b></p> <p>Most eligible children will be identified and issued Summer EBT food benefits automatically; however, some families may need to apply with OTDA.</p> <p><b>Automatically Eligible (also known as Streamline Certified)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A child must be between the ages of 6-16 at any time during the period of eligibility and receive SNAP and/or Cash Assistance (CA) benefits, or be directly certified for free meals through Medicaid, <b>OR</b></li> <li>• A child must be determined eligible for free/reduced price school meals through the <b>National School Lunch Program</b> by their school. This includes children who participate in SNAP/CA or Medicaid (regardless of age) or are directly certified for free meals if they are homeless, migrant, runaway, foster, enrolled in Head Start or an eligible pre-kindergarten program, or through an income application.</li> </ul>

HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS PROCEDURE?  
 Submit an FIA Call Center Request via [ServiceNow \(SNOW\)](#)

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 eligible will receive an eligibility notice in the mail in advance of their benefit issuance. Copies of the eligibility letters can be found at [Information for Schools and Providers | Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer \(EBT\) | OTDA \(ny.gov\)](#). These letters will be sent **beginning in late June**, and throughout the summer.

The period of eligibility for Summer 2024 includes the 2023-24 academic year (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024) AND the Covered Summer Period, which is June 25, 2024 through September 3, 2024. A child can establish eligibility for 2024 Summer EBT benefits at any time from July 1, 2023 through September 3, 2024 to receive 2024 benefits.

### **Eligible Through an Application**

If a child is not automatically eligible, but meets the eligibility criteria below, they must apply to OTDA in order to receive Summer EBT food benefits. To be eligible through an application:

- A child must attend a school that participates in the National School Lunch Program (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).

Summer EBT requires an individual eligibility determination for each child, either through Streamline Certification or an application.

Summer EBT eligibility requirements have been summarized in the flow chart: [Eligibility Verification Chart - Summer EBT Benefits for Children \(ny.gov\)](#)

### **Benefits**

Each eligible child will receive \$120 in food benefits for the summer period.

### **Summer EBT Benefit Accounts and Cards**

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

Children who are automatically eligible and who successfully accessed P-EBT benefits using a P-EBT Food Benefit card within the past year will have their 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 P-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 [OTDA.NY.gov/card-replacement](https://OTDA.NY.gov/card-replacement).

Children who are automatically eligible and who did not successfully access P-EBT benefits within the past year using a P-EBT card will receive a new Summer EBT food benefit card in the mail. This includes if they did not activate/use a previously issued P-EBT food benefit card; were issued their most recent P-EBT benefits on their household's SNAP case; or are new to the program with no prior P-EBT history.

All children determined eligible through an application will receive a new Summer EBT card when their benefits are issued.

Instructions on how to activate/PIN a Summer EBT card are available at [Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer \(EBT\) | OTDA \(ny.gov\)](https://OTDA.ny.gov).

OTDA may not have the most current address on file for some eligible children. If a household has to update an address for the purpose of receiving a replacement Summer EBT food benefit card, they **MUST** submit that update directly to OTDA using the linked form available at [OTDA.NY.gov/card-replacement](https://OTDA.NY.gov/card-replacement). If the household has moved **AND** is also in receipt of SNAP benefits, they should update their address with the Human Resource Administration (HRA) **AND** with OTDA so they can receive Summer EBT food benefits in a timely manner.

For the purposes of Summer EBT, both P-EBT and Summer EBT food benefit cards have the same appearance and function. The card that is used to access Summer EBT benefits will become the child's permanent summer EBT card and should be retained for any future benefits the child is eligible for.

## Benefits Expire

Summer EBT food benefits will remain available and accessible on the Summer EBT food benefits card for **122 days** after the date they were issued. After 122 days, all unused benefits are removed from the card, regardless of when they were last accessed. Once removed, benefits cannot be replaced. Summer EBT benefits are also not eligible for replacement if stolen.

## Summer EBT Application

For children who are not automatically eligible, they may be eligible through an application.

The online portal will open in early July 2024. A parent/guardian must complete one application for all students in the household. Applications must be completed and submitted by September 3, 2024 to be considered for Summer 2024 benefits. Visit the Apply section at [Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer \(EBT\) | OTDA \(ny.gov\)](#) for more details on the application process, and a link to the application once it is available. Using the online application is the fastest and easiest way to apply, however, paper applications will be available for download or mailing from the Summer EBT helpline after July 1.

## Benefit Issuance Timing

Summer EBT benefits will generally be issued to eligible children in this order:

- Public School students who are automatically eligible (issued July through August)
- Private school students who are automatically eligible (issued August through September)
- Students determined eligible through an application (issued August through October)
- Students who are automatically eligible and were determined eligible by their school or through SNAP or Medicaid at the end of the eligibility period - May through August (issued September through October)

These dates are estimates and subject to change. Visit [Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer \(EBT\) | OTDA \(ny.gov\)](#) for the most up-to-date benefit issuance information.

Additionally, households may be notified that benefits have been issued via text message issued by OTDA (OTDA text messages use the short code 696832).

### **Summer EBT Outreach**

Outreach materials including flyers and newsletter/website content is available at [Information for Schools and Providers | Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer \(EBT\) | OTDA \(ny.gov\)](#). Staff may 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, Summer EBT food benefits are subject to the same purchase and use restrictions as SNAP benefits. They are intended to be used to purchase food for the household of the children that received them and may only be used to purchase SNAP-Eligible food items at participating retailers.

Eligibility for Summer EBT food benefits is not limited by immigration status, nor will it impact a family's "public charge" status.

Summer EBT Benefits are not eligible for replacement if stolen.

Families with children 18 years of age and younger can also receive free meals during the summer at a summer meal site. Families can call 1-866-3-HUNGRY or 1-877-8-HAMBRE (or text "food" to 304-304), or visit [SummerMealsNY.org](http://SummerMealsNY.org) to find the location closest to them.

Refer to **Attachment A** for more information.

### **Summer EBT Helpline and Assistance**

If a family has questions about a letter they have received, they can call the Summer EBT Helpline at **1-833-452-0096**.

*Effective Immediately*

### **References:**

[24 DC034](#)

### **Attachments:**

Attachment A                      Summer EBT Reference Guide

## Attachment A

### Summer EBT Quick Facts

[OTDA.ny.gov/SummerEBT](https://otda.ny.gov/SummerEBT) – Most complete and up-to-date information

Beginning in 2024, New York State will launch **Summer EBT**, a new program that provides low-income families with food benefits to help buy groceries during the summer when kids might not have access to school meals. Most eligible children will receive Summer EBT food benefits automatically; however, some families may need to apply.

**Benefit Amount** - Each eligible child will receive \$120 in Summer EBT food benefits in 2024. This is a one-time payment for the entire summer.

**Benefit Timing** - Benefits will begin to be issued in mid-July and continue through October. Visit [OTDA.ny.gov/SummerEBT](https://otda.ny.gov/SummerEBT) for current information on when benefits will be issued.

**Benefits Expire** - Summer EBT food benefits will remain available and accessible on the Summer EBT food benefits card for **122 days** after the date they were issued. After 122 days, all unused benefits are removed from the card, regardless of when they were last accessed. Once removed, benefits cannot be replaced. Summer EBT benefits are also not eligible for replacement if stolen.

**Application** – Most children do not have to apply. For those who do, the application will be available online in early July. Applications must be submitted by September 3, 2024. Visit: <https://otda.ny.gov/programs/summer-ebt/#apply>.

**Eligibility Letters** - For children who are **automatically eligible** (and do not need to apply), a letter will be mailed to these households shortly before benefits are issued. These letters will be sent throughout the summer.

- Letter for children getting benefits on a new Summer EBT card: [otda.ny.gov/newcard](https://otda.ny.gov/newcard)
- Letter for children getting benefits on an existing P-EBT card: [otda.ny.gov/existingcard](https://otda.ny.gov/existingcard)

If a family has questions about a letter they have received, they can call the Summer EBT Helpline at **1-833-452-0096**. The call center can only handle a maximum number of callers at one time so if the line is at maximum capacity, the caller should try to call back at an “off” hour i.e. early in the morning or later in the day or on a Saturday. Please **DO NOT** give callers the OTDA SNAP Bureau phone number for Summer EBT questions.

**Summer EBT benefit cards** - Summer EBT cards have similar appearance and function to P-EBT cards. PEBT cards will now be called Summer EBT cards and will become the child’s permanent Summer EBT card.

**For replacement cards** - If the child received a letter that they are receiving a Summer EBT benefit on an existing P-EBT card, and they no longer have that card and need a replacement, they can order a replacement card by calling **1-888-328-6399** and follow these instructions: [otda.ny.gov/card-replacement](https://otda.ny.gov/card-replacement).

**ONLY** if a family has moved or doesn’t remember their PIN, they must complete the OTDA address change/card replacement form to receive a replacement EBT card. Visit [otda.ny.gov/card-replacement](https://otda.ny.gov/card-replacement).

#### Summer EBT Customer Service Call Center:

1-833-452-0096

Automated information available 24/7

**Agent support available** (Child-specific eligibility information available starting early July).  
Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Beginning June 24** (Child-specific eligibility information available starting early July).  
Monday through Friday - 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
Saturday – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.