



## **Summer and Pandemic EBT Provisions in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023**

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 establishes a permanent, nationwide Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (Summer EBT) Program to begin the summer of 2024 and makes changes to the Pandemic-EBT Program for the summer of 2023.

### **Summer EBT**

- All states and territories, as well as Indian Tribal organizations that participate in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) can participate beginning in summer 2024.
- Families will receive at least \$40 a month per eligible child, totaling \$120 per child summer benefit, in 2024.<sup>1</sup> This will be adjusted for inflation in subsequent years. Children attending year-round schools are eligible for benefits and the Secretary of Agriculture will establish those guidelines.
- Summer EBT benefits can be used to purchase food from retailers approved for participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or the nutrition assistance program in American Samoa, Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands. Benefits issued by Indian Tribal organizations can be used to purchase food approved through WIC.
- States are required to automatically issue benefits to eligible children who were certified for free or reduced-price meals in the school year immediately preceding the summer and must make an application available for children who were not certified for free or reduced-price school meals. Additionally, there must be a way for eligible households to opt out of the program. The benefits should be used by families during the summer months. States are required to remove (expunge) benefits from the EBT card after four months. The Secretary of Agriculture will determine the exact rules on expungement timelines.
- States and covered Indian Tribal organizations must cover 50 percent of the Summer EBT administrative expenses, and beginning in 2024, must notify U.S. Department of Agriculture by January 1 of each year and submit their management and administrative plan by February 15 of each year to participate in Summer EBT.

---

<sup>1</sup> This amount may be higher due to adjustments for inflation from summer 2023.

- Summer EBT offsets include ending Emergency Allotments for SNAP in February, an average cut of \$82 per person per month, and reducing Pandemic-EBT benefits in summer 2023 from approximately \$450 to a maximum of \$120.

### **Pandemic EBT**

Pandemic EBT will remain available for both school-age and young children during the summer of 2023. Eligible children will receive a \$40 per month benefit.

Children who are homeschooled or attend school virtually during the 2022–2023 school year due to concerns about the pandemic remain eligible for Pandemic EBT benefits during the school year but are no longer eligible for benefits during the summer of 2023.

The requirement that states have a school-year plan for children in child care or school-age children in order to issue Pandemic EBT benefits for the summer of 2023 was eliminated.

If the Public Health Emergency Declaration for COVID-19 is extended into the 2023–2024 school year, then states are eligible to run the Pandemic EBT Program during the time the Public Health Emergency is in place during instructional months.