

Tennessee Families Need Summer EBT

Fight Hunger in Tennessee - Support Summer EBT!

Summer EBT (SEBT) supports hungry kids, local economies, and our communities by ensuring kids have food during the summer.

SEBT benefits provided \$84 million in federal funds to feed Tennessee kids in 2024. SEBT funds create \$126 million in economic activity in Tennessee.

What is Summer EBT?

SEBT is a federal child nutrition program established by Congress in December 2022. Summer EBT can provide \$120 in nutrition benefits to approximately 700,000 children who qualify for free and reduced price school meals in Tennessee during the summer months. Tennessee participated in SEBT during summer 2024, but blocked federal dollars from reaching families in 2025.

Summer is the hungriest time of year for Tennessee families

When the school year ends, thousands of children from households with low incomes lose access to the school meals they rely on.

Summer meals reach only a fraction of the children who need it. SEBT bridges the gap by offering benefits to families to buy food during the summer.

Summer meal programs combined with Summer EBT is an effective recipe to meet children's nutritional needs during the summer.

Summer EBT reduces food insecurity!

SEBT is tried and tested! Pilot projects have produced positive impact since 2011. Results from, USDA found that a monthly summer benefit:

- Reduced food insecurity by 8.3 percentage points
- Decreased food hardship by 33%;
- Increased consumption of fresh fruits, vegetables, and whole grains;
- Did not increase consumption of sugar sweetened beverages.