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Tennessee General Assembly Funds Summer EBT for 2027

Nashville, TN, April 17, 2026 – Summer EBT will return to Tennessee families in 2027, bringing back a program that provided a modest amount of money to support 700,000 children and their families to buy groceries during the summer when hunger spikes. After over a year of public outcry from parents, faith leaders, county mayors, and non-profit organizations, Tennessee has recognized the importance of acting on child hunger. Tennessee participated in Summer EBT in 2024, then opted out in 2025, leaving the families of 700,000 children without support to help pay the grocery bills at a time when food prices are at an all-time high.

This would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of Representative Michael Hale and Senator Paul Bailey who secured the funding. Their sponsoring of the Summer EBT bill HB1835/SB1911 in Tennessee's 114th General Assembly provided the impetus for the legislature to fund Summer EBT in 2027.

Although bringing Summer EBT back in 2027 is a step in the right direction, Tennessee families still face this upcoming summer without Summer EBT, and there is no guarantee that Summer EBT will be funded in 2028. "This is a win for Tennessee children and their families in 2027, and legislators have acknowledged that hunger is a problem. But hunger will continue into 2028 and a long-term commitment to feed and support children in Tennessee is imperative."

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About Tennessee Justice Center / www.tnjustice.org

For over 30 years, the Tennessee Justice Center has been standing with vulnerable Tennessee families and helping them access basic necessities of life. Since opening our

doors in 1996, TJC has used lawsuits, legislation and coalition building to overcome injustice, winning \$8 billion in health care and hundreds of millions in financial and nutrition assistance for Tennesseans. Aside from lawsuits, TJC helps assist seniors and other individuals with TennCare, SNAP and other public benefit programs.

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On January 1st, 2026, over 643,000 Tennesseans lost the Enhanced Premium Tax Credits that made health coverage affordable through the ACA Marketplace. Congress failed to extend those tax credits when they expired December 31st. Most Tennessee families with ACA coverage have seen their premiums more than double in 2026.