



Presentation to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
Human Services Subcommittee

# Summer EBT food benefits for children

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Claire Seguin, Director, ODHS Self-Sufficiency Programs

February 12, 2024

# Agenda

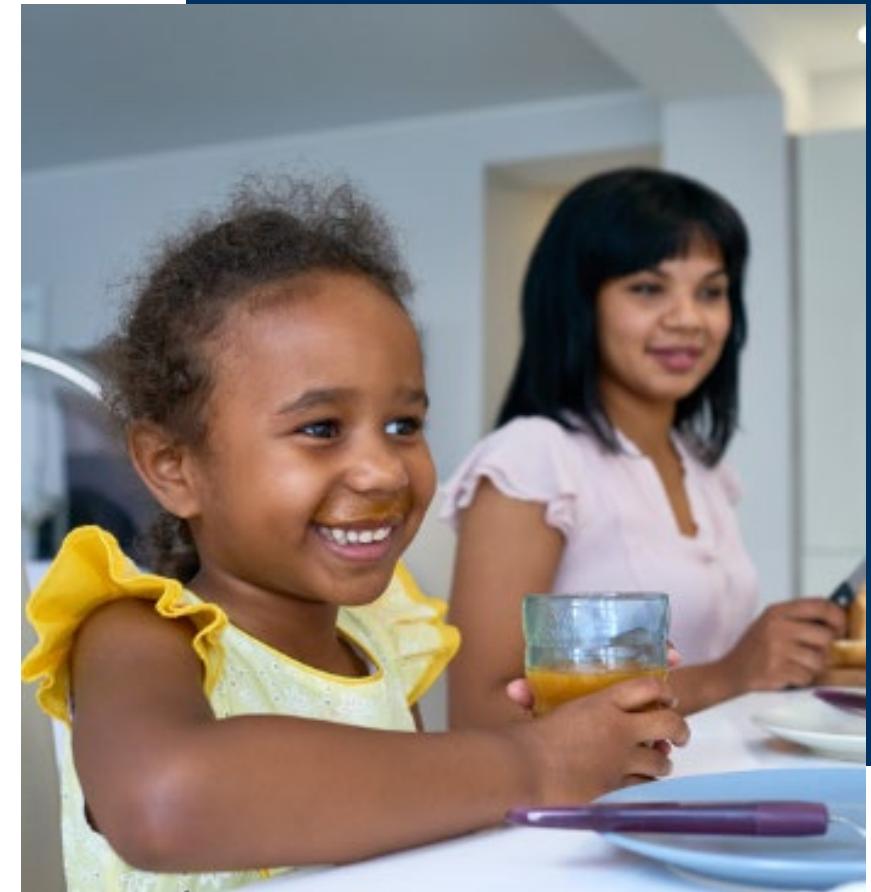
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- I. Who we are and how food security fits into our work
- II. Why Summer-EBT?
- III. Program details and requirements
- IV. Legislative requests
- V. Questions

# Self-Sufficiency Programs work to build well-being

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- Our services **lift people out of poverty and keep them from experiencing poverty** in the first place.
- Our policies and practices **reduce the racial wealth gap and support each person** served to achieve financial stability.
- Our holistic services are tailored to connect people with future-focused skills, training, and education to **secure stable and well-paying jobs** connected to their long-term goals.
- Our case management, resource navigation support and referrals are accessible and equitable so **people can address the barriers unique to them**.



# Food security is an essential part of well-being

People's health and well-being are shaped by many intersecting factors, including consistent access to nutritious foods.

Self-Sufficiency Programs (SSP) supports well-being by addressing conditions people experience across these factors, and we are reshaping our programs in ways that **emphasize prevention and serve people more holistically**.

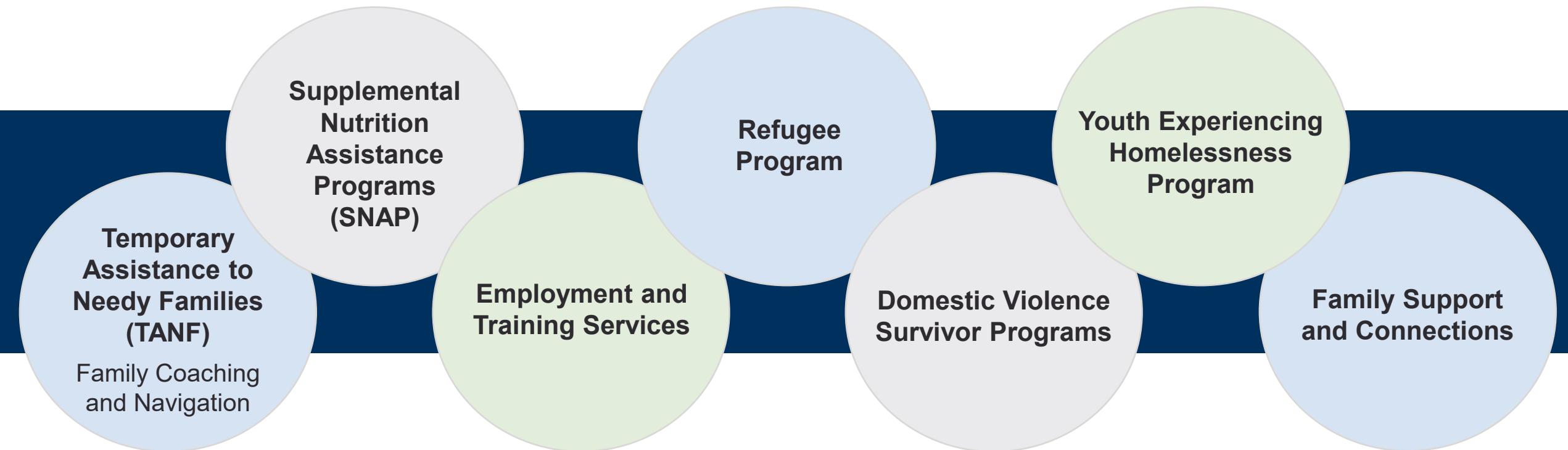
**Reducing hunger is core work in SSP.**

## Vital Conditions for Health and Well-being



# Our programs

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# Today's focus

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- **Summer EBT** is a new, permanent and nationwide nutrition assistance program created by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023
- Provides **\$40 per child per summer month** for a total benefit of \$120, issued in June
- States can participate beginning in summer 2024.

**Summer EBT will help address the summer hunger gap** when many children lose access to the free and reduced-price meals they had at school.



# Partnering to reduce child hunger

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This legislative session, ODHS, Oregon Department of Education and Oregon Health Authority are jointly requesting the resources necessary to launch Summer EBT in 2024.

**The program would serve an estimated 294,000 Oregon children with a total annual issuance of \$35.3 million.**



# Why Summer EBT?



# High food costs continue to limit access

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Average daily cost of food per person (U.S.)

**\$11.04**

Average daily SNAP benefit per person

**\$5.32**

**12.4%**

Increase in grocery prices from October 2021 to 2022\*



# Hunger can be amplified in summer

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10

Number of additional meals families must come up with for each child, per week, during summer break



Source: Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon

# Direct food assistance makes a difference

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Summer EBT is built on national research that shows providing food dollars to low-income families with school-age children helps close the hunger gap. **Pandemic EBT** demonstrated the potential for programs like Summer EBT:

33%

Decrease in children's food hardship after P-EBT benefits were issued

2.7-3.9M

Children lifted out of hunger

# Summer EBT brings federal funds into Oregon

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**\$83M**

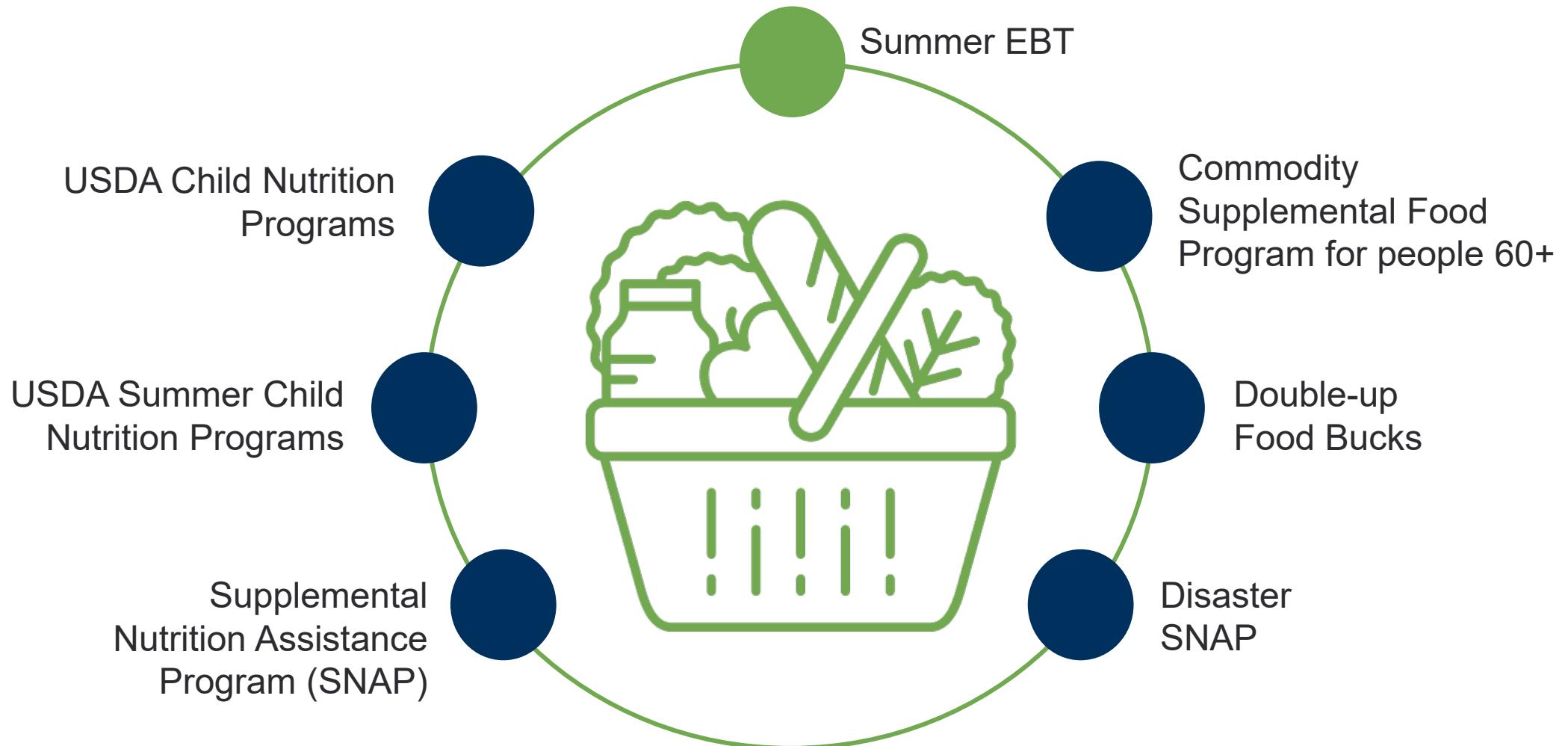
Federal funding this biennium: \$70.5M for Oregon families to buy groceries for children, \$12.5M matching funds for administrative costs

**\$1.50**

Every \$1 spent in EBT food benefits generates at least \$1.50 and as much as \$1.80 in local economic activity\*

# Food assistance programs work together

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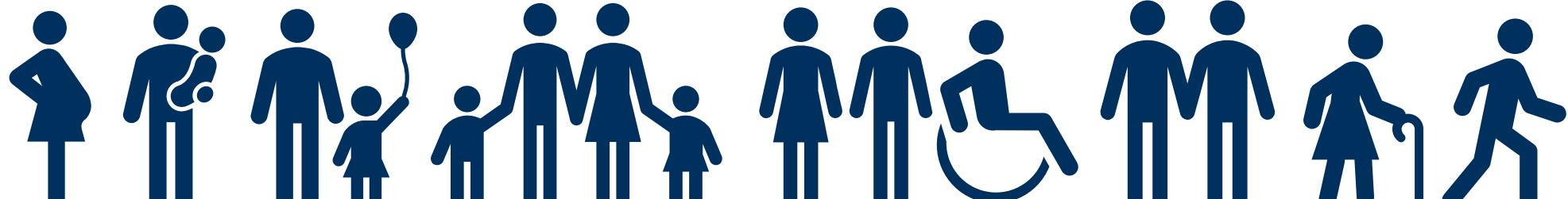
# ODHS is experienced in deploying food programs

**SNAP served  
706K Oregon  
residents in 2021**

**Since April 2020,  
Emergency  
Allotments  
served over 435K  
households**

**Pandemic EBT  
for children  
partnership served  
428,000 children  
per issuance**

**USDA Summer  
EBT for Children  
Demonstration  
Project served  
71,622 children  
between 2011 and  
2018**



# Summer EBT details

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- States must apply to the United States Agriculture Department's Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) annually to offer Summer EBT
- FNS expects benefits to be issued every June
- ODHS is lead agency in partnership with the Oregon Department of Education and Oregon Health Authority



# Program eligibility

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- Children enrolled in a National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program-participating school who qualify for free or reduced-price meals
- Children qualifying for free meals through other federal assistance programs:
  - SNAP
  - Foster care
  - Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations
  - Programs for unhoused children
  - HeadStart
  - Programs for children who are migrant



# How it works

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Two ways children can get approved to receive Summer EBT:

- 1. About 70% will have streamlined certification:**
  - Eligible for free and reduced-price school meals or other public assistance programs
  - No action needed by parents or guardians
- 2. About 30% will need to apply:**
  - ODHS will need to create an application and help determine eligibility.

Benefits are put on a pre-loaded card families can use to buy groceries.



# Funding sources

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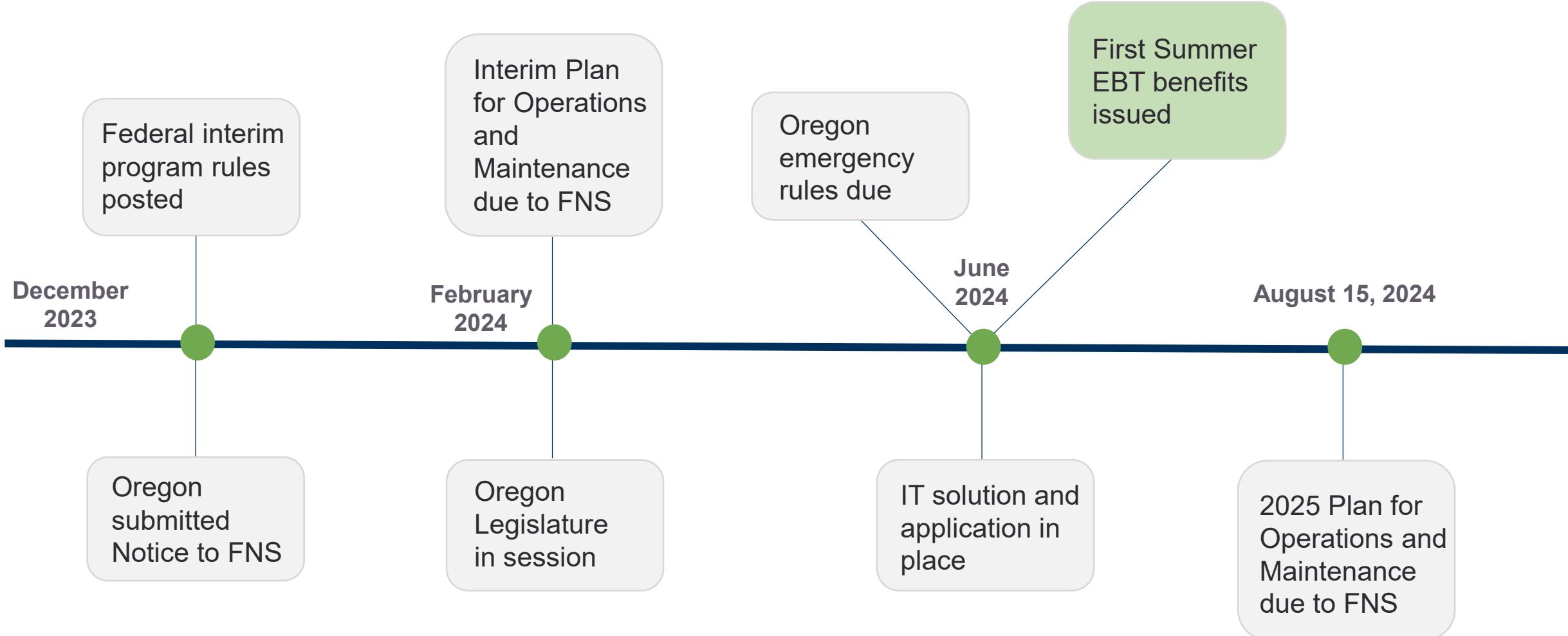
**100%**

Federally funded monthly  
Summer EBT food benefits

**50%**

State matching funds  
for administrative costs

# Timeline to design and launch new program



# 2024 legislative session requests

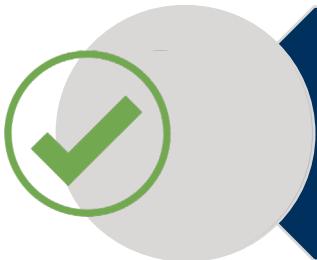
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Retroactive approval of Oregon's Notice of Intent for FNS



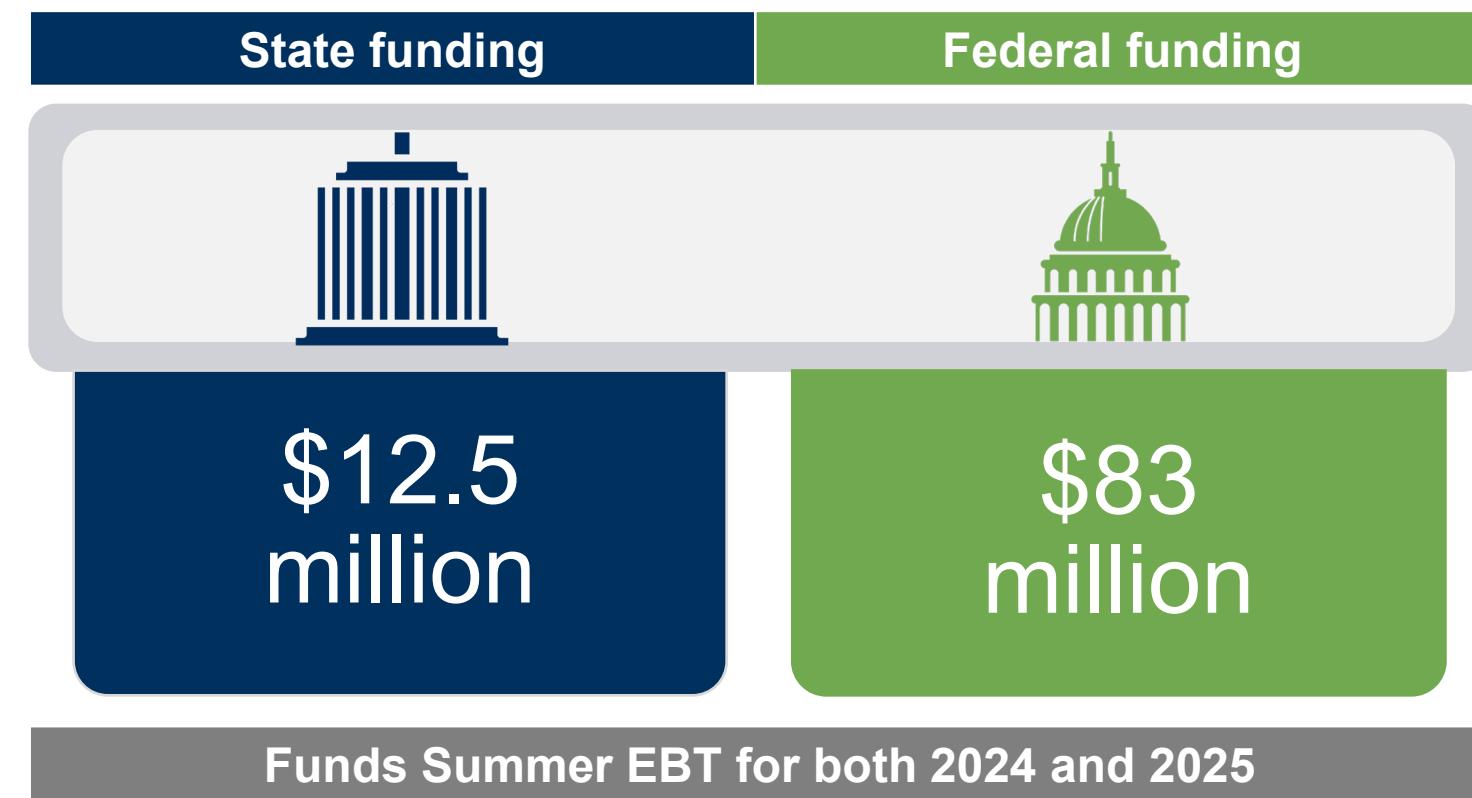
Approval to submit operations and budget plans to FNS in February



State funding to build and offer Summer EBT in Oregon for 2024 and 2025

# Funding request for 2024 and 2025 Summer EBT

Letter submitted to Joint Committee on Ways and Means Feb. 5, 2024 outlines joint funding requests from the three partner agencies.



# Positions request to serve 294,000 children

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ODHS

**55**

39 positions for eligibility determination

OHA

**8**

For IT system support

ODE

**7**

For operations support, including data sharing





# Questions?

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A large, faint watermark of the Oregon state seal is positioned in the background. The seal is circular with the words "THE STATE OF OREGON" around the top and "1859" at the bottom. Inside the circle is a detailed illustration of an eagle with spread wings, a rising sun, mountains, and a river. The entire seal is rendered in a light blue-grey color.

# Thank you

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