

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

Summer EBT food benefits for children

Claire Seguin, Director, ODHS Self-Sufficiency Programs

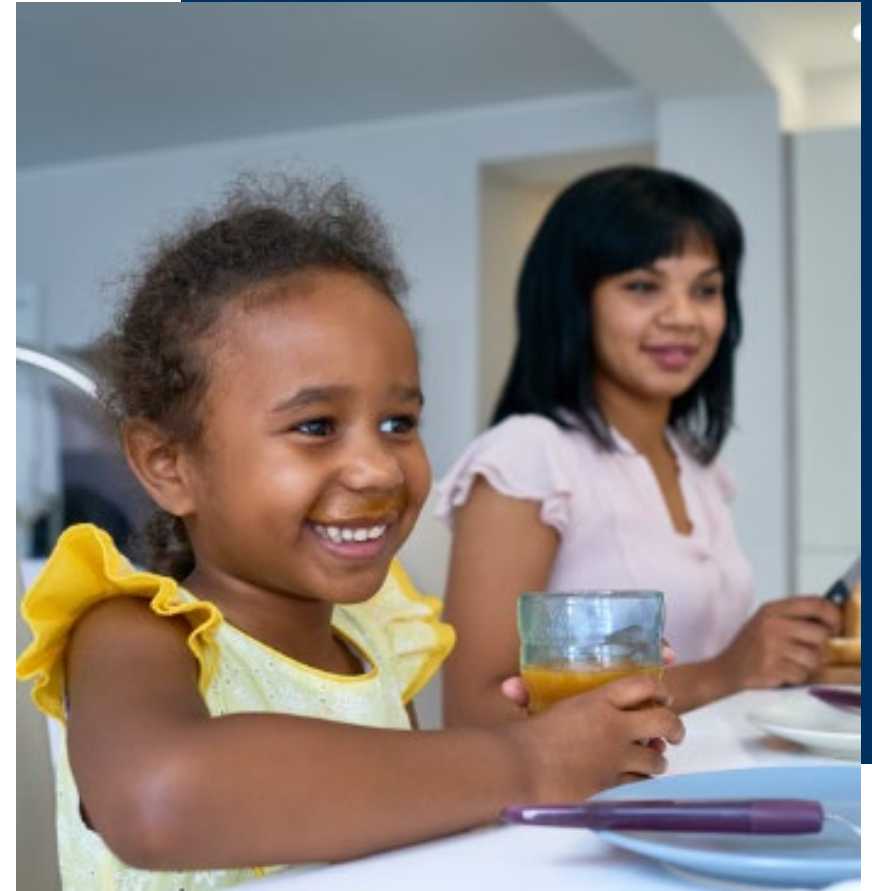
February 12, 2024

Agenda

- 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

- 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.**

Vital Conditions for Health and Well-being



Reducing hunger is core work in SSP.

Our programs

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

Family Coaching and Navigation

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs (SNAP)

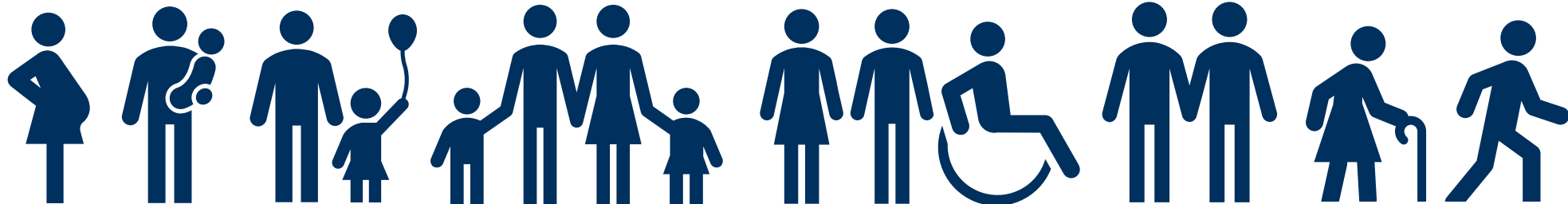
Employment and Training Services

Refugee Program

Domestic Violence Survivor Programs

Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program

Family Support and Connections



Today's focus

- **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

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

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*



*[U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)

Hunger can be amplified in summer

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

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

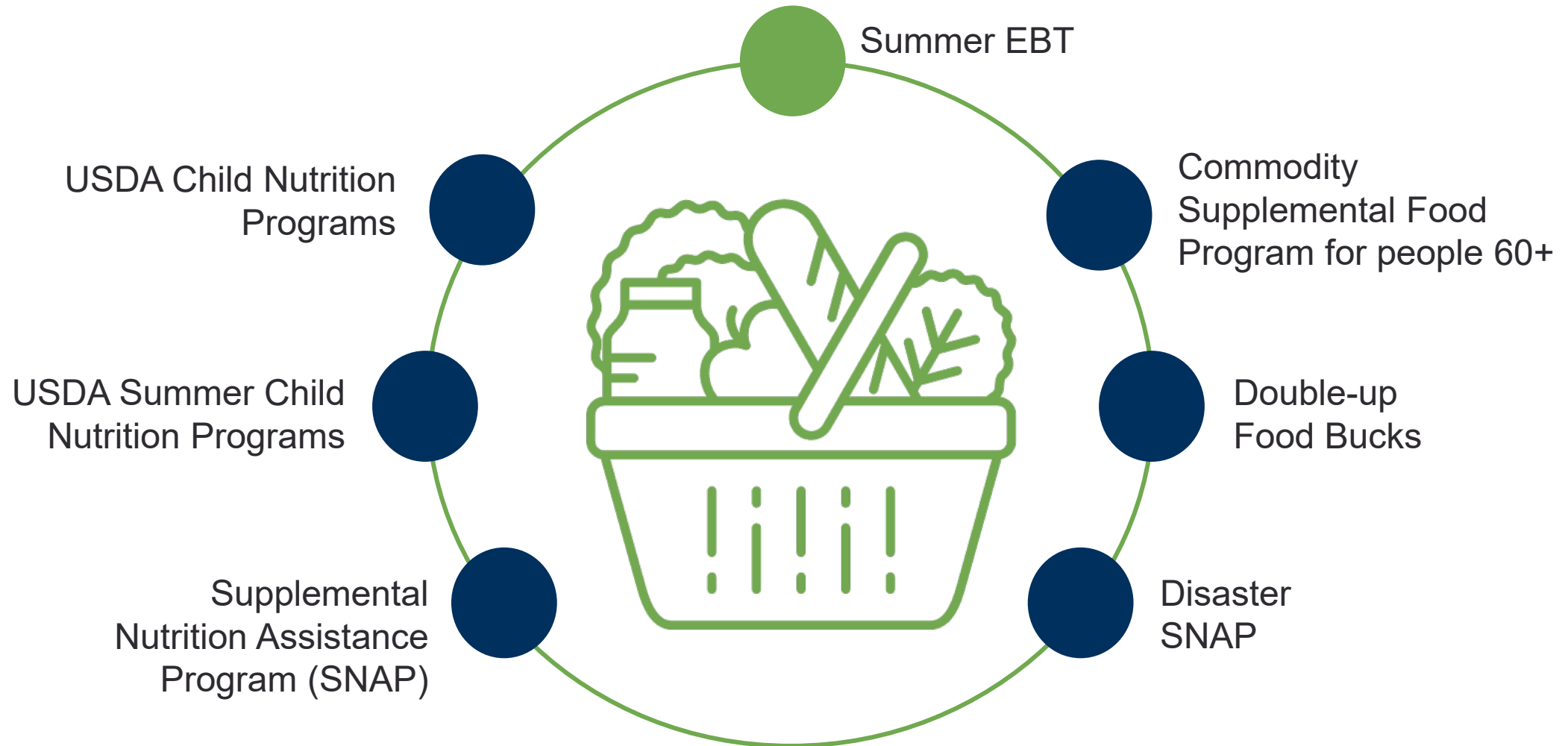
\$83M

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



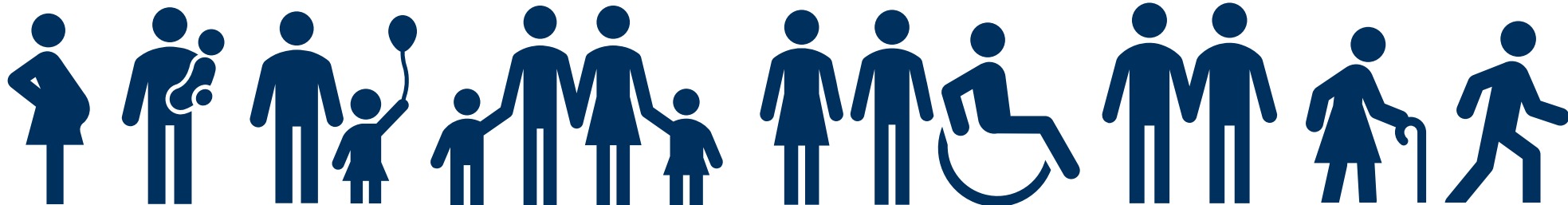
ODHS is experienced in deploying food programs

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

- 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

- 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

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

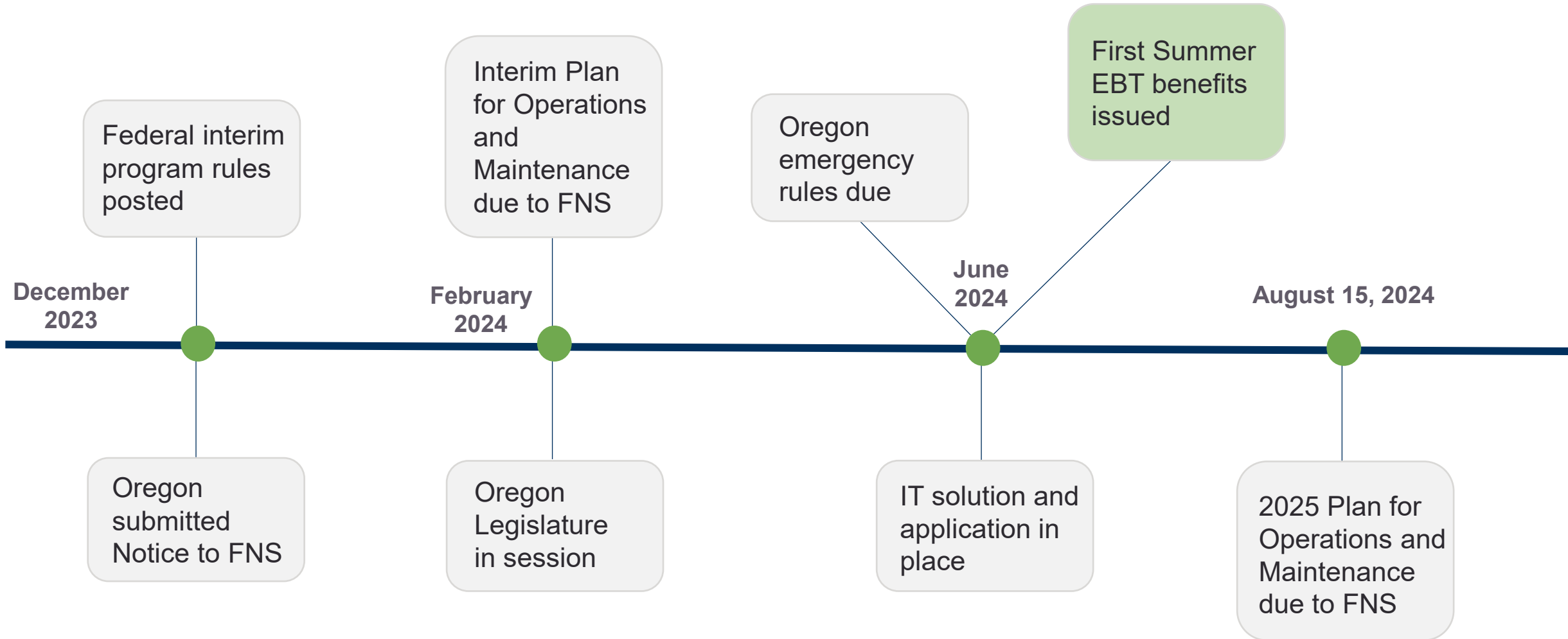
100%

Federally funded monthly
Summer EBT food benefits

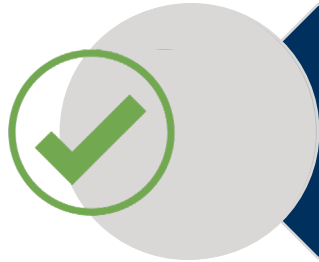
50%

State matching funds
for administrative costs

Timeline to design and launch new program



2024 legislative session requests



Retroactive approval of Oregon's Notice of Intent for FNS



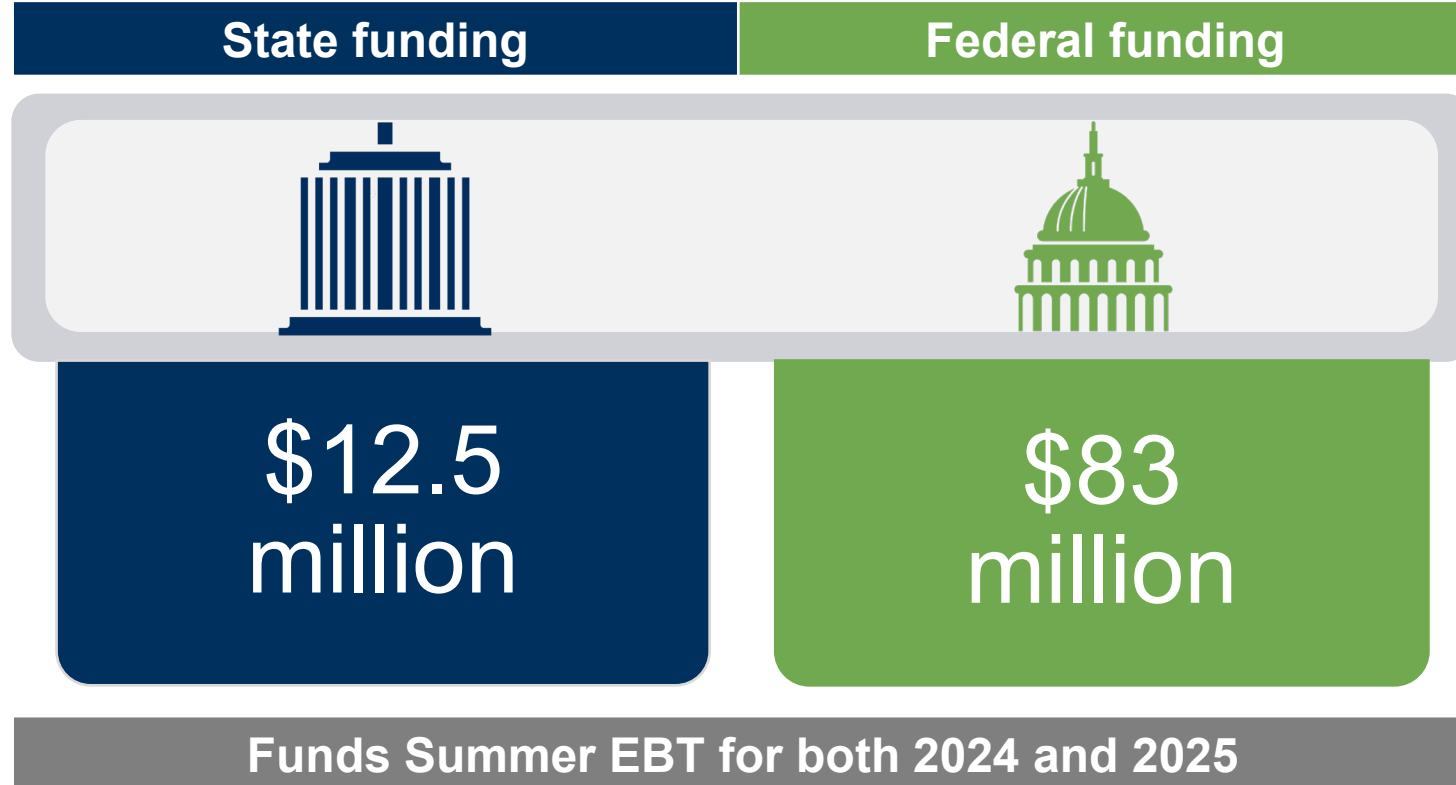
Approval to submit operations and budget plans to FNS in February



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

ODHS

55

39 positions for eligibility determination

OHA

8

For IT system support

ODE

7

For operations support, including data sharing





Questions?



Thank you

For more information, contact:

Mariya Klimenko (she/her)

Senior Legislative Policy Analyst, ODHS

mariya.klimenko2@odhs.oregon.gov

(917) 317-1265