

# FAQ for Families

## 1.1 What is Summer EBT?

Summer EBT is a new, grocery benefits program. This program helps families buy food for their school-aged children when school is out. Each summer, families will get one yearly payment of \$120 for each eligible child to buy groceries.

## 1.2 How does Summer EBT work?

Summer EBT will be put on an Oregon EBT card (Oregon Trail Card). You can use this card to buy food at grocery stores, farmers markets and other places that accept EBT cards.

If your household already has an Oregon EBT account, the benefits will be added to your existing card. For eligible children who do not already have an Oregon EBT card, one will be mailed to the latest address on file. Benefits for children who live in the same household will be put on one Oregon EBT card whenever possible.

## 1.3 How much Summer EBT will my child receive for Summer 2024?

Families will get a one-time payment of \$120 total for each eligible child.

## 1.4 Can children receiving Summer EBT still participate in other summer meal programs?

Yes, they can. Families can get more support from other summer meal programs. To find a free meal site nearby:

- Call 211
- Text the word “FOOD” or “COMIDA” to 304-304

- Visit [www.summerfoodoregon.org](http://www.summerfoodoregon.org)
- Visit [www.NeedFood.oregon.gov](http://www.NeedFood.oregon.gov) to learn more about other resources available to meet a family's nutrition needs

### 1.5 Will receiving Summer EBT affect the immigration status of children or families?

No, it won't. This program does not affect you or your child's immigration status. The public charge rule does not apply to Summer EBT benefits.

Also, the Summer EBT program does not ask for immigration status. Immigration status is not a factor for a child getting Summer EBT benefits.

### 1.6 Will there be more Summer EBT food benefits?

Yes. Summer EBT is now a permanent, yearly program.

### 1.7 Income Guidelines

The following federal income requirements are used to determine a child's eligibility for Summer EBT benefits. A household's total gross income, before taxes and deductions are taken out, needs to be at or below these amounts to be eligible for Summer EBT.

Household Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	\$27,861	\$2,322	\$1,161	\$1,072	\$536
2	\$37,814	\$3,152	\$1,576	\$1,455	\$728
3	\$47,767	\$3,981	\$1,991	\$1,838	\$919
4	\$57,720	\$4,810	\$2,405	\$2,220	\$1,110
5	\$67,673	\$5,640	\$2,820	\$2,603	\$1,302
6	\$77,626	\$6,469	\$3,235	\$2,986	\$1,493
7	\$87,579	\$7,299	\$3,650	\$3,369	\$1,685
8	\$97,532	\$8,128	\$4,064	\$3,752	\$1,876
+1	\$9,953	\$830	\$415	\$383	\$192

# How children qualify for Summer EBT food benefits

## 2.1 Is my child eligible for Summer EBT benefits?

Your school-aged child may be eligible for Summer EBT if:

- The household already participates in SNAP, TANF, the Oregon Health Plan (Medicaid) or the student is in foster care; or
- Your child attends a school that offers the [National School Lunch Program \(NSLP\)](#) or [School Breakfast Program \(SBP\)](#), and your household income meets the requirements for free or reduced-price school meals; or
- Your child attends a school that offers the NSLP or SBP and your child is:
  - o Enrolled in migrant programs;
  - o Experiencing houselessness;
  - o Participating in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations; or
  - o Attending Head Start.

Most eligible school-aged children will automatically receive Summer EBT benefits if their household already participates in SNAP, TANF, the Oregon Health Plan (Medicaid) or the student is in foster care. This means that most eligible children do not need to apply. Starting in early July, benefits will be sent to automatically eligible children.

Participating in OHP (Medicaid) may not automatically qualify a child for Summer EBT. For example, if a family's income is over the free or reduced-price meals income guidelines, the child is not automatically eligible for Summer EBT benefits. However, there are many cases where children who don't qualify automatically may still be eligible. Families are encouraged to apply to determine their eligibility.

Separately, to be automatically eligible through SNAP or TANF, a child must be part of a household that got more than \$0 in benefits for at least one month between Sep. 1, 2023 and Sep. 2, 2024. The child must also have been school-aged (6 to 18 years old) when getting benefits.

To find out if your child is automatically eligible, you can:

- Check the balance of your existing Oregon EBT card to see if you got the benefit by visiting [www.ebtedge.com](http://www.ebtedge.com)
- Look out for a letter in the mail by the end of July that lets you know your child is eligible
- Call the Call Center to confirm if your child is already eligible and receiving benefits

If you didn't get the Summer EBT benefit and believe your child should be found automatically eligible, call the Summer EBT Call Center at the number listed below.

For children who are not automatically eligible, families can apply through the online or paper application. The application can be found on the Summer EBT website at [sebt.oregon.gov](http://sebt.oregon.gov). For a child to become eligible by applying, they must:

- Be enrolled in a [NSLP or SBP participating school](#); and
- Have their household income meet the requirements for free or reduced-price school meals.

Allow up to 30 days for Summer EBT applications to be processed.

## **2.2 My family participates in SNAP or TANF. Is my child eligible for benefits?**

Most children will be eligible if they are or were in a household getting more than \$0 in SNAP or TANF benefits for at least one month between Sep. 1, 2023 and Sep. 2, 2024. They must have been school-aged (6 to 18) when getting benefits.

## **2.3 My child is an Oregon Health Plan member. Is my child eligible for benefits?**

Some children will be automatically eligible if they are or were in a household getting Oregon Health Plan (Medicaid) for at least one month between Sep. 1, 2023 and Sep. 2, 2024. They must have been school-aged (6 to 18) when getting benefits.

Participating in the Oregon Health Plan (Medicaid) may not automatically qualify a child for Summer EBT. For example, if a family's income is over the free or reduced-price meals income guidelines, the child is

not automatically eligible for Summer EBT benefits. However, there are many cases where children who don't qualify automatically might still be eligible. Families are encouraged to apply to determine their eligibility.

## **2.4 My child's school provides free meals for all children. Is my child eligible for benefits?**

Students getting free meals at school are not automatically eligible for Summer EBT benefits. However, children may be automatically eligible if their household is already participating in SNAP, TANF, the Oregon Health Plan (Medicaid) or if the student is in foster care.

To find out if your child is automatically eligible, you can:

- Check the balance of your existing Oregon EBT card to see if you got the benefit by visiting [www.ebtedge.com](http://www.ebtedge.com)
- Look for a letter in the mail by the end of July that says your child is eligible
- Contact the Call Center at 833-673-7328 to find out if your child is eligible and receiving benefits

If you are not automatically eligible, you will need to fill out a simple application that is available on the Summer EBT website at [sebt.oregon.gov](http://sebt.oregon.gov). When applying, you will be asked to provide your child's name, school, date of birth and address. You will be asked to report your household income. For a child to become eligible by applying, they must:

- Be enrolled in a [NSLP or SBP participating school](#); and
- Have their household income meet the requirements for free or reduced-price school meals.

Not all schools that provide free meals participate in NSLP or SBP. The application closes on Sep. 2, 2024.

## **2.5 How can my child be automatically eligible for Summer EBT?**

Most eligible school-aged children will automatically receive Summer EBT benefits if their household already participates in SNAP, TANF, the Oregon Health Plan (Medicaid) or the student is in foster care. This means that most eligible children do not need to apply.

Participating in OHP (Medicaid) may not automatically qualify a child

for Summer EBT. For example, if a family's income is over the free or reduced-price meals income guidelines, the child is not automatically eligible for Summer EBT benefits. However, there are many cases where children who don't qualify automatically may still be eligible. Families are encouraged to apply to determine their eligibility.

Separately, to be automatically eligible through SNAP or TANF, a child must be part of a household that got more than \$0 in benefits for at least one month between Sep. 1, 2023 and Sep. 2, 2024. The child must also have been school-aged (6 to 18 years old) when getting benefits.

Starting in early July, benefits will be sent to automatically eligible children. To find out if your child is automatically eligible, you can:

- Check the balance of your existing Oregon EBT card to see if you got the benefit by visiting [www.ebtedge.com](http://www.ebtedge.com)
- Look out for a letter in the mail letting you know your child is eligible
- Call the Summer EBT Call Center to confirm if your child is already eligible and receiving benefits

If you didn't get the Summer EBT benefit and believe your child should be found automatically eligible, call the Summer EBT Call Center at the number listed below.

## **2.6 Who needs to apply for Summer EBT benefits?**

Most eligible school-aged children will automatically receive Summer EBT benefits if their household already participates in SNAP, TANF, the Oregon Health Plan (Medicaid) or the student is in foster care. This means that most eligible children do not need to apply.

Participating in OHP (Medicaid) may not automatically qualify a child for Summer EBT. For example, if a family's income is over the free or reduced-price meals income guidelines, the child is not automatically eligible for Summer EBT benefits. However, there are many cases where children who don't qualify automatically may still be eligible. Families are encouraged to apply to determine their eligibility.

Separately, to be automatically eligible through SNAP or TANF, a child must be part of a household that got more than \$0 in benefits for at least



one month between Sep. 1, 2023 and Sep. 2, 2024. The child must also have been school-aged (6 to 18 years old) when getting benefits.

For children who are not automatically eligible, families can apply through the online or paper application. The application can be found on the Summer EBT website at [sebt.oregon.gov](https://sebt.oregon.gov). For a child to become eligible by applying, they must:

- Be enrolled in a [NSLP or SBP participating school](#); and
- Have their household income meet the requirements for free or reduced-price school meals.

Allow up to 30 days for Summer EBT applications to be processed. After the application is processed, families will get a letter in the mail within two to four weeks that lets them know if their child was approved or denied for benefits. Families can apply until Sep. 2, 2024.

## **2.7 My child is homeschooled or goes to a virtual academy. Does that make them eligible this year?**

School-aged children who are homeschooled or go to a virtual academy can be eligible for Summer EBT if their household already participates in SNAP, TANF, the Oregon Health Plan (Medicaid) and are within the free or reduced-price meals income guidelines or if the student is in foster care. Children who meet these requirements may automatically be eligible for Summer EBT. Benefits will be sent to the household's Oregon EBT card.

Participating in the OHP (Medicaid) may not automatically qualify a child for Summer EBT. For example, if a family's income is over the free or reduced-price meals income guidelines, the child is not automatically eligible for Summer EBT benefits. However, there are many cases where children who don't qualify automatically might still be eligible. Families are encouraged to apply to determine their eligibility.

Separately, to be automatically eligible through SNAP or TANF, a child must be part of a household that got more than \$0 in benefits for at least one month between Sep. 1, 2023 and Sep. 2, 2024. The child must also have been school-aged (6 to 18 years old) when getting benefits.

If a household doesn't already have an Oregon EBT card, a new Oregon

EBT card will be mailed to the household address on file. You can update your mailing address by calling the Summer EBT Call Center at the number listed below.

## **2.8 Can Summer EBT benefits be used for Double Up Food Bucks?**

Yes, Summer EBT benefits can be used for Double Up Food Bucks. Double Up Food Bucks matches every \$1 of benefits spent up to \$20 on fresh fruit and vegetables at participating local farmers markets. Double Up is currently offered at over 85 farmers market locations, 35 grocery stores and more than 40 CSA farms across the state — with new locations joining the program each year.

## **2.9 Can case managers or social workers fill out the Summer EBT application for a student?**

A case manager or community partner can help the student fill out the application. This is recommended when students under the age of 18 want to apply but don't have an adult to provide the application's required adult signature. The case manager or community partner should list the student's address as the household mailing address on Step 4 of the application. This allows benefits to be sent to the student directly if they are not receiving SNAP or TANF benefits. The person completing the application should include adult household members living with the child.

# **How families will receive Summer EBT food benefits**

## **3.1 When will my child get Summer EBT food benefits?**

Summer EBT benefits will start being sent in early July to automatically eligible children. To find out if your child is automatically eligible, you can check your Oregon EBT card balance, look for a letter in the mail by the end of July or call the Summer EBT Call Center.

Children that meet the requirements but are not automatically eligible will need to apply. Families that apply can expect their application to be processed within 30 days after submitting. After the application is processed, families will get a letter in the mail within two to four weeks



that lets them know if their child was approved or denied for benefits. Families can apply until Sep. 2, 2024. Benefits will be sent until Sep. 30, 2024.

Households with eligible children will receive their Summer EBT benefits in one issuance. Benefits will be loaded to your Oregon EBT card if you already have one.

If a household doesn't already have an Oregon EBT card, a new card will be mailed to them. Expect the card two to four weeks after being found eligible. The card will be sent to the address we have on file.

Benefits for children who live in the same household will be put on one Oregon EBT card whenever possible. More information will be included in the letter mailed to each eligible child.

You can update your mailing address by calling the Summer EBT Call Center at the number listed below.

### **3.2 Which address will the Oregon EBT card be mailed to?**

A new Oregon EBT card will be mailed to households that don't already have one. The new card will arrive within two to four weeks once benefits are issued. The card will be mailed to the address we have on file. You can update your mailing address by calling the Summer EBT Call Center at the number listed below.

### **3.3 What if I lost or never received my Oregon EBT card?**

If you have lost your Oregon EBT card, you can request a replacement card by calling the Summer EBT Call Center at the number listed below.

### **3.4 How do I check my balance?**

If you have an Oregon EBT card, you can check your balance by visiting [www.ebtedge.com](http://www.ebtedge.com). You can also call the number on the back of your Oregon EBT card or look at your last store receipt for a benefit balance.

### **3.5 Is there a time limit for using Summer EBT benefits?**

Yes. You can use the Summer EBT benefits for four months (122

calendar days) before they expire. Please use your Summer EBT benefits to purchase food before they are removed from the card.

### **3.6 If I am receiving other benefits on my existing Oregon EBT card, which benefits get used first?**

Summer EBT benefits are generally used first when making purchases.

### **3.7 Do I have to activate (PIN) my child's Oregon EBT card by a specific date?**

Families are encouraged to activate their Oregon EBT card as soon as they get it. However, there is no deadline for activating the Oregon EBT card. Keep in mind that Summer EBT benefits expire after four months (122 calendar days). Please use your Summer EBT benefits to purchase food before the benefit expires.

### **3.8 Where can I use my Summer EBT benefits? What can I buy with them?**

You can use your Summer EBT benefits at any store or farmer's market that accepts EBT, including online from Amazon and Walmart. Most retailers have signs saying they accept SNAP or EBT.

Summer EBT benefits can be used to buy any food that can be bought with SNAP. [SNAP eligible food](#) is most foods, except prepared foods and foods sold hot.

### **3.9 My child is experiencing houselessness. How do I get the Oregon EBT card?**

If your child is experiencing houselessness and you believe that they are eligible for Summer EBT, please contact the Summer EBT Call Center at the number listed below to provide an alternate mailing address. This may include the child's school address, preferred shelter or local USPS office.

### **3.10 What do I do with my new Oregon EBT card after using all of the Summer EBT benefits?**

Please hold on to the new Oregon EBT card. It may be used for future benefits.

## **What to do with unused Pandemic EBT food benefits**

### **4.1 What should I do if we haven't used all our Pandemic EBT food benefits?**

Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) is a different program that ended with the COVID-19 emergency. P-EBT benefits received in 2023 expire after nine months if you have not used your card. If you have started using your card, benefits will not expire.

### **4.2 How can I check my balance on my P-EBT card?**

There are many ways to find out how much money is on your P-EBT card:

- Look at your last store or ATM receipt (see [How to Use Your Oregon Trail Card](#) page 12)
- Call customer service toll-free at 888-997-4447
- Check online by [logging in to your EBT account](#)
- If you have the ebtEDGE mobile app, you can check your balance there

### **4.3 What do I do with my P-EBT card?**

If you still have a P-EBT card, you can throw it away after using the benefits.