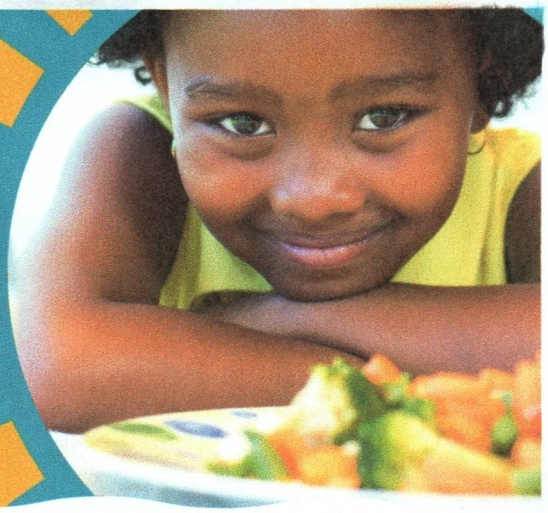
USDA | SUN BUCKS

SUN Bucks

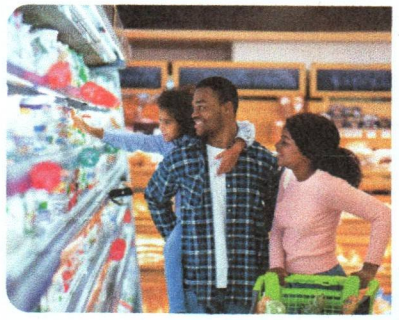
A Tested and Effective Strategy for Ending Summer Hunger



SUN Bucks is a program for States, Indian Tribal Organizations, and territories to provide food dollars to low-income families with school-age kids over the summer months. This program, also known as Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (or Summer EBT), can help close the summer hunger gap when kids are on summer break and not getting nutritious school meals.

States, Indian Tribal Organizations, and territories offering SUN Bucks can provide about $120 per eligible school-age child to families to buy groceries, similar to how USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits are used. SUN Bucks works hand-in-hand with other USDA nutrition programs to connect every eligible child with nutritious food in the summer.

Research shows that providing families with summer grocery benefits reduces child hunger and supports healthier diets.



SUN Bucks is a proven game-changer in the fight against child hunger.

SUN Bucks is an evidence-based program! Research shows that providing families with summer grocery benefits reduces child hunger and supports healthier diets.

USDA tested SUN Bucks as a demonstration project in select States and Indian Tribal Organizations for several years. Rigorous evaluations showed that SUN Bucks:

Decreased the number of kids with very low food security by one-third!

- ↑ **Whole grain & dairy consumption**

- ↓ **Sugar-sweetened beverage consumption**

- ↑ **Fruit & vegetable consumption**

- ↓ **Child food insecurity**

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When kids are food insecure, they may skip meals or eat less because there isn't enough food to go around.

During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, States, Indian Tribal Organizations, and territories operated a temporary program similar to SUN Bucks, which demonstrated the potential of expanding the program nationwide. Research found that this program:

33%

Decreased children's food hardship by 33% after benefits were issued.

2.7-3.9 million

Lifted at least 2.7 to 3.9 million children out of hunger.

Let's join forces to make SUN Bucks a success!

Together we can ensure that every child has the nourishment they need during the summer months.

Learn more >

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Feed Their Summer Smiles With SUN Programs!

Make this summer one to remember with SUN Programs: USDA's Summer Nutrition Programs for Kids. Meals and grocery benefits help keep your kids fueled up for summer.

SUN MEALS

Children 18 and under can enjoy meals together at eligible meal sites. SUN Meals are free and help your kids get the nutrition they need all summer long.

SUN MEALS TO-GO

In some rural areas, SUN Meals can be picked up or delivered right to your home!

SUN BUCKS

With SUN Bucks, get $120 per eligible school-aged child to buy more of their favorite foods, from fresh fruits and vegetables to pantry staples, supporting delicious and healthy meals at home.

USDA | SUN SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS FOR KIDS

fns.usda.gov/summer
X.com/USDANutrition

Scan to find out about meal options and grocery benefits in your area.

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Summer 2024