

Community Partner Update

September 2024

2024 Summer EBT Application Closure Date Extended to Sept. 30, 2024

Since June 28, 2024, Oregon's Summer EBT program has issued benefits to over 343,000 children, which totals more than \$41 million dollars in grocery benefits for families this summer! Summer EBT provides supplemental grocery benefits for families with eligible children in the household, issued onto an Oregon EBT card to help support families with the additional cost of food when school is out for the summer.

The 2024 Summer EBT application period was originally scheduled to end on Monday, Sept. 2, 2024, however, the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service invited states to request a deadline extension until Sept. 30, 2024. Oregon applied for this extension, and it was approved last week! Learn more about the extension through our [news release](#).

This extension gives more time to reach families who may have been missed earlier this summer given that Summer EBT wasn't fully operational until Oregon schools were already released for summer break. We believe these efforts will significantly increase awareness and participation in the Summer EBT program, ensuring that as many eligible families as possible may benefit from this critical assistance.

Families who did not automatically receive benefits this summer, especially those with children who were enrolled in a school during the 2023-2024 school year that was participating in the National School Lunch or Breakfast Programs, should still apply to determine eligibility. Applications can be found online and for download in 10 languages at sebt.oregon.gov.

"We are grateful to our federal partners for making this extension. The extra time is so important for us to reach families who may be eligible because we know access to nutritious food is critical."

-Oregon Department of Human Services Director Fariborz Pakseresht

A few ways you can help us reach more potentially eligible families through Sept. 30, 2024:

1 Continue sharing the word: Check out the ["Resources for Partners"](#) page on the Summer EBT website where you will find Summer EBT flyers, videos and social media toolkits which have all been updated to include our extended application closure date.

2 Include Summer EBT flyers at your back-to-school events in September: Summer EBT flyers are available on sebt.oregon.gov in 10 languages.

3 Share these Summer EBT key messages with your communities:

- Our Summer EBT application window has been extended! The final day for families to apply for Summer EBT is now Sept. 30, 2024.** Families can apply for Summer EBT [online](#) or download the Summer EBT application in 10 languages from the [Summer EBT website](#) homepage.

- Important reminder for families applying now:** When applying for 2024 Summer EBT, families should list the school that their child was attending during the [2023-2024](#) school year last year, not the school year that just started. This will be a great help to our eligibility team processing these applications.

- Don't forget to spend your Summer EBT!** Unused benefits will expire 122 days after a family receives them.

- Questions about your Summer EBT eligibility?** Call the Summer EBT call center at **1-833-673-7328**.

"Staying engaged in school and active in life requires proper nutrition. We know that there are many more families out there who have children who may be eligible for the \$120 Summer EBT benefit and this important extension boosts our opportunity to reach them."

-Oregon Department of Education
Director Dr. Charlene Williams

Food Resources for the School Year Ahead

There are many food resources available for families across Oregon this school year:

- National School Lunch Program** Households can apply for their children to receive free or reduced-price meals at school.

- Oregon Food Bank Food Finder** Allows community members to search for free food options in their area by zip code.

- SNAP:**

- SNAP Online Purchasing Pilot:** Find out which stores in your area accept SNAP dollars to order groceries online.

- Double Up Food Bucks:** SNAP participants can "double up" their SNAP dollars when purchasing fresh fruits and vegetables with their Oregon EBT card at participating farmers markets and retailers across Oregon, through the Double Up Food Bucks Program. This program is a great way for families to make the most of their SNAP dollars each month, while filling up on healthy and nutritious food options.

- Click [here](#) to find the nearest Double Up Food Bucks site near you.

- WIC:**

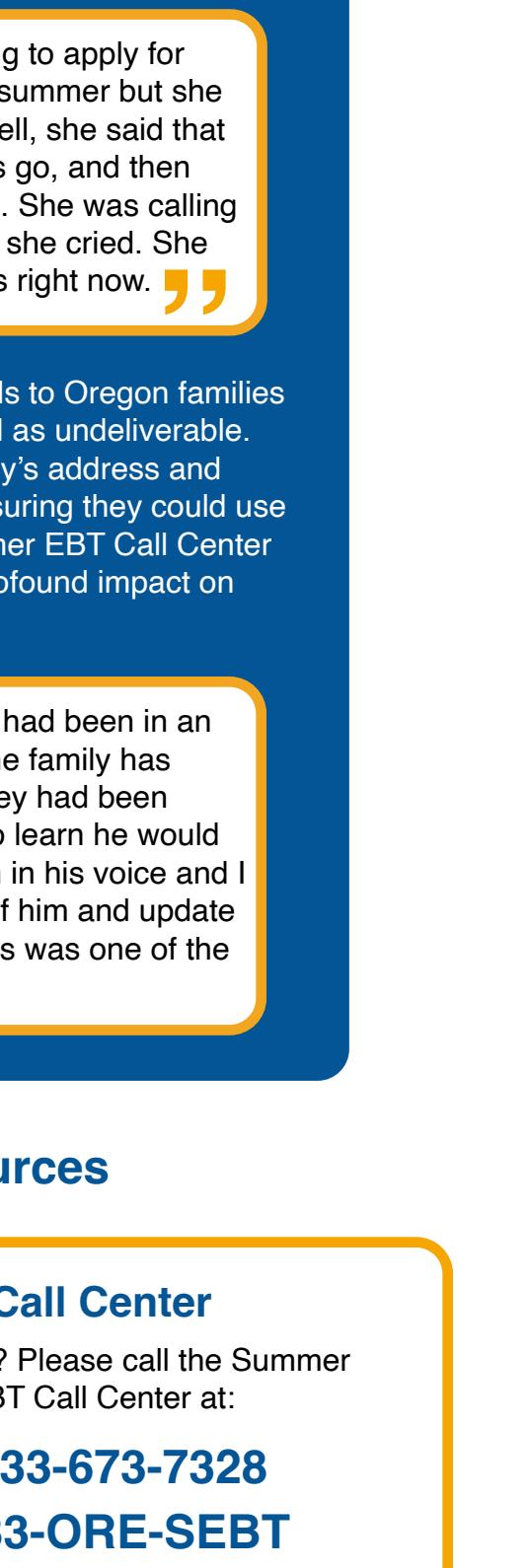
- Check out this [WIC Pre-Screening Tool](#) to find out if you are eligible for WIC services.

- Click [Here](#) to find a WIC Clinic or Retailer near you.

- Senior Nutrition Programs** Find food and nutrition programs for older adults.

- ODHS Help Center** The Help Center can assist with housing, childcare benefits, medical insurance, foster care, developmental disabilities, senior services and more.

- 211** for additional help locating resources nearest to you.



What we're hearing from the Summer EBT Call Center:

The Summer EBT Call Center has been open since June 24, 2024 responding to eligibility inquiries and providing support to families with questions about their Summer EBT benefits. Caller wait times remain very low with most Summer EBT questions being answered within minutes! Our Summer EBT Call Center staff have also been collecting stories of how this additional grocery benefit has made a difference for families across Oregon this summer. Here is an example:

"I spoke to a mother who advised she was going to apply for regular SNAP benefits at the beginning of the summer, but she then decided they were doing fine, so she waited. Well, she said that this summer has been really tough as far as finances go, and then today she received Summer EBT for both of her kids. She was calling to make sure it was legit. When I told her it was real, she cried. She said that it was such a great help for her and her kids right now."

This summer, the call center helped make outbound calls to Oregon families whose Summer EBT card was returned in the mail. The goal of these courtesy calls was to update the family's address and promptly resend their EBT card to the new address, ensuring they could use their Summer EBT benefits before they expire. A Summer EBT Call Center agent recently described a call they made that had a profound impact on both the family member and the agent:

"One of my outbound calls was to a father who had been in an accident earlier in the year and out of work. The family has really been struggling this year and didn't even know they had been approved for the Summer EBT. He was so grateful to learn he would be getting the benefit. I could really hear the emotion in his voice and I felt really relieved that I had been able to get ahold of him and update the information to get the card out to his kiddos. This was one of the many calls this summer that stayed with me."

2024 Summer EBT Timeline

APPLICATION WINDOW: June 28 - Sept 30, 2024

SUMMER EBT ISSUANCE: July 1 - Sept 30, 2024

SUMMER EBT CALL CENTER: July 1 - Nov 29, 2024

Benefit issuance began June 28, 2024.

Benefit extensions begin. Summer EBT benefits expire 122 calendar days after issuance.