



# THE SUMMER EBT PROGRAM

## Would Reduce Summer Hunger in **Alaska**

This coming summer, **Alaska** can participate in the nationwide Summer EBT Program. Families would receive approximately \$120 in federally funded grocery benefits on an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card for the covered summer period for each school-age child who was eligible for free or reduced-price school meals. By implementing the program this summer, **Alaska** can help ensure that children have a hunger-free summer and return to school well-nourished and ready to learn.

### A Snapshot of Summer EBT in **Alaska**<sup>1</sup>

- ▶ **Alaska** has an estimated **58,000** children who would be eligible to receive the Summer EBT benefit this summer. This would result in approximately **\$6,960,000** in benefits being distributed to struggling families this summer.
- ▶ According to an [analysis carried out](#) by USDA looking at Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, every dollar spent on SNAP generates between \$1.50 and \$1.80 in local economic activity during an economic downturn. Based on this estimate, **Alaska** could expect an economic impact of **\$10,440,000** to **\$12,528,000** from Summer EBT benefits in summer 2025.

### Summer Can Be the Hungriest Time for Children

**W**hen the school year ends, millions of children from households with low incomes lose access to the school meals they rely on. The Summer Nutrition Programs, also called summer meals, were designed to replace school meals lost during summer vacation. These meal programs play an important role in reducing childhood hunger during the summer, and often provide meals along with important educational and enrichment programming to keep children and teens well-nourished and engaged. Despite these benefits, summer meals reach only a fraction of the children who rely on free and reduced-price school meals during the school year. Summer EBT, which offers benefits to families to purchase food at retail locations, bridges that gap. Summer meals combined with Summer EBT is an effective recipe to meet children's nutritional needs during the summer.

<sup>1</sup> See Technical Notes for information on data sources and an explanation of how the estimates were derived.

### DEADLINES FOR SUMMER EBT

**EACH YEAR BY JANUARY 1:** **Alaska** must notify the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) of their intention to run the Summer EBT Program. This notification is not binding, and if **Alaska** is unable to execute the program, there is no penalty.

**EACH YEAR BY FEBRUARY 15:** **Alaska** must submit a management and administrative plan to USDA that includes an outline of the roles and responsibilities of each state agency during implementation. More information on what must be in these plans can be found in [USDA's Summer EBT implementation toolkit](#).



**APPROXIMATELY**  
**58,000** CHILDREN  
in **Alaska** would be eligible to receive  
Summer EBT benefits in summer 2025.