

SUN Bucks (Summer EBT)

hhs.iowa.gov/assistance-programs/food-assistance/sun-bucks

What are SUN Bucks?

- ▶ The SUN Bucks program (also known as Summer EBT) provides families with **\$120 per child** in grocery benefits over the summer to help ensure children have access to nutritious food while school is out.
- ▶ There are two ways children can qualify: automatic eligibility and application.
 - Applications to apply will be available in early June 2026 on the SUN Bucks webpage and [Iowa's Self-Service Portal \(SSP\)](#).

Automatic Eligibility

Automatic Eligibility: A child is automatically eligible if:

They were in grades K–12 during the 2025–2026 school year, and their school took part in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), **OR** are 6-16 years old between July 1, 2025, and August 14, 2026.

All automatically eligible children must also meet at least one of the following:

- ▶ Their household received [SNAP](#) or [FIP](#)
- ▶ Their household received Medicaid at or below 185% of the federal poverty level
- ▶ They are in foster care
- ▶ They were approved for Free or Reduced-Price School Meals (through an application with their school or because they are homeless, a runaway, or a migrant)

SUN Bucks Benefits

- ▶ Iowa HHS will issue benefits to automatically eligible children no later than early June 2026.
 - Benefits will continue to be issued as applications are completed and processed. The latest application received by Iowa HHS for processing in Summer 2026 is due August 14th, 2026.
- ▶ SUN Bucks benefits are available for 122 days from the date they are issued. Unused benefits expire at midnight on the 122nd day after being issued and cannot be restored.

SUN Bucks Cards

- ▶ If your household is currently active for SNAP, you will automatically receive \$120 for each eligible child on your SNAP EBT card. SUN Bucks benefits will automatically be used **before** your SNAP benefits.
- ▶ If your household is **not** active for SNAP, each eligible child will receive a SUN Bucks card in the individual child's name. Automatically eligible children will receive their SUN Bucks cards by the middle to the end of June.
- ▶ Using the SUN Bucks card is voluntary. If you choose not to use the available benefits, please call Iowa HHS at 1-877-347-5678 to opt out.

Other Summer Food Programs

- ▶ Iowa children and teens 18 years old and under can also access free meals through the SUN Meals and SUN Meals To-Go programs.
 - SUN Meals are meals and snacks served to kids at an eligible meal site.
 - SUN Meals To-Go are meals and snacks that can be taken to-go in rural areas from eligible sites.

To find the nearest meal site to you, use the following options:

- ▶ Online:
Visit fns.usda.gov/summer/sitefinder
- ▶ By Phone:
 - Call 2-1-1
 - Call 1-866-348-6479 (English)
 - Call 1-877-842-6273 (Spanish)

To view all FAQs on
SUN Bucks, visit:

[hhs.iowa.gov/assistance-
programs/food-
assistance/sun-bucks/sun-
bucks-faqs](https://hhs.iowa.gov/assistance-programs/food-assistance/sun-bucks/sun-bucks-faqs)



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