



# SUN Bucks are Here for the SUMMER!

SUN Bucks, also known as Summer EBT, provides extra grocery benefits to eligible children over the summer break, when kids aren't getting the meals they usually eat at school. It is available to families who could use support buying food.

Most eligible children are automatically enrolled in SUN Bucks, but some will need to apply.

To see if you need to apply, or for more information, visit the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services' (Iowa HHS) website at [hhs.iowa.gov/sunbucks](https://hhs.iowa.gov/sunbucks) or contact their team at **1-877-347-5678**.

**IOWA**<sup>™</sup>  
Health and  
Human Services

**SUN**   
**BUCKS**

**IOWA**<sup>™</sup>  
Department of Education

# SUN Bucks in Iowa F.A.Q.

## What are SUN Bucks?

SUN Bucks, also known as Summer EBT, provides grocery benefits to eligible children during the summer. The grocery benefits will be loaded on an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card that will be mailed to the household, or, if the household receives Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, the SUN Bucks will be loaded on the SNAP card.

## When will SUN Bucks benefits be received?

For more information about when SUN Bucks benefits will be available, visit Iowa HHS' SUN Bucks website [hhs.iowa.gov/sunbucks](https://hhs.iowa.gov/sunbucks).

## How do families apply for SUN Bucks?

Most eligible children are automatically enrolled, but some may need to apply. Visit the Iowa HHS website to check if you need to apply.

In schools where all children receive free meals, all children are not automatically eligible for SUN Bucks. Only children in households that receive certain Iowa HHS benefits like SNAP, the Family Investment Program (FIP), some Medicaid programs, or a child in foster care will be automatically eligible. Others may be eligible based on income guidelines and may apply for SUN Bucks by completing a SUN Bucks application. Additional details can be found on the Iowa HHS website.

## Is there a time limit to use SUN Bucks?

Yes, benefits are available for 122 days from the date they are issued. Unused benefits expire at midnight on the 122nd day.

## Can families opt out of SUN Bucks?

Yes, families who are automatically eligible for SUN Bucks benefits can opt out by contacting Iowa HHS at 1-877-347-5678.

## Where can families get more information on SUN Bucks?

Visit the Iowa HHS website at [hhs.iowa.gov/sunbucks](https://hhs.iowa.gov/sunbucks) or contact their team at 1-877-347-5678.

## Are there other programs that help provide food to children over the summer break?

In addition to SUN Bucks, Iowa children and teens 18 years old and under can also access free meals through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's 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.

Local meal sites can be found in communities across the state.  
To find the nearest meal site, use the following options:

## By Phone:

Call 2-1-1

Call 1-866-3-HUNGRY (1-866-348-6479), English

Call 1-877-8-HAMBRE (1-877-842-6273), Spanish

## By Text:

Text "summer meals" to 914-342-7744

## Online:

Visit [fns.usda.gov/summer/sitefinder](https://fns.usda.gov/summer/sitefinder)