



Q&A

SUN Bucks Eligibility	
Question	Answer
What are SUN Bucks?	SUN Bucks is a program available to families that provides access to purchase food during the summer when school-aged children are not in school. This is a one-time benefit of \$120.00 to those eligible children.
How do I know if my child is eligible?	There are many ways your child can be automatically eligible and considered Streamlined Eligible to get SUN Bucks with no application needed if: • Your school-aged child has been approved for free or reduced-priced meals by having filled out a school meals application in a school participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) or School Breakfast Program (SBP). • Your child's school reported your child as homeless, a migrant, or runaway. • Your child received SNAP, certain Medicaid's or TANF anytime during the school year. • In CYFD Foster Care If your child does not meet any of the criteria above, you can still be eligible by applying. To see if your child is eligible and to apply for SUN Bucks please visit YESNM.
What does school-aged mean for SUN Bucks EBT?	• School-aged means the years when a child is required to attend school, or an equivalent program as defined by State or Tribal law. • Children are eligible if they are between the ages of 5 through 18 starting July 1, 2025, through August 22, 2026, as long as they meet one of the eligibility requirements.
How will the SUN Bucks EBT benefit be issued?	SUN Bucks is a one-time \$120 benefit per eligible child. The benefit will be loaded onto a SUN Bucks EBT card, which is separate from your regular SNAP EBT card. • If your child received SUN Bucks in 2025, the \$120 will be added to the same SUN Bucks card. • If you no longer have this card, you may request a new one by calling 1-800-283-4465 or access the EBT Edge App. • If your child is new to SUN Bucks, you should receive a SUN Bucks EBT card in the mail around June 15th, 2026. If you have not received a card by June 30th, 2026 please contact NMHCA CCSC 1-800-283-4465 to request a status update and order a new card if needed. • If there is more than one eligible child in your household, all benefits will be loaded onto the SUN Bucks card for the oldest school-aged child.

<i>Which schools are participating in the National School Lunch Program?</i>	You can find a list of participating schools on the HCA website here. Please remember that you must attend an NSLP participating school to apply for SUN Bucks.
<i>Are there any other food programs for children this summer?</i>	Along with SUN Bucks, children under 18 in your home can receive free meals during the summer at a summer meal site. You can call 1-866-3-HUNGRY or 1-877-8-HAMBRE, or you can text 914-342-7744 with the keyword "SUMMER MEALS" to find the location closest to you. Please visit the following link to view the NM sites: https://summerfoodnm.org/

<i>Do I have to be a US Citizen to apply for SUN Bucks?</i>	No, Citizenship is not a factor of eligibility for SUN Bucks. Applying for or receiving SUN Bucks does NOT affect the immigration status of your child(ren) or family. It will NOT affect your ability to: • Remain in the United States, • Get a Green Card/Legal Permanent Resident Status, • Keep a Green Card/Legal Permanent Resident Status, or • Become a U.S. Citizen.
<i>What if my child is homeschooled? Will they qualify?</i>	Some homeschooled children will be eligible if they are receiving SNAP, TANF or Medicaid. Please use the YesNM Eligibility checker to determine your students SUN Bucks status.

Application Processing	
Question	Answer
<i>How do I apply for SUN Bucks?</i>	Many families will receive SUN Bucks automatically if they are receiving benefits from the Health Care Authority, such as Medicaid (only those on Medicaid categories 401, 403, MA-SSI, or DDW), SNAP, or TANF, or if the child was determined to be eligible by the child's school. Please use the YesNM Eligibility checker to determine your students SUN Bucks status. Other families may need to apply for the program. If you need to apply, you will be asked to provide information such as your child's name, school, date of birth, and home address in addition to your household income. You will not need to provide Social Security numbers or proof of citizenship. To apply, your child must meet the following criteria. • Must attend an NSLP/SBP participating school. Link for list of participating NSLP/SBP schools in NM. • No approved NSLP/SBP application on file with the school. • Have a household income that is less than 185% of Federal Poverty Level. (NSLP income guidelines) • Attend school in the state of NM.

<i>How can I submit an application?</i>	For school year 2025-2026, applications can be submitted any time January 1, 2026, through 8/22/2026 at: Online: https://yes.nm.gov/nmhr/s/summer-ebt-information?language=en_US Applications may be printed from the NMPED website at: https://yes.nm.gov/nmhr/s/summer-ebt-information?language=en_US • Mail: NMPED 300 Don Gaspar Ave, Santa Fe, NM 87501 Attn: Summer EBT / SSWB Please use the YesNM Eligibility checker to determine your students SUN Bucks status and if you need an application.
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Benefit Issuance

Question	Answer
<i>When will SUN Bucks be deposited onto my eligible child's card?</i>	SUN Bucks benefits will be issued in phases, and each student can receive only one payment. The first payment will be issued on June 15th, 2026, to students who are automatically eligible, including those who receive SNAP, TANF, or Medicaid, and those who are homeless, migrant, runaway, or in foster care. This first payment will also include families who applied and were approved before May 15th, 2026. Second Issuance: July 15, 2026 Final Issuance: September 15, 2026 Additional information can be found at this link: https://www.hca.nm.gov/lookingforassistance/sun-bucks/.
<i>I have my child with me. Someone else got the SUN Bucks EBT benefit. Why?</i>	If you receive benefits from the Health Care Authority, SUN Bucks are issued based on the information the HCA has on file for the child; if the child is active on SNAP, Cash or Medicaid, the Sun Bucks will be issued to that household. Many benefits issued by the HCA, including SNAP, are on a first-come first-served basis. If you do not receive benefits from HCA, the SUN Bucks EBT benefits are issued based on what your school district has on file for your child's address and parent/guardian.
<i>My mailing address is different from the one used to register my children for school. How do I update this to get the SUN Bucks card?</i>	To update your address or contact information: If you get benefits through the Health Care Authority: • Visit www.yes.nm.gov. Update your contact information via chat or your YesNM account. • Call 1-800-283-4465. • Visit a local HCA office. If you do not have benefits with the Health Care Authority: • If you applied separately through NMHCA YesNM portal, the card will be mailed to the address specified on your application. • Please call 1-800-283-4465 to update your address. To order a replacement SUN Bucks EBT card: • Please call EBT Customer Service at 1-800-843-8303, or • Request a replacement card using the EBT EDGE app. • Note: Please use the eldest child's information for the request.
<i>Can I look up the benefit status for my child?</i>	Yes, you can look up the benefit status for your child on the following YesNM page: https://yes.nm.gov/nmhr/s/summer-ebt-information?language=en_US
<i>When were notices sent out to eligible households?</i>	Notices were mailed out to eligible households on May 15th, 2026.

EBT Card Activation

Question	Answer
<i>I have never activated an EBT card. What steps do I take?</i>	When you get your SUN Bucks EBT card, please call FIS at 1-800-843-8303 to create a PIN. You must do this before the card can be used. The phone number is located on the back of your card. During the call, you will be asked for the following: • 16-digit EBT card number. • Eldest Child's Date of birth to be entered as MM/DD/YYYY. • Note: Spanish speakers enter DD/MM/YYYY. • Primary account holder's 5-digit mailing zip code. • Requested 4-digit PIN. • Confirmation of the 4-digit PIN Once this is done, the card will be activated. The PIN is set. Your card can be used right away.

Using EBT Cards

Question	Answer
<i>What if I have more than one child in my home? Will I get more than one SUN Bucks card?</i>	If you have more than one child, your household will only receive one SUN Bucks EBT card. The card will be mailed out under the name of the oldest child in the home at the time benefits are issued and will contain the benefits for each qualifying child.
<i>What do I do if I need a replacement SUN Bucks EBT card?</i>	If you lost your SUN Bucks EBT card, you can order a replacement card on the app. You can download the app from this website. http://www.ebtEDGEmobile.com. To ensure you have downloaded the correct app, please confirm that the app has the "egg" logo.  Once you've downloaded the app, you can order a replacement card by using the following steps. Please use eldest child's information for the request. • Select a card from the Welcome page to go to the Account Summary page for that card. • Select Replace Card on the Account Services section of the Account Summary page. • Select your reason for requesting a replacement card, then click the Continue button. • Confirm your identity and select the appropriate option for your displayed address. (Correct or incorrect.) • Click Continue to see the confirmation that a replacement card will be mailed. If you still require assistance, please call EBT Customer Service at 1-800-843-8303.

<i>Is there a charge to replace the Sun Bucks card?</i>	Yes. All replacement cards will be charged a fee of \$1.25, deducted from the card's available balance.
<i>If the eldest sibling has aged out or graduated during the school year, will a new SUN Bucks card be sent out for any remaining children in the household?</i>	Yes, a new SUN Bucks card will be sent under the name of the next eldest child in the home.
<i>What if my child is homeless?</i>	You can contact your school district's McKinney-Vento Coordinator. Your child's SUN Bucks card is sent to the coordinator, so you will need to contact the coordinator to get the card. You can find the coordinator's contact information on the New Mexico Public Education Department page at this link: Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program
<i>How can I check the balance of my child's SUN Bucks card?</i>	You can check online at http://www.ebtedge.com or download the mobile app from here. http://www.ebtEDGEmobile.com. To ensure you have downloaded the correct app, please confirm that the app has the "egg" logo.
	 If you still require assistance, please call EBT Customer Service at 1-800-843-8303. Please use eldest child's information for the request. You can find a helpful QR code below which links directly to the website.  ebtEDGEmobile.com ©2018 FIS FIS and the FIS logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of FIS or its subsidiaries in the U.S. and/or other countries. Other parties' marks are the property of their respective owners.
<i>What can I buy with SUN Bucks?</i>	You can use SUN Bucks to purchase: • fruits and vegetables, • meat, poultry, and fish, • dairy products, • breads and cereals, • snack foods and non-alcoholic drinks. You cannot use SUN Bucks to buy: • hot foods, • pet foods, • cleaning or household supplies, • personal hygiene items, • medicine.
<i>Where can I use SUN Bucks?</i>	You can use SUN Bucks the same way as SNAP benefits. This benefit is used to purchase SNAP eligible food. Many grocery stores, farmers' markets, convenience stores, and online retailers accept SUN Bucks To find stores near your location, you can download the app here: Shop Simple with MyPlate app. You can also enter your zip code on the SNAP retailer locator here. https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/retailer-locator.

<i>Do SUN Bucks work at Farmers markets participating in the “Double Up Food Bucks” program?</i>	Yes, SUN Bucks can be redeemed at local Farmers Markets, and it does work with the “Double Up Food Bucks” program. Please see the following site for more info: Double Up Food Bucks New Mexico
<i>If the SUN Bucks benefits are stolen, can they be replaced?</i>	If benefits are stolen or skimmed from the SUN Bucks card, they will not be replaced. We encourage parents to lock their SUN Bucks EBT card until they are ready to use the benefits. You can download the ebt EDGE mobile app here http://www.ebtEDGEmobile.com or log in to http://www.ebtedge.com as often as needed to freeze or unfreeze your SUN Bucks EBT card. The instructions for freezing and unfreezing your card are as follows: • To freeze a card, select a card from the Welcome page. ○ Select Freeze Card on the Account Services section of the Account Summary page ○ When you click on Freeze Card, you see a pop-up asking for confirmation. Click OK. • To unfreeze the card, click on the Unfreeze Card tile. ○ You will see a pop-up that says “When you unfreeze the card, you or anyone with your card and PIN will be able to complete any transaction. You can freeze your card at any time. ○ Select OK to unfreeze your card.” Click on OK.
<i>What is an example of an unauthorized purchase?</i>	SUN Bucks cannot be used for unauthorized purposes. Some examples of unauthorized purchases include: • Purchasing non-food items (e.g., clothing, electronics). • Buying hot prepared foods. • Transferring benefits to others who are not eligible. • Exchanging benefits for cash.
<i>Are there any penalties for unauthorized purchases?</i>	Misuse of SUN Bucks can result in penalties, which include: • Disqualification from the program. • Legal action. • Repayment of misused benefits. • Loss of future benefits. • Fines or other consequences as specified by law.

Benefit Expungement and Declining SUN Bucks

Question	Answer
<i>How long do I have to use my SUN Bucks?</i>	You must use your SUN Bucks within 122 days from when they were issued. If you do not use all the benefits, they will be removed from the child's card. After benefits are expunged, they cannot be reissued.
<i>How can I opt-out of my SUN Bucks?</i>	If you wish to opt-out of SUN Bucks, call 1-800-283-4465 to opt-out.

Denials and Fair Hearings	
Question	Answer
Why was my application for SUN Bucks denied?	Common reasons students could be denied include: • Child not meeting the age requirement. • NM residency requirements. • Household income exceeding the National School Lunch Program income guidelines (185% FPL); and • Child not attending a school participating in the National School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program.
What if I do not agree with the outcome of my SUN Bucks application?	Call 1-800-283-4465 to help resolve the questions you may have. You have until November 17, 2026, to ask for a Fair Hearing. You may reapply for SUN Bucks for the 2025-2026 school year any time through August 22, 2026.

Below are programs and resources available to support our customers:

Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)

- Who It Helps: Seniors 60+ in low-income households
- What it Provides: Monthly USDA food package (shelf-stable foods, dairy, protein, grains)
- How to Access: Customer calls the CSFP regional warehouse serving their county
- For more information on CSFP, click [here](#).

CSFP Organization & the Counties Served	
Economic Council Helping Others, Inc. (ECHO, Inc.) Phone: 505-242-6777	• Bernalillo, Catron, Cibola, Grant, Hidalgo, Mora, Rio Arriba (Española), Sandoval, Santa Fe, Taos, Valencia
Economic Council Helping Others, Inc. (ECHO, Inc.) Phone: 505-326-3770	• McKinley, Rio Arriba, San Juan, Sandoval (Cuba)
The Salvation Army Roswell Corps Phone: 575-625-2030	• Chaves, Eddy, Lea, Lincoln, Otero (Mescalero), San Miguel, Socorro, Torrance
Food Bank of Eastern New Mexico Phone: 575-763-6130	• Curry, De Baca, Guadalupe, Quay, Roosevelt
Loaves and Fishes, Inc. Phone: 575-523-1272	• Doña Ana, Luna, Otero (Alamogordo & Tularosa), Sierra

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

- Who It Helps: NM households with SNAP, free/reduced lunch, or self-declared low income
- What it Provides: USDA food through local food banks and pantries
- How to Access: Apply at food distribution site; contact regional food bank

- For more information about TEFAP, click [here](#).

TEFAP Organizations & the Counties Served	
ECHO Food Bank Phone: 505-326-3770	• San Juan
Roadrunner Food Bank Phone: 505-247-2052	• Bernalillo, Catron, Chaves, Doña Ana, Eddy, Grant, Hidalgo, Lea, Lincoln, Luna, Otero, Sandoval, Sierra, Socorro, Torrance, & Valencia
Community Pantry Phone: 505-726-8068	• Cibola & McKinley
The Food Depot Phone: 505-471-1633	• Colfax, Harding, Los Alamos, Mora, Rio Arriba, San Miguel, Santa Fe, Taos, & Union
Food Bank of Eastern NM Phone: 575-763-6130	• Curry, De Baca, Guadalupe, Quay, & Roosevelt

Other Helpful Tools (All Counties)

Tool	Use	Access
YES New Mexico Connect	Food, financial, medical, housing, transportation resources	Online – search by ZIP code For more information, click here .
Food Finder Map	Find nearby food pantries	Online – filter by day or distance For more information on the Food Finder Map, click here .

ISD is committed to continuing assistance by connecting individuals to other available resources and supports.