

# SUN Bucks (Summer EBT) Program Information for Households

## What is SUN Bucks (also known as Summer EBT)?

Summer EBT SUN Bucks is for qualifying children such as those who receive free or reduced meals, to provide extra food benefits during summer months when children do not have access to school meals.



## 2025 SUN Bucks Operational Period

May 22, 2025 – August 31, 2025

## 2025 total amount issued per eligible child

\$120

## Eligibility

Eligibility for SUN Bucks is established from July 1 of the previous year through the last day of the operational period for:

- A. Children ages 7-15 who are categorically eligible through SNAP, TANF, in foster care, a runaway, a migrant, homeless, enrolled in FDPIR, or income-eligible from a Medicaid program
- B. Children enrolled in a National School Lunch or School Breakfast Program- participating school, and:
  - a. categorically eligible, or
  - b. meet the requirements to receive free or reduced-price meals as determined by a Free and Reduced /SUN Bucks Application or are otherwise determined eligible to receive free or reduced-price school meals (for example, are income-eligible for a Medicaid program direct certification)
- C. Children enrolled in a special provision school, and:
  - a. Categorically eligible, or
  - b. Otherwise meet the requirements to receive free or reduced-price meals as determined by a Free and Reduced/SUN Bucks Application (for example, are income-eligible for a Medicaid program direct certification).

## How to opt out of SUN Bucks

SUN Bucks cards and food benefits cannot be transferred to anyone else. If you do not want to participate, you may opt out by cutting through the magnetic stripe on the card and disposing of the card in a secure manner.

## How long are the SUN Bucks benefits available?

SUN BUCKS benefits are available to use within 121 days after benefits are issued to you. Any unspent Summer EBT SUN BUCKS benefits will be removed from your account 122 days after being issued. 7 CFR 292.15(h)(1)(i)

## When to contact Montana's SUN Bucks program

- For general questions about participation
- To opt out of SUN Bucks benefits
- To update your address
- To check on your benefit available date or end date

Please leave a message:

**Email:** SUNBucks@mt.gov or **Phone:** (406) 444-0044

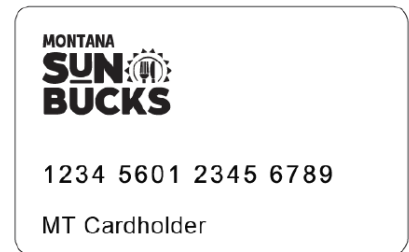
Representatives are available Monday-Friday from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM except for State holidays. If your call is sent to voicemail, please leave a message and your call will be returned in the order it is received.

Visit Montana's SUN Bucks website for important announcements or more information:

<https://opi.mt.gov/Leadership/Management-Operations/School-Nutrition/SUN-Bucks>

### How do I activate the card?

1. Call 1-833-433-8263. You will need the SUN Bucks/Summer EBT card number on the front of the card.
2. You will then need to follow the instructions on the insert included with your card.



### When to call Customer Service for your SUN Bucks EBT Card

1-833-433-8263 (Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

- To activate your card and select a PIN
- To check your balance and transactions
- To report your card lost, stolen or damaged
- To request a replacement card
- To change your PIN
- To ask questions or report problems with your card

### Where can I use the card?

Use your SUN Bucks card at locations that display the SNAP logo and supported remarks such as "EBT Accepted Here." Online retailers currently do not accept SUN Bucks.



### How do I take care of my card?

- NEVER tell your PIN to anyone.
- Do NOT write your PIN on your card or keep your PIN in your wallet or purse.
- Do not bend your card, keep near magnets, etc.
- To avoid theft of your benefits, change your PIN often.

### Foods you may purchase with SUN Bucks

- Fruits and vegetables
- Meat, poultry, and fish
- Dairy products
- Bread and cereals
- Other foods such as snack foods and non-alcoholic beverages; and
- Seeds and plants that produce food for the household to eat

### Foods you may not purchase with SUN Bucks

- Beer, wine, liquor, cigarettes, or tobacco
- Vitamins, medicines, and supplements. If an item has a Supplement Facts label, it is considered a supplement and is not eligible for SUN Bucks
- Live animals (except shellfish, fish removed from water, and animals slaughtered prior to pick-up from the store)
- Foods that are hot at the point of sale, including hot food from the deli counter at the grocery store
- Any nonfood items such as: pet foods; cleaning supplies, paper products, and other household supplies

### What if I receive more SUN Bucks benefits than I should?

If you receive more than the appropriate amount per eligible child, or receive a benefit card in error, do not spend the additional benefits. If you are issued benefits for the same child from multiple States or Indian Tribal Organizations, you must only use the benefits from the State or Indian Tribal Organization where the child had completed the school year just prior to receiving benefits. Under no circumstances may households use both benefits. Legal basis for this action: 7 CFR 292.12(f)(4)

## Penalties for Misuse

Intentional program violations include intentionally: 1) Making a false or misleading statement, or 2) misrepresenting, concealing or withholding facts; or committing any act that constitutes a violation of SUN Bucks (Summer EBT) regulations, or any State statute for the purpose of using, presenting, transferring, acquiring, receiving, possessing or trafficking of SUN Bucks benefits or EBT cards.

The penalties for intentional SUN Bucks program violations are applicable to individuals 18 years of age or over who: allegedly committed an intentional SUN Bucks program violation; or allegedly ordered, coerced, persuaded, encouraged, or otherwise induced a person under the age of 18 to commit an intentional SUN Bucks EBT Program violation.

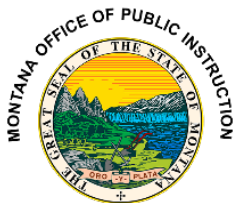
### Penalties

- A. A person found by a Federal, State, or local court to have used or received benefits in a transaction involving the sale of a controlled substance (21 U.S. C. 802) will be ineligible to participate in SUN Bucks:
  - a) For a period of 24 months upon the first violation.
  - b) Permanently upon the second violation.
- B. A person found to have committed an intentional program violation through an administrative disqualification hearing or by Federal, State, or local court, or who has signed a waiver of right to a hearing or a disqualification consent agreement in cases of prosecution, is ineligible to participate in SUN Bucks:
  - a) For a period of 12 months for the first intentional program violation.
  - b) For a period of 24 months upon the second violation.
  - c) Permanently upon the third violation.
- C. Except for section B above, a person found to have made a fraudulent statement or representation with respect to the identity or place of residence of the individual in order to receive multiple SNAP benefits at the same time shall be ineligible to participate in SUN Bucks for a period of 10 years.
- D. Individuals found by a Federal, State, or local court to have used or received benefits in a transaction involving the sale of firearms, ammunition, or explosives shall be permanently ineligible to participate in SUN Bucks upon the first violation.
- E. A person convicted by a Federal, State or local court of having trafficked benefits for a total amount of \$500 or more shall be permanently ineligible to participate in SUN Bucks after the first violation.
- F. The household is responsible for paying back the State for an overpayment

Authority for this action is 7 CFR 273.16(b)

### Disclosures

- A. The State of Montana may adjust benefits incorrectly posted to household accounts.
- B. Per 7CFR 292.15(g)(3) A household may appeal, within 90 days of the end of the summer operational period:
  - 1. A decision made with respect to 1) An application the household has made for SUN Bucks benefits; 2) A streamlined certification for SUN Bucks benefits; or 3) A verification process or procedure.
  - 2. Any adverse action taken against the household by the SUN Bucks program.
  - 3. For 2025 SUN Bucks benefits, the deadline to appeal is November 29, 2025.
- C. Households have a right to notice in the following situations:
  - a. Notice of benefit approval per 7 CFR 292.12(f),
  - b. Notice of benefit denial per 7 CFR 292.12(g),
  - c. Notice to consent of outside household contact for verification per 7 CFR 292.14(f)(3)(ii),
  - d. Notice of benefit eligibility changes at 7 CFR 292.14(f)(8)(iii)(A),
  - e. Notice of expungement at 7 CFR 292.15(h)(1)(ii), and
  - f. Notice of fair hearings at 7 CFR 292.26(b)(4)
- D. To dispute an adjustment or request a fair hearing, call (406) 444-4399 or write to Hearing Official, PO Box 202501, Helena, MT 59620-2501



### Non-Discrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, religious creed, disability, age, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the agency (state or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to: **mail:** Food and Nutrition Service, USDA, 1320 Braddock Place, Room 334, Alexandria, VA 22314; or **fax:** (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; 3. or **email:** [FNSCIVILRIGHTSCOMPLAINTS@usda.gov](mailto:FNSCIVILRIGHTSCOMPLAINTS@usda.gov).