

Public Notice

The Montana Office of Public Instruction and Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services are requesting that the USDA approve the state requested waivers to administer the Summer EBT as planned. FNS has authority to waive regulatory provisions for Summer EBT when certain conditions are met consistent with Section 12(l) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, 42 U.S.C. 1760(l).

7 CFR 292.12(f)(1) *Income applications.* The Summer EBT agency must notify (or place notification in the mail) eligible households of a child's approved status within 15 operational days of receipt of a complete application.

7 CFR 292.15(c)(1)(i)(A) *Benefit issuance.* For children who can be streamline certified or who have an approved Summer EBT application on file, benefits must be issued and available for participants to use 7-14 calendar days before the start of the summer operational period.

7 CFR 292.15(c)(1)(i)(B) *Benefit issuance.* For eligible children who apply after the summer operational period begins, benefits must be issued and available to spend not later than 15 operational days after a complete application is received by the Summer EBT agency.

Montana's current EBT vendor was unable to provide a solution to provide benefits for Summer EBT for 2024 or 2025. Montana was able to find a new vendor to provide a solution. This vendor will need to build Montana as a new state and will not be able to issue benefits until October 2024. Montana will not need these waivers after Summer 2024. Montana expects to have a new EBT vendor for all EBT services for Summer 2026 and ongoing.

Montana selected a new vendor for Summer EBT that is able to process transactions for the State with the waiver approvals. If these waivers are not approved, Montana will not be able to participate in Summer EBT for 2024. Additionally, Montana will not be able to justify the expense of bringing on a new vendor for a single year and will not be able to participate in Summer 2025.

Montana expects the waivers to cover all of Summer 2024.

- [Waiver Request Form](#)