



Quarterly Newsletter | May 2025

SUN BUCKS IS BACK FOR SUMMER 2025 IN CALIFORNIA!

California is excited to continue the SUN Bucks program for Summer 2025. Families will receive \$120 for each eligible child to help buy groceries when school is out. Like in 2024, most eligible children will get these benefits automatically, but some may need to apply. Kids age 18 years or younger can get free meals at summer meal sites too.

How SUN Bucks Works

SUN Bucks come on an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card. Use it just like CalFresh to buy groceries at authorized retailers, like grocery stores and farmers' markets. You can buy healthy foods like fruits, vegetables, meats, eggs, whole grains, and dairy.



Benefits of SUN Bucks

- Helps more kids get access to healthy foods.
- Families get the flexibility to select a variety of foods.
- Improves food security for participating children.



Eligibility & Enrollment

Many eligible children will get SUN Bucks automatically if:

- Their family already participates in CalFresh, CalWORKs, and/or Medi-Cal (certified at or below 185% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), or
- The child attends a school that offers the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) or School Breakfast Program (SBP) and meets the SUN Bucks income requirements based on an approved school meal application or Universal Benefits Application.

Families with kids who do not get SUN Bucks automatically will need to inquire with their school(s) about how to apply for SUN Bucks. Applications must be submitted by September 2, 2025.

The SUN Bucks program in California is made possible with funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) and is brought to you by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) in partnership with the California Department of Education (CDE).

www.cdss.ca.gov/sunbucks | www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu/sf | SUNBucks@dss.ca.gov

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender. May 2025.

For more information, visit: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/summer>.



SUN Bucks Card Mailing Schedule for 2025

Due to the large volume of automatically eligible children, SUN Bucks EBT cards will be mailed in two stages.

Stage 1: (June 2025 – July 2025).

Kids who are automatically enrolled in SUN Bucks will receive their cards in Stage 1.

Stage 2: (August 2025 Until Card Mailings Are Complete).

Newly eligible kids will receive a SUN Bucks card in Stage 2 if they:

- Meet income requirements certified through a school meal application or Universal Benefits Application that is submitted to their school by September 2, 2025, or
- Get CalFresh, CalWORKs, and/or Medi-Cal (certified at or below 185% FPL) anytime between July 1, 2024 through September 2, 2025.



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- **Use your SUN Bucks before they expire.** SUN Bucks benefits expire 122 days after they are added to your EBT card and cannot be put back on the card. Use your SUN Bucks first, if your family also gets CalFresh.
- **Participation in SUN Bucks does not affect a family's immigration status.** For more information from our federal partners on the Summer EBT Program, visit www.fns.usda.gov/summer/sunbucks.
- **You may be eligible for replacement benefits** if you have lost food that was purchased with SUN Bucks due to a household misfortune or disaster. For more information, visit www.cdss.ca.gov/SUNBucks.
- **Spread the word in your communities and encourage families:**
 - **With eligible children**, to make sure their contact information is up-to-date with their local county social services office, BenefitsCal account, or child's school.
 - **To apply for SUN Bucks**, by submitting an application to their child's school by September 2, 2025, to see if their child qualifies in 2025.



Want to Learn More?

- Visit www.cdss.ca.gov/SUNBucks.
- Check out the [CDSS YouTube SUN Bucks Playlist](#).
- Scan the quick response (QR) code.

