



SUN Bucks NC 2025: Information for Child Welfare Staff

Webinar – April 2025



NC DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES

North Carolina Department of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION



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HUMAN SERVICES**



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AGENDA

1. **Food Insecurity in NC**
2. **SUN Bucks Overview**
3. **ALL 3 SUN Summer Nutrition Programs**
4. **Eligibility**
5. **Issuance**
6. **How You Can Help**



Food Insecurity Is a Critical Challenge In North Carolina



12.8%

of North Carolina residents live below the poverty line³



1 in 5

children in North Carolina face food insecurity or chronic hunger¹



>70%

of children in North Carolina are eligible for free or reduced-price meals at school²



¹ *Feeding America Map the Meal Gap*

² *North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, not exact due to impact of Hurricane Helene*

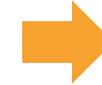
³ *Poverty Rate in NC (Statista), 2023*

Food Insecurity is a Critical Challenge in North Carolina



Food Insecurity During Summer

Causes



Impacts on Children

- Many students **lose access to school meals** during the summer months
 - Many families **lack access to transportation** to summer meal sites
 - Many families **lack access to affordable supermarkets** and grocery stores
- **Children experience stress** in not knowing where their next meal will come from
 - Kids and teens **miss out on key nutrients** needed for growth and development
 - Students return to school less ready to learn and **perform worse in school**⁴.

SUN Summer Nutrition Programs For Kids



Three ways to combat summer hunger in North Carolina

North Carolina



SUN Meals

Youth enjoy meals and activities onsite together at schools and community sites



SUN Meals To-Go

Meals for youth are available for pick up or delivery in some rural areas



SUN Bucks

Grocery-buying benefits are provided on debit-like cards per eligible child

Learn more and find a nearby summer meal site at SummerMeals4NCKids.org.

Learn more at ncdhhs.gov/sunbucks



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Introduction To Sun Bucks

SUN Bucks is back for the summer of 2025!

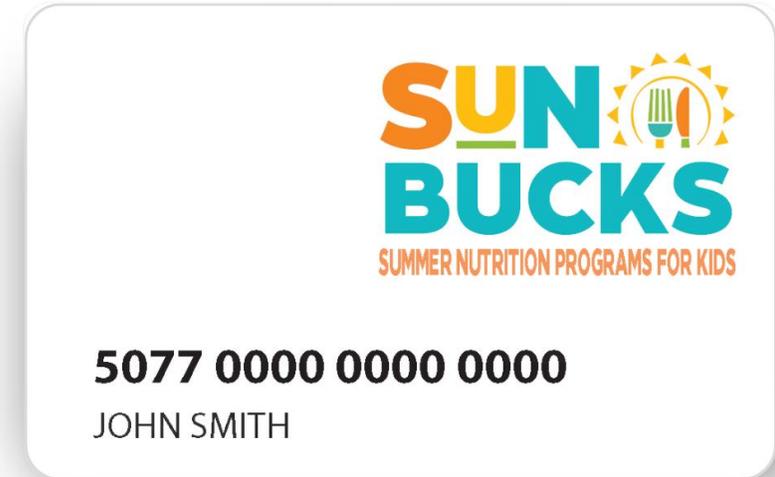
- US Department of Agriculture (USDA) program
- Grocery-buying benefits to purchase nutritious food during summer while schools are out
- **One-time payment of \$120 per eligible child**
- Benefits come on a SUN Bucks card
- Benefit amounts can vary year to year

Who will be eligible for SUN Bucks?

Students who participate in certain federal assistance programs will be automatically eligible to receive benefits, while other students may need to apply for SUN Bucks.

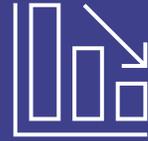
For more eligibility details:

- Visit ncdhhs.gov/sunbucks
- View Eligibility Flyer on ncdhhs.gov/sunbucksResources



Evidence-based Program, Supported By A Successful 3-year Pilot

Over a three-year period, USDA implemented a **successful** pilot program to provide electronic benefits in specific states and Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs) to test its effectiveness. An evaluation assessment¹ of the pilot found:



33% decrease in “very low” food insecurity in children



89% of participants redeemed their issued benefits



Increase in households’ food expenditures



Improved dietary quality for most of the nutrition outcomes surveyed



Increased whole grain, dairy, vegetable and fruit consumption

Decreased sugar-sweetened beverage consumption



SUN Bucks NC - 2024 Program Impact

1.1 million*

NC children received benefits to increase access to nutritious food choices during the summer months.

\$130 million*

in grocery-buying benefits issued in NC for the 2024 summer months, providing critical nourishment to children.

\$200 million*

boost given to NC's economy.

96.5%

of SUN Bucks benefits were spent by families in 2024.



Statewide And County Profiles For All NC Sun Programs

- Profiles provide a statewide and county-by-county snapshot of all SUN Summer Nutrition Programs for Kids
- Profiles are a powerful advocacy tool for promoting awareness and support
- Visit SummerMeals4NCKids.org/County-Profiles to see NC statewide and county profiles for the summer of 2024



North Carolina

Children receiving free and reduced-price (FRP) school meals are at greater risk of hunger during the summer.

2024 Summer Nutrition Programs ROBESON COUNTY

NEED	
24,620	or 99%
of students in the county's K-12 public schools were eligible for FRP school meals	



FUELING CHILDREN & THE ECONOMY

\$3.4M in funding to the county from all SUN Summer Nutrition Programs

	20,031 Children received benefits		62.4K Meals served
	\$2.4M Funding distributed in county <small>(\$120 per eligible child for the 2024 summer)</small>		\$240.8K NC Summer Meals Funding
			210.4K Meals served
		\$794.3K NC Summer Meals Funding	

School Search Tool

A child's eligibility for SUN Bucks is partially impacted by the type of school they attend: National School Lunch Program (NSLP), Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), or neither.

What are NSLP and CEP?

NSLP is a federally assisted meal program operating in public and nonprofit private schools and residential childcare institutions. Families can apply to see if their children qualify for free or reduced-price meals.

CEP allows schools in low-income areas to serve meals at no cost to all enrolled students without collecting household applications.

How can I determine if a school is NSLP, CEP, or neither?

Visit ncdhhs.gov/sunbucks-schoolsearch to use the SUN Bucks 2025 School Search. You can use the search bar to determine if a school is NSLP, CEP, or neither by searching the school name, county, or zip code.

An official website of the State of North Carolina [How you know](#) Select Language

 **NCDHHS** Search Menu

[Home](#) > [Divisions](#) > [Child and Family Well-Being](#) > [Food and Nutrition Services \(Food Stamps\)](#) > [SUN Bucks Homepage](#) > [SUN Bucks 2025 School Search](#)

SUN Bucks 2025 School Search

The searchable list below includes the schools in North Carolina. It shows if each school participates in the National School Lunch Program ("NSLP"), is a Community Eligibility Provision ("CEP") school, or is neither (school listed as "not eligible"). **You can use the search bar to find your child's school by searching the school name, county, or zip code.**

If your school shows as NSLP or CEP, you can [apply for SUN Bucks](#).

Note: This list will be updated throughout the school year.

100 entries per page Search:

County Description	School Name	Zip Code	Status
Alamance	A.B. Middle College	27253	NSLP

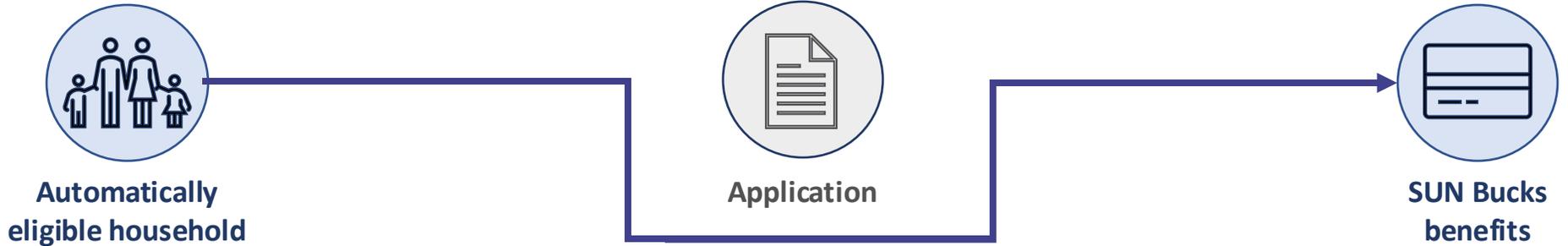
SUN Bucks Automatic Eligibility

Over 1m

North Carolina students are **automatically eligible** in 2025

Students may be **automatically eligible** for SUN Bucks if they participate in at least one of the following programs and do **NOT** need to apply:

1. National School Lunch Program (NSLP) free or reduced-price (FRP) school meals
2. Food and Nutrition Services (FNS, food stamps)
3. Work First (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), cash assistance)
4. Medicaid with household income below 185% of the federal poverty level
5. Foster care
6. McKinney Vento (unhoused/migrant/runaway)



How will families know if one or more of their children is automatically eligible?

Households with one or more children who are automatically eligible should receive an official Eligibility Notice via robocall, text, and email. More details are available on the [SUN Bucks webpage](https://ncdhhs.gov/sunbucks) (ncdhhs.gov/sunbucks).

Who Should Complete A SUN Bucks Application?

Find the chart below at ncdhhs.gov/SUNBucksResources (see Flyer: SUN Bucks Eligibility)

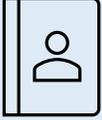
First, which type of school does the student attend?	Then, which scenario applies to the student?	Automatically qualify?	Apply?
National School Lunch Program (NSLP)	SCENARIO A: Participates in at least one of the following programs: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NSLP free or reduced-price (FRP) school meals 2. Food and Nutrition Services (FNS, food stamps) 3. Work First (TANF, cash assistance) 4. Medicaid with household income below 185% of federal poverty level 5. Foster care 6. McKinney Vento (unhoused/migrant/runaway) 	YES	NO
	SCENARIO B: Does not participate in any of the programs listed in Scenario A. Household must meet the income guidelines for SUN Bucks.	NO	YES
<u>Non</u> -NSLP	Scenario C: Student is between ages 7 and 16 AND participates in at least one of the programs listed in Scenario A or CTFDP (Cherokee Tribal Food Distribution Program).	YES	NO
	Scenario D: Does not participate in any of the programs listed in Scenario A.	NO	NO
Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)	Scenario E: Participates in at least one of the programs listed in Scenario A.	YES	NO
	Scenario F: Does not participate in any of the programs listed in Scenario A. Household must meet the income guidelines for SUN Bucks.	NO	YES

Issuance for 2025 SUN Bucks Cards

- Only a **one-time payment of \$120 per eligible child** will be issued for the 2025 summer.
- **One SUN Bucks card** will be issued **per family**.
- SUN Bucks cards will be **mailed** on a rolling basis from **early May to mid-June 2025**. As additional children are found eligible, a one-time \$120 payment of benefits will be issued to families until the end of September.
- Starting in **late May, benefits will be made available** on a new SUN Bucks card.
 - ▶ Some households may receive their SUN Bucks card before benefits are available to spend.
 - ▶ Please encourage families to be patient if they do not see their benefits right away.
- SUN Bucks cards will be mailed with information on **how to activate and spend these benefits**.



SUN Bucks NC - 2025 Key Dates



April 21

2025 SUN Bucks eligibility notices begin being sent



MAY 22

2025 SUN Bucks benefits begin being issued



AUGUST 31

Last day to apply for 2025 SUN Bucks benefits

How can families access the SUN Bucks application?

- Families who can apply will **receive an invitation to apply by email, robocall, or text** with instructions. Families can also visit the [SUN Bucks webpage](https://ncdhhs.gov/sunbucks) (ncdhhs.gov/sunbucks) to learn more and apply.
- The online application is the easiest and fastest way to apply; paper applications can also be requested.

When will children who are eligible receive their SUN Bucks benefits?

- SUN Bucks benefits will start to go out mid to late May and will continue through the summer as more children are determined eligible.
- More details are available on the [SUN Bucks webpage](https://ncdhhs.gov/sunbucks) at ncdhhs.gov/sunbucks.
- Monitor NCDHHS social media accounts for SUN Bucks announcements. These accounts are on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [X](#) (previously Twitter).

SUN Bucks for Students in Foster Care: 4 Things to Know

1

New SUN Bucks cards will be mailed for all students identified as children in foster care to the local county DSS offices with custody of those children in foster care.

2

SUN Bucks cards will be **issued in the student's name**; multiple children will **not** be grouped together on a card.

3

Foster care social workers are responsible for delivering the following to children in foster care who get SUN Bucks:

1. Eligibility Notice with their new SUN Bucks card
2. Benefit Expiration Notice

4

The **student's foster care social worker** will provide the card and/or assist with transfer of the card to the student's current caretaker, whether that is a family foster home, congregate care setting, or return to biological family.

IMPORTANT: It is imperative that the child's foster care social worker facilitates the transfer of the SUN Bucks card with the child if they change caregivers.

SUN Bucks for Students in Foster Care: Eligibility Notice

The 2025 SUN Bucks Eligibility Notice should be delivered either electronically or in print to the current caretaker of a student in foster care with their preloaded SUN Bucks card.

What is the Eligibility Notice?

As required by USDA, the SUN Bucks Eligibility Notice must be delivered (either electronically or printed) to all students who automatically qualify for SUN Bucks and do not need to apply. The Notice includes important information about how to activate a SUN Bucks card, what can be bought with these benefits, and where to go for more information.

Where may I find the Eligibility Notice?

The Eligibility Notice will be shared electronically with DSS offices. Please deliver to the current caretaker of a student in foster care **with their preloaded SUN Bucks card** accordingly. Foster care social workers may either print and deliver the notice in-person or share it electronically.



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Streamlined Eligibility Notice

To: Parent/Guardian

Subject: Important: SUN Bucks-Your Child Was Automatically Enrolled in the 2025 SUN Bucks Food Benefit!

Dear Parent/Guardian,

You are receiving this message from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Public Instruction because **one or more of the children in your household has automatically qualified for the new 2025 federal food assistance program called SUN Bucks.** This program will help families buy groceries during the summer when school is out. The qualifying child or children will automatically be enrolled in the program, so **you do not need to apply.** Please note that each child is evaluated for eligibility individually, and not all children in your household may be automatically found eligible. Visit ncdhhs.gov/sunbucks for information on what qualifies a child for SUN Bucks benefits.

You will receive a one-time payment of \$120 in grocery-buying benefits per eligible child on a debit-like card that you can use to buy nutritious food at grocery stores, farmers markets, and other EBT-authorized retailers. If you receive more than a one-time payment of \$120 per eligible child in your household, please do not use the benefits, and contact the North Carolina EBT Call Center at **1-866-719-0141, select your language, and SELECT OPTION 2** to speak with a SUN Bucks representative as soon as possible.

2025 SUN Bucks benefits will be placed on a SUN Bucks benefits card and will be mailed to families starting in mid-May at the address on file with your school or caseworker. If you need to **update your address, you must do so before May 6, 2025,** by calling the North Carolina EBT Call Center at **1-866-719-0141, choose your language, and SELECT OPTION 2** to speak with a SUN Bucks representative and they will perform the address updates. After the initial mailing, cards will be distributed as additional children are found eligible for SUN Bucks. Benefits expire 122 days after issuance, so make sure to use your benefits during the summer.

Foster Care Scenario - Example #1



Student Name: Ray	
Age	8 years old
Type of school enrolled in	NSLP
FNS (Yes/No)	Yes
Medicaid (Yes/No)	No
Work First (Yes/No)	No
Foster Care (Yes/No)	Yes
If foster care, county with custody	Mecklenburg
Current county of residence	Mecklenburg

Is Ray eligible for SUN Bucks this summer?

YES! Ray is automatically eligible for SUN Bucks because he is enrolled in an NSLP school and in foster care, which is one of the programs that makes a child automatically eligible. Ray does **not** need to apply for SUN Bucks in 2025.

How will Ray receive his SUN Bucks benefits?

The SUN Bucks card for Ray will be mailed to the **Mecklenburg County DSS Office**. Once delivered, the foster care social worker managing Ray’s foster care case will deliver his SUN Bucks card – along with the Eligibility Notice – to Ray’s current caretaker. If Ray changes caregivers, the social worker must make sure the SUN Bucks card follows Ray to his new placement. Note, even though Ray participates in FNS, his benefits will be loaded onto a **new** SUN Bucks card.

Foster Care Scenario - Example #2



Student Name: Rayette	
Age	15 years old
Type of school enrolled in	CEP
FNS (Yes/No)	No
Medicaid (Yes/No)	Yes
Work First (Yes/No)	Yes
Foster Care (Yes/No)	Yes
If foster care, county with custody	Wake
Current county of residence	Catawba

Is Rayette eligible for SUN Bucks this summer?

YES! Rayette is automatically eligible for SUN Bucks because she is enrolled in a CEP school and in foster care, which is one of the programs that makes a child automatically eligible. Rayette does **not** need to apply for SUN Bucks in 2025.

How will Rayette receive her SUN Bucks benefits?

The SUN Bucks card for Rayette will be mailed to the **Wake County DSS Office**. Once delivered, the foster care social worker managing Rayette's foster care case should work with **Catawba County** to deliver her SUN Bucks card – along with the Eligibility Notice – to Rayette's current caretaker. If Rayette changes caregivers, the social worker must make sure the SUN Bucks card follows Rayette to her new placement.

Foster Care Scenario - Example #3



Student Names: Rainbow and Ryan (Twins)

Age	11 years old
Type of school enrolled in	Non-NSLP
FNS (Yes/No)	No
Medicaid (Yes/No)	Yes
Work First (Yes/No)	No
Foster Care (Yes/No)	Yes
If foster care, county with custody	Alamance
Current county of residence	Alamance

Are Rainbow and Ryan eligible for SUN Bucks this summer?

YES! Both Rainbow and Ryan are automatically eligible for SUN Bucks. While not enrolled in a NSLP or CEP school, they're between the ages of 7-16 years and in foster care, which is one of the programs that makes a child automatically eligible. They do **not** need to apply.

How will Rainbow and Ryan receive their SUN Bucks benefits?

Two, separate SUN Bucks cards – one for Rainbow and one for Ryan – will be mailed to the **Alamance County DSS Office**. Once delivered, the foster care social worker(s) managing Rainbow and Ryan's foster care cases will deliver the SUN Bucks cards – along with the Eligibility Notices – to the current caretaker(s) for Rainbow and Ray. If either child changes caregivers, the social worker must make sure the SUN Bucks card follows that child to their new placement.

SUN Bucks for Students in Foster Care: Expiration Notice

The 2025 SUN Bucks Expiration Notice should be delivered to the current caretaker of a student in foster care no less than 30-days ahead of their benefits expiration date.

What is the Expiration Notice?

As required by USDA, the SUN Bucks Expiration Notice must be delivered (either electronically or via print) to all students who received SUN Bucks **no less than 30 days ahead of their benefits expiring.** The Notice includes important information about managing a SUN Bucks account and where to go for more information.

How do I know when to deliver the Expiration Notice?

Counties will receive lists of students in foster care who have received SUN Bucks and their expiration dates. Based on this report, it is the responsibility of the county and foster care social worker to deliver the Expiration Notice to the current caretaker of a student in foster care at least 30-days before the student's benefits expire. **The Expiration Notice will be shared with DSS offices electronically.**

SUN Bucks benefits expire **122 days** after the benefits are available, not the date that the card was activated.

How You Can Help

Make sure you understand the basics of SUN Bucks

2025 SUN Bucks Overview

SUN Bucks, sometimes called Summer EBT or S-EBT, is an income-based food assistance program that helps qualifying families buy groceries for their children during the summer using a debit-like EBT card. Most children will automatically qualify and will not need to apply because of their participation in other qualifying programs, but some children will need to apply. Each student who is approved will receive a **one-time payment** for the summer period. Eligibility will be determined every two weeks from May through September and cards mailed as additional children qualify. Benefit amounts will be disclosed at the beginning of each calendar year on the SUN Bucks website ncdhhs.gov/sunbucks. Benefits per eligible child for the 2025 summer will be \$120. Benefits are meant to be used during the summer and will expire 122 days after they are issued. Families also are encouraged to have their children ages 18 and younger participate in the other federal summer nutrition programs available at no cost to them; information at SummerMeals4NCKids.org.

Who Will Get SUN Bucks Benefits?		
NSLP School Eligibility	Non-NSLP School Eligibility	CEP Eligibility
<p>Students enrolled in NSLP schools are automatically eligible if they participate in one of the following programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> NSLP free or reduced-price (FRP) school meals <input type="checkbox"/> FNS (formerly food stamps) <input type="checkbox"/> Work First (TANF, cash assistance) <input type="checkbox"/> Medicaid (with household income <185% of FPL) <input type="checkbox"/> McKinney Vento (unhoused, runaway) <input type="checkbox"/> Foster care 	<p>Students NOT enrolled in NSLP schools are automatically eligible if they are between the ages of 7-16 and participate in one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> FNS (formerly food stamps) <input type="checkbox"/> Work First (TANF, cash assistance) <input type="checkbox"/> Medicaid (with household income <185% of FPL) <input type="checkbox"/> McKinney Vento (unhoused, runaway) <input type="checkbox"/> Foster care <input type="checkbox"/> CTFDP (Cherokee Tribal Food Distribution Program) 	<p>Students enrolled in CEP schools where meals are free for all students are automatically eligible if they participate in one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> FNS (formerly food stamps) <input type="checkbox"/> Work First (TANF, cash assistance) <input type="checkbox"/> Medicaid (with household income <185% of FPL) <input type="checkbox"/> McKinney Vento (unhoused, runaway) <input type="checkbox"/> Foster care

All other students that attend an NSLP or CEP school may apply for SUN Bucks by completing an income-based application. Use the School Search Tool on the SUN Bucks webpage at www.ncdhhs.gov/sunbucks to see if a school is NSLP or CEP.

Families can check to see if they automatically qualify for SUN Bucks by using the Interactive Chat Bot to take an eligibility quiz. To access the quiz, visit the SUN Bucks webpage and click on the blue circle at the bottom right corner of the screen.

When and Where will SUN Bucks Benefits be Issued?

Once eligibility is determined, benefits will be distributed on SUN Bucks cards on the next scheduled issuance date.

- For students participating in NSLP free or reduced-price (FRP) school meals, cards will be sent to the mailing address on file with the child's school.
- Households with an **active** FNS or WorkFirst case will be sent a SUN Bucks card to the address on file in their case.
- If a child is currently in foster care, their card will be sent to the DSS office handling their case.

Acronyms Key

CEP: Community Eligibility Provision EBT: Electronic Benefit Transfer NSLP: National School Lunch Program Needy Families
 DSS: Division of Social Services FNS: Food and Nutrition Services TANF: Temporary Assistance for SNAP: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
 FPL: Federal Poverty Level FRP: Free or Reduced Price

www.ncdhhs.gov/sunbucks • NC DHHS and NC DPI are equal opportunity employers and providers • 1/2025



JOB AID

Use Our Resources and Stay up to Date

Ensure you know the latest about SUN Bucks:

1. Visit ncdhhs.gov/SUNBucksResources to view the [County Staff Job Aid](#) and [DSS Customer Service Script](#) to understand eligibility and issuances.
2. Follow NCDHHS on social media for updates about SUN Bucks ([@NCDHHS](#))
3. Check back on our website ncdhhs.gov/sunbucks for the most up to date information



How You Can Help Inform Families about SUN Bucks and Eligibility

SUN Bucks Overview Flyer

More summer smiles with North Carolina SUN Bucks

SUN Bucks is a US Department of Agriculture (USDA) program that provides grocery-buying benefits to qualifying families with school-aged children during the summer months when schools are out. Families receive a **one-time payment of \$120 in food assistance benefits per eligible child**. Benefits will be issued on debit-like EBT cards that can be used to buy nutritious food at grocery stores, farmers markets, and some online retailers. Benefit amounts may vary year to year.



- ▶ **Who is eligible for SUN Bucks?** Many children will be automatically enrolled for SUN Bucks based on their participation in other qualifying benefit programs. Other children **will need to apply**. Visit the NCDHHS SUN Bucks website, ncdhhs.gov/sunbucks to learn about eligibility and to apply.
- ▶ **Stay updated on SUN Bucks!** Visit ncdhhs.gov/sunbucks for more information and answers to frequently asked questions. Search "NCDHHS" on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [X](#) and follow the account to stay in the loop for important program updates and announcements.



Other ways to fuel youth during the summer: In addition to receiving SUN Bucks, families also are encouraged to have their children, ages 18 and younger, participate in other federal Summer Nutrition Programs available at no cost to them.



Through SUN Meals, kids and teens can eat meals and snacks and engage in fun, fitness and educational activities during the summer at schools, parks, and other neighborhood locations.



In rural areas where it may be difficult to access and participate in SUN Meals, SUN Meals To-Go may be available for pick up or delivery.

Families can find more information at SummerMeals4NCKids.org.



ncdhhs.gov/sunbucks • NCDHHS and NCDPI are equal opportunity employers and providers. • USDA Non-Discrimination Statement • 3/2025

SUN Bucks Eligibility Flyer (2-pages)

SUN Bucks is back for another year in 2025!



SUN Bucks provides \$120 of grocery-buying benefits to qualifying school-aged children. Benefits can be used to buy nutritious food during the summer at places like grocery stores, farmers markets, and some online retailers. In addition to receiving SUN Bucks, families also are encouraged to have their children, ages 18 and younger, participate in other federal summer nutrition programs available at no cost to them. More information can be found at SummerMeals4NCKids.org.

▶ **Who is eligible for SUN Bucks?** Many children will be automatically enrolled for SUN Bucks based on their participation in other qualifying benefit programs. Other students will need to apply. Use the chart below or visit the SUN Bucks website at ncdhhs.gov/sunbucks and use the SUNNY Chatbot's "Eligibility Quiz" to see if your child qualifies and whether you need to apply. Here you will also find more information on eligibility, application, and answers to frequently asked questions.

▶ Does My Student Qualify for SUN Bucks?

First, which type of school does the student attend?	Then, which scenario applies to the student?	Student is automatically qualified and does not need to apply.	Can the student apply?
1 Student attends a NSLP* school	SCENARIO A: Student participates in at least one of the following programs: 1. NSLP free or reduced-price (FRP) school meals 2. Food and Nutrition Services (FNS, SNAP, food stamps) 3. Work First (TANF, cash assistance) 4. Medicaid with household income <185% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL) 5. Foster care	✓	✗
	SCENARIO B: Student does not participate in any of the programs listed in Scenario A. Household must meet the income guidelines for SUN Bucks.	✗	✓
2 Student does not attend a NSLP* school	SCENARIO C: Student is between the ages of 7 and 16 and participates in FNS, Work First, Medicaid with household income <185% of FPL, McKinney-Vento (unhoused, runaway), CTFDP (Cherokee Tribal Food Distribution Program), or foster care.	✓	✗
	SCENARIO D: Student does not participate in any of the programs listed in FNS, Work First, or foster care.	✗	✗
3 Student attends a CEP** school	SCENARIO E: Student also participates in at least one of the programs listed in FNS, Work First, Medicaid with household income <185% of FPL, McKinney-Vento (unhoused, runaway), or foster care.	✓	✗
	SCENARIO F: Student does not participate in any of the programs listed in Scenario A. Household must meet the income guidelines for SUN Bucks.	✗	✓

*National School Lunch Program (NSLP) is a program in most public schools and some charter and private schools. Students who meet certain criteria for both free and reduced-price meals are eligible to receive free meals through their school due to legislation from the NC General Assembly covering the cost for reduced-price meals.

**Community Eligibility Provision School (CEP) is a type of NSLP school where all students get free meals.

Use the [School Search Tool](#) on the SUN Bucks website to see if your school is NSLP, CEP, or neither (does not qualify).

▶ **How much will families receive?** The one-time payment for the summer of 2025 is \$120 per eligible child. Benefit amounts may vary year to year and can be found on the SUN Bucks website.

▶ **When and how will benefits be issued?** Qualifying families will get a one-time payment per eligible student for the summer. Families will get a SUN Bucks card with benefits in the mail. Cards will be distributed starting in May and continue as additional children are determined eligible throughout the summer.

▶ **Does SUN Bucks replace other food assistance benefits?** No, SUN Bucks does not take the place of other food benefits. It's extra help on top of any other benefits you or your children might be getting.

▶ **Are there other food assistance benefits for youth in the summer?** Families also are encouraged to have their children, ages 18 and younger, participate in other federal Summer Nutrition Programs available at no cost to them. Through **SUN Meals**, kids and teens can eat meals and snacks and engage in fun, fitness and educational activities during the summer at schools, parks, and other neighborhood locations. In rural areas where it may be difficult to access and participate in SUN Meals, **SUN Meals To-Go** may be available for pick up or delivery. Families can find more information at SummerMeals4NCKids.org.



▶ **How do I apply for SUN Bucks?** Go to ncdhhs.gov/sunbucksapplication to complete one single application for all the children in your household. Eligibility will be decided for each child separately.

▶ **Stay updated on SUN Bucks!** Search "NCDHHS" on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [X](#) to follow the account and stay in the loop for important program updates and announcements.



ncdhhs.gov/sunbucks • NCDHHS and NCDPI are equal opportunity employers and providers. • USDA Non-Discrimination Statement • 3/2025



NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

North Carolina Department of PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Find these flyers and more at ncdhhs.gov/sunbucksResources

How You Can Help

ACT NOW! Share Information on ALL 3 SUN programs

Post Flyers

SUN Summer Nutrition Programs for Kids flyer

- Informs families how to access food during the summer from ALL 3 SUN federal programs

Find this flyer and SUN Bucks flyers at ncdhhs.gov/sunbucks (look for Resources link)

SUN Programs Feed Their Summer Smiles!

Make this a summer to remember with SUN Programs: USDA's Summer Nutrition Programs for Youth. These programs offer meals, snacks, and grocery-buying benefits at no cost for families to keep kids fueled up for summer.

Learn more at SummerMeals4NCKids.org/SUNPrograms



Youth 18 and under can **enjoy meals onsite together** at eligible meal sites. These sites often provide summer learning, fun activities, or nutrition education.

SUN Meals help kids get the nutrition they need all summer long and enjoy time with other kids.



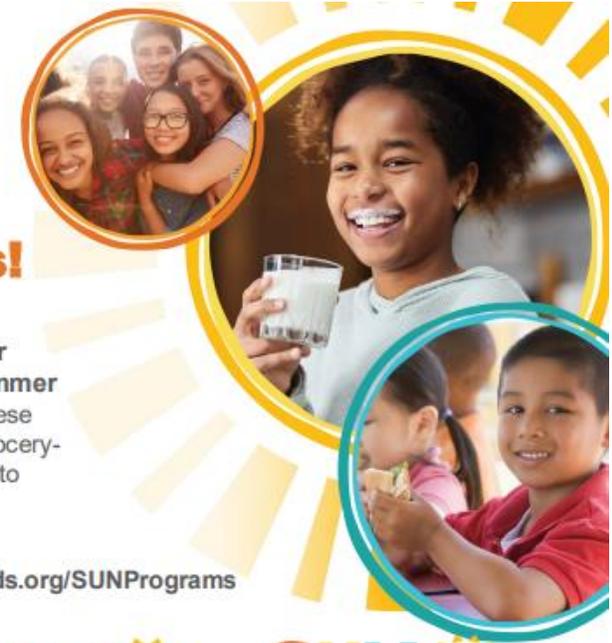
In some rural areas, SUN Meals To-Go **can be picked up or delivered** right to your home!

Also called non-congregate meals, meal sponsors may provide multiple days of meals at a time to youth ages 18 and under in many rural locations during the summer break.



With SUN Bucks, families get **\$120 in grocery benefits per eligible school-aged child**. Use the debit-like card to buy food while school is out in the summer.

SUN Bucks are a convenient way to support healthy meals at home. ncdhhs.gov/sunbucks



How You Can Help

ACT NOW! Share Information About SUN Bucks



Post Online

Share and learn information about SUN Bucks:

1. Use the SUN Bucks **social media toolkit** to post about SUN Bucks on your profiles
2. Follow **@NCDHHS** on social media for updates about SUN Bucks; and follow **@NCSchoolMeals** and **@Ray4NCKids** for summer meals updates from NC DPI and **@CarolinaHungerInitiative** for updates on all NC SUN programs.
3. **Remember to post all flyers** mentioned on previous slides on your organization's website

Find the social media toolkit and more at ncdhhs.gov/sunbucksResources. Check back on our website ncdhhs.gov/sunbucks for the most up-to-date information

Thank You for Joining!

Thank you for your continued support of North Carolina children and teens!

Where can I go for more information about SUN Bucks?

- **SUN Bucks NCDHHS website:** ncdhhs.gov/sunbucks
- **NCDHHS Social Media (Instagram, Facebook, and X):** @NCDHHS, #NCSUNBucks
- **SUN Bucks Information for Education Community**
 - carolinahungerinitiative.org/sunbucks
 - Carolina Hunger Initiative is a communications partner with NCDHHS on SUN Bucks.
- **Information on SUN Meals and SUN Meals To-Go:** SummerMeals4NCKids.org

Please reach out to DCFW.SUNBucks@dhhs.nc.gov with any questions!

NC DHHS Nondiscrimination Statement

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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 (833) 620-1071, 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:

1.mail:

Food and Nutrition Service, USDA
1320 Braddock Place, Room 334
Alexandria, VA 22314; or

2.fax:

(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

3.email:

FNSCIVILRIGHTSCOMPLAINTS@usda.gov

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