



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**Executive Office of Health and Human Services**  
**Department of Transitional Assistance**

**MAURA T. HEALEY**  
GOVERNOR

**KATHLEEN E. WALSH**  
SECRETARY

**KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

**JEFF McCUE**  
COMMISSIONER

**Online Guide Transmittal 2024-33**  
**June 18, 2024**

**To:** Department of Transitional Assistance Staff  
**From:** Sarah Stuart, Associate Commissioner for Local Implementation and Special Populations  
**Re:** Cross Programs: Summer EBT

**Overview**

Summer EBT was established as a permanent, nationwide program by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023. Summer EBT is a new program that provides money for food during the summer to certain families with school-aged children in Massachusetts.

Each year, the summer period is determined by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). The summer period for 2024 is June 13, 2024, through September 7, 2024.

There are two main pathways to determine eligibility for Summer EBT: the Summer EBT application process or through streamlined certification. Children that are eligible through streamlined certification do not need to apply for Summer EBT.

Households with children who are not eligible through streamlined certification, must complete a Summer EBT application. These children must meet the following eligibility requirements to be eligible for Summer EBT:

- The parent/guardian must complete an application on DTACconnect.com or paper application at the child's school;
- The child(ren) must be enrolled in a National School Lunch Program (NSLP)/School Breakfast Program (SBP) participating school; and
- The household must meet the income requirements used by NSLP, in order to be identified as eligible for Summer EBT.

**Overview  
(Continued)**

Streamlined Certification helps to ensure that as many children as possible receive Summer EBT benefits automatically without parents/guardians having to take any direct action (i.e., submitting an application). Children will meet eligibility via streamlined certification if during the last school year, they:

1. a) are or were receiving a certain type of government benefits or services such as, DTA benefits, certain types of MassHealth, were a foster child, or they are or were homeless at any time during this school year;  
and  
b) are enrolled in a National School Lunch Program/School Breakfast Program school.  
  
**or**
2. a) are or were receiving a certain type of government benefits or services such as, DTA benefits, certain types of MassHealth, were a foster child, or they are or were homeless at any time during this school year;  
and  
b) are not enrolled in a National School Lunch Program/School Breakfast Program school (e.g., someone that is home-schooled or attends certain private schools), but they are ages 6 - 15.

Each eligible child qualifies for \$40 in monthly Summer EBT for June, July, and August. DTA will pay these benefits in one issuance for a total of \$120 per child.

Beginning June 15, 2024, families can apply for Summer EBT benefits via an online application at [DTAConnect.com](https://DTAConnect.com). The online application will be open until September 7, 2024. Only those households that are not eligible through streamlined certification will need to complete an application for Summer EBT benefits.

Children and families can participate in both Summer EBT and Summer Eats (formerly known as the Summer Meals Program).

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**Summer EBT  
Functionality in  
BEACON**

As part of this project, the Department is building Summer EBT functionality into BEACON. Although you will find references to these pages within the new Online Guide pages, guidance regarding this update is forthcoming.

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**Purpose**

The purpose of this Online Guide update is to:

- inform staff of the new Summer EBT Program
  - explain eligibility criteria
  - detail the Summer EBT application process; and
  - explain benefit issuance.
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**Revised Online  
Guide Page**

**Book:** Self-Service Options  
**Page:** DTA Connect Overview

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**New Online  
Guide Pages**

**Book:** Summer EBT  
**Page:** Summer EBT Overview and Eligibility

**Book:** Summer EBT  
**Page:** Summer EBT Benefit Issuance

**Book:** Summer EBT  
**Page:** Summer EBT Communications and Support

**Book:** Summer EBT  
**Page:** Summer EBT Application

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**Questions**

If you have any policy or procedural questions, after conferring with the appropriate TAO personnel, please have your Systems Information Specialists or TAO management email them to [DTA.Procedural Issues](#).

Systems issues should be directed to the Systems Support Help Desk.

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