



How To Apply for 2026 SUN Bucks, also known as Summer EBT

Please use these instructions to help you fill out the application for SUN Bucks, also known as the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer program or Summer EBT. You only need to submit one application per household, even if the children attend more than one school.

The SUN Bucks benefit amount is \$40 per month per child to cover the period of June, July, and August. If eligible, a single \$120 benefit per eligible child will be issued between mid-July and October.

The application must be filled out completely to determine the eligibility of the child(ren) for SUN Bucks. Please follow these instructions in order! Each step of the instructions is the same as the steps on your application. If at any time you are not sure what to do next, please visit www.dhs.pa.gov/SUNBucks. The first two pages of the application are to help you determine whether you need to apply for SUN Bucks or whether your children will be automatically eligible. If your children are automatically eligible, you should not submit an application.

Page 3 of the application provides language access information and additional resources that may be able to assist you with feeding your child(ren) over the summer. You can also designate an authorized representative on this page. An authorized representative is a non-household member that you choose to help you complete and submit the application for SUN Bucks.

If you intend to move to another state or have recently moved to another state, you should apply for benefits in the state where your child will complete or completed the school year immediately before the summer for which you are applying. For example, if you are interested in applying for 2026 SUN Bucks, you should only apply in the state where your child finished or will finish the school year in May/June 2026.

Please use a pen (not a pencil) when filling out the application and do your best to print clearly.

Step 1: List the child(ren) for whom you are applying.

- A) List each child's name.** Print each child's First and Last Name. Use one line of the application for each child. Stop if you run out of space. If there are more children present than lines on the application, attach a second piece of paper with all required information for the additional children. This also applies to adults in Step 3. "MI" is short for middle initial. Print the first letter of each child's middle name in the box.
- B) List each child's date of birth and social security number.** The date of birth is required so that we can check and confirm your child's enrollment in an NSLP school. You can check the box to indicate that you do not know or cannot provide the child(ren)'s date of birth, but doing so may result in an initial denial of your application if we cannot match the children to the enrollment lists provided by the schools.

The social security number is optional and is only being requested to help with making sure that duplicate benefits are not issued.
- C) What is the name of the school and school district that your child attends?** In order to be eligible for SUN Bucks through an application, your child must be enrolled at some point during the school year in a school that participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). If your child(ren) attend a public school, please list both the school and the school district they attend. Private and parochial schools do not operate within a school district and if your child attends one of these schools, you only need to list the name of the school and may leave the school district field blank.

Please note that children who are homeschooled, attend a cyber charter school, or a private school that provides meals through funding other than the NSLP are not eligible for SUN Bucks.

Additionally, for school district's that offer virtual academies, a student can only qualify for SUN Bucks if the district actually provides NSLP meals for them.
- D) Identify whether any of the children are in foster care, homeless, a migrant, or a runaway** using the appropriate code listed on the application (F for foster care, H for homeless, M for migrant, or R for runaway). If the child is not one of these designations, leave this section blank.

By completing the application fully and providing income information, if we have confirmation that your child doesn't fall into the type you listed, we'll still be able to consider your application using the income you listed.

Step 2: Do any household members currently participate in SNAP or TANF?

If any of your children participates in one or more of the assistance programs listed below, they are eligible for SUN Bucks automatically:

- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
- The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

A) If none of your children participates in any of the above listed programs:

- Check “No” in Step 2 and go to Step 3.

B) If any of your children participates in any of the above listed programs:

- Write a county and case number for SNAP or TANF. You only need to provide one case number. If you participate in one of these programs and do not know your case number, you may either leave the case number blank or contact your local County Assistance Office or the Statewide Customer Service Center to get your case number.
- Go to Step 4.

Step 3: List ALL household members and income for each member

How do I report my income?

- You need to list any income received by yourself and any additional members of your household, including your children.
- Report all amounts in **GROSS INCOME ONLY**.
 - o Gross income is the total income received before taxes and deductions. NSLP and SUN Bucks eligibility is based on gross income only and does not factor in taxes or other expenses, per federal rules.
 - o Many people think of income as the amount they “take home” and not the total, “gross” amount. Make sure that the income you report on this application has NOT been reduced to pay for taxes, insurance premiums, or any other amounts taken from your pay.
- Write a “0” in any fields where there is no income to report. Any income fields left empty or blank will also be counted as a zero. If you write “0” or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report, and you can leave the Income Source blank for that person. If it is suspected that your household income was reported incorrectly, your application may be investigated.
- You need to list all members of the household. This includes yourself, any other adults or children living in the household, and the children for whom you are applying.

Sources and Examples of Income

Sources of Income can include the following:

- Wages/Earnings
- Cash assistance from State or local government
- Social Security/Disability (including retirement and black lung benefits)
- Investment income
- Unemployment benefits
- Alimony payments
- Private pensions or disability benefits
- Earned interest
- Workers' compensation
- Veterans' benefits
- Income from trusts or estates
- Rental income
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Strike benefits
- Annuities
- Regular cash payments from outside household

Examples of Income for Children

- A child has a regular full or part-time job where they earn a salary or wages
- A parent is disabled, retired, or deceased, and their child receives Social Security benefits
- A child receives regular income from a private pension fund, annuity, or trust
- A child is blind or disabled and receives Social Security benefits
- A friend or extended family member regularly gives a child spending money
- A child receives court ordered or voluntary child support

The income limit for SUN Bucks is 185 percent of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines (FPIG).

Household Size	Monthly Income Limit	Effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026
1 people	\$2,413	
2 people	\$3,261	
3 people	\$4,109	
4 people	\$4,957	
5 people	\$5,805	
6 people	\$6,653	
7 people	\$7,501	
8 people	\$8,349	
Each Additional Household Member	Add \$848	

Step 4: Contact information and adult signature

All applications must be signed by an adult member of the household. By signing the application, that household member is promising that all information has been truthfully and completely reported. Before completing this section, please also make sure you have read the statements at the bottom of the signature page and on the last page of the application.

A) Provide the name that should be displayed on the SUN Bucks card. This can be any adult in the household but should be the person who will most frequently use the card. The person whose name is on the card does NOT have to be present in the store to use the card.

B) Provide contact information for the household. The address you provide in this section is the address to which we will send the SUN Bucks card. If you do not provide a mailing address, we will not be able to mail you a card, even if your children are eligible

C) Provide your household's phone number and/or email address. These fields are optional and will only be used to contact you if we need additional information or clarification to process your application.

Optional

Share children's racial and ethnic identities (optional). On the back of the application, we ask you to share information about the child's race and ethnicity. This field is optional and does not affect the child's eligibility for SUN Bucks. This information is requested solely for the purpose of determining the State's compliance with Federal civil rights laws, and your response will not affect consideration of your application and may be protected by the Privacy Act. By providing this information, you will assist us in assuring that this program is administered in a nondiscriminatory manner.

Please return the application directly to your local CAO. DO NOT mail, fax, or email completed applications or questions about applications to the USDA Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights or your child's eligibility for SUN Bucks will be delayed.

CAO address, fax, and telephone information as well as operational hours can be found at:

www.dhs.pa.gov/CAO

More information about SUN Bucks can be found at www.dhs.pa.gov/SUNBucks