

NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor

KODY H. KINSLEY • Secretary

YVONNE COPELAND • Director, Division of Child and Family Well
Being

Date: September 3, 2024
Attention: Food and Nutrition Services Managers and Supervisors
Subject: SUN Bucks (Summer EBT) Program Updates
Priority: Information for Awareness

Dear County Directors of Social Services:

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

North Carolina would like to thank you for your continued support and dedication to students. So far in 2024, NCDHHS has **issued \$120 million in SUN Bucks benefits to almost 1 million students**. These benefits helped increase access to nutritious foods for children across the state during the summer months.

Many of these children were automatically enrolled and issued SUN Bucks benefits because of their participation in other assistance programs, including Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) - and there is still time for children to qualify. Children who are part of households that apply for FNS by August 30, 2024, and are subsequently approved are eligible to receive the summer 2024 SUN Bucks benefit. This summer's final issuance is currently planned for the first week in October, and it is NCDHHS' goal to include all children eligible for SUN Bucks (due to their FNS eligibility) in that issuance, however the FNS cases must be approved for the children to be included in the issuance.

Some families applied for SUN Bucks. The 2024 SUN Bucks application closed on August 31, 2024, and applications for summer 2024 benefits can no longer be submitted. **Please discard all 2024 paper applications in your offices.**

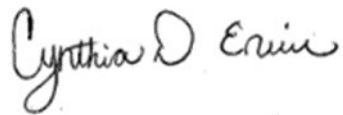
Coming off the heels of a remarkable first SUN Bucks summer, NCDHHS and NC DPI are excited to share that the program will continue in 2025 – with some key changes!

For 2025, SUN Bucks has transitioned to a new application platform called Nutri-Link. This system will offer a user-friendly experience in both English and Spanish. NCDHHS soft launched this application on September 1, 2024, and families can submit a 2025 SUN Bucks application by visiting <https://northcarolina.summerebtapp.com>. Application decisions will start to go out to applicants in May 2025. Like this past summer, most students eligible to receive benefits will get them automatically, no application needed, and families should be encouraged to visit the SUN Bucks website to find out if they can automatically qualify for SUN Bucks before submitting an application.

A statewide communications campaign will not begin until early 2025.

More information about SUN Bucks is available by visiting www.ncdhhs.gov/sunbucks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cynthia D. Ervin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".

Cynthia Ervin
Assistant Director
Division of Child and Family Well-Being

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