



Three Square and the Food Bank of Northern Nevada are here to support item L. 60; an appropriation of startup funding for Summer EBT.

The summer break months are the hungriest time of year for food-insecure families with school-age children. When the school year ends, hundreds of thousands of Nevada children lose access to the school meals they rely on. The Summer Nutrition Programs were designed to replace school meals during summer vacation. These programs play a key role in reducing childhood hunger during the summer. Despite the best efforts of this program's administrators and the program's proven benefits, summer meals still only reach a fraction of Nevada's children who rely on free and reduced-price school meals during the school year. Summer EBT, which provides benefits to families to purchase food at retail locations, bridges that gap.

Summer EBT is also an important community economic driver. The program provides benefits using the same model as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), for which there are nearly 2,000 retailers in Nevada. Every dollar spent on SNAP generates between \$1.50 and \$2.00 in local economic activity. 352,000 children in Nevada are eligible for the Summer EBT benefit, which would result in \$42,240,000 in nutrition benefits for the state's struggling families, and at the lowest level bring \$63,360,000 in local economic activity each summer, while at a higher threshold resulting in \$76,032,000 in economic stimulation.

Unfortunately, the deadline for Nevada to get the structure for Summer EBT stood up is looming. These funds must be distributed by September 30, 2024, which is the end of the current federal fiscal year. Current rules do not allow for these funds to be carried over. Given this, and the need for children to have nutritional support during the summer months, it is critical the program be fully funded and implemented as soon as possible. Missing the September 30 deadline will result in Nevada families not receiving Summer EBT benefits until the summer of 2025.

We respectfully request you assist the efforts of the Nevada Division of Welfare and the Nevada Department of Agriculture to successfully standup Summer EBT for the benefit of the entire state. With your support, we can ensure that Nevada's 352,000 eligible children get the resources they need to return to the classroom in the fall ready to learn.