



Three Square and the Food Bank of Northern Nevada are here to support items N 45 and 46; an appropriation for the 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.

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.

Thank you for your continued support and helping Nevada families during the summer months.