

December 12, 2024

The Honorable Daniele Monroe-Moreno
Interim Finance Committee
State of Nevada
101 N. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

Re: Support for Summer EBT Funding (Item N 82)

Food Bank of Northern Nevada and Three Square write today in support of agenda item N 82, making an appropriation of \$2.2 million for Summer EBT.

For the summer of 2024, more than 309,000 children in Nevada directly benefitted from the program, bringing an estimated \$63,360,000 in local economic activity back to the state.

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. Supplemental child 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 program administrators and knowing 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 eligible families \$40 each summer month per school-age child to buy food at grocery stores, farmers markets or other authorized retailers, bridges that gap.

Summer EBT is designed to be a permanent program and support for families. It is vital that Nevada leverage this opportunity to keep summer hunger at bay in 2025 and beyond. With one in five children in Nevada residing in a food-insecure household, we respectfully request you support the request for funding from Nevada Department of Health and Human Service's Division of Welfare and Supportive Services to continue the Summer EBT program in 2025. With your support, we can ensure that Nevada's children get the resources they need to return to the classroom in the fall ready to learn.

We are very appreciative of both the Legislature and the numerous state agencies, including the Nevada Department of Health and Human Service's Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, the Nevada Department of Agriculture, and the Nevada Department of Education, for their efforts in standing up Summer EBT in 2024 in a commitment to helping our families during the summer. We are looking forward to working together for a successful Summer EBT program in 2025 and beyond.

Respectfully,

Shane Piccinini
Government Affairs
Food Bank of Northern Nevada

Gabby Everett
Director of Advocacy
Three Square