Summer Nutrition Program 2024 FAQ

Cherokee Nation is participating in the USDA Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (SEBT) Nutrition Program also referred to as the Summer Nutrition Program to help provide supplemental healthy food for children, regardless of tribal citizenship, during the months when school is out of session and nutritious meals may be more difficult to access for these students.

Who qualifies for this program?

Participants do not have to be Native American to qualify; the program is open to anyone. Eligibility for the Summer Nutrition Program (SEBT) is based on students who qualify for free or reduced school meals.

Households that are on a direct certification list from the free and reduced meals program application will automatically be issued a card for SEBT. Households can choose to OPT-OUT by contacting our office.

How do families apply if they are not automatically certified to be issued an SEBT card?

The Cherokee Nation will provide an online application and paper applications.

How much assistance will qualifying participants receive?

Qualifying families will receive $120 of food benefits per child issued in one benefit issuance on the EBT card. Cash Value Benefits are available through an EBT card, which works like debit cards and allow participants to purchase healthy foods during the summer months.

How many children will the Cherokee Nation serve in 2024?

Because the state of Oklahoma declined to participate this year, the Cherokee Nation and its partners expect to serve an estimated 150,000 children through the Summer Food Program this year.

Why is the Cherokee Nation's participation important for addressing food insecurity?

We know there are pockets of food insecurity in Oklahoma, and by participating in the Summer Food Program, Cherokee Nation will help ensure children have access to nutritious foods.

Will participation in this program affect other government assistance?

No, participating in the Summer EBT program will have no impact on other government assistance that participants may receive.

How do we get more information?

Email wicssebtc@cherokee.org or call SEBT at 539-234-3265 or 800-256-0671 ext. 5257 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.