

Healthy Food Programs – EBT Beyond WIC

Topics for Discussion

- WIC Summer EBT for Children (Summer EBT/SEBTC)
- Farmers' Market Nutritional Program (FMNP)
- Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive (FINI)

Summer EBT for Children

What is WIC Summer EBT (SEBTC)?

WIC Summer EBT offers an opportunity to reduce summer hunger by providing EBT benefits to school age children during the summer months. The object of WIC Summer EBT is to give children access to more food resources during the summer when they are out of school and don't have access to their free or reduced breakfast and lunch.

WIC SEBTC program growth

- In 2011, FNS authorized two WIC agencies to participate in the WIC Summer EBT proof-of-concept pilot. Michigan and Texas were selected to participate for the summer of 2011. Overall, 5,000+ children participated in the proof-of-concept pilot.
- After the proof-of-concept pilot, FNS incremented both the number of allowable participants for existing WIC agencies, and expanded WIC agency participation.
- For the 2020 summer, approximately 300,000+ children received SEBTC benefits.

What is WIC Summer EBT (SEBTC)?

Who is eligible for WIC Summer EBT?

- School age children who receive free or reduce lunch are eligible to receive WIC Summer EBT benefit packages.
- The benefit packages are defined by FNS each year. A sample of the food categories are provided below -
 - Milk
 - Eggs
 - Cold and Hot Cereal
 - Whole Grains
 - Cheese
 - Fresh Fruits and Vegetables
 - Beans, Lentils, Peas and Peanut Butter

What is Summer EBT (SEBTC) con't?

How does WIC Summer EBT work?

WIC Summer EBT works the same as WIC EBT by allowing the parent/guardian to purchase approved food items at local WIC authorized vendors.

- WIC Summer EBT benefits can be sent to your WIC EBT processor using data files, files created by your WIC MIS system, or manual entry through the WIC EBT administration terminal, where supported.
- Authorized WIC vendors can process the WIC SEBTC purchase exactly like they do today for WIC.
 - The food items are validated against the WIC agency's approved food list as well as the available benefit balance for the participant.
 - Once the SEBTC purchase is transmitted to your WIC EBT processor, they will perform the same validations as with a WIC purchase including adjustments for not-to-exceed pricing.
 - Once the validations are completed, a response of approved or denied is returned to the vendor.

Farmers' Market Nutrition Program

What is Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP)?

FMNP was established in 1992 to provide fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables to WIC participants and to create awareness of the farmers' markets.

- FMNP serves women, infants and children.
- FMNP benefits can be redeemed at authorized farmers, Farmers' Markets and roadside stands.
- Currently, FMNP operates in 49 states.
- In 2020, the FMNP grant amount exceeded \$22M.

What is Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP)?

How does FMNP work?

- FMNP is managed by the WIC agency.
- Eligible participants are issued FMNP checks or vouchers from their WIC agency.
- FMNP benefits can be used at any authorized farmer, Farmers' Market or roadside stand.
- The participant will provide their FMNP checks/vouchers to the farmer like any other form of payment (i.e., cash and checks).
- The farmer will submit the FMNP checks/vouchers to their bank for reimbursement.

Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive

What is Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive (FINI)?

FINI provides healthy incentives at the point-of-sale to increase purchases for fruits, vegetables or other healthful foods for the SNAP participant.

FINI was established to help fight the challenges in poor diet and inactivity. If current trends continue through 2020, one-fifth (1/5) of our nations' health care expenses will need to help fight obesity in our population.

What is Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive (FINI) con't?

How does FINI work?

- Participants earn an incentive of \$1.00 for every SNAP dollar spent on fruits and vegetables at participating retailers.
- The incentive is immediately applied to the household SNAP account and could be spent on any SNAP-eligible foods and beverages.
- The incentive is capped at \$40, \$60 or \$80 per month depending on the family size.

Thank you for
joining us today.

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