



Proposals Affecting

Child Nutrition Programs

Several programs and activities of the federal government provide nutrition assistance to school-age children. Under the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, the Summer Food Service Program, and the Special Milk Program, the government provides commodities and cash payments to reimburse participating schools and institutions for at least part of the cost of each meal served. Reimbursement rates vary by program, meal type, and participant's household income. Schools in the school breakfast and lunch programs—the two largest such programs—receive relatively small subsidies for meals served to students from households with income above 185 percent of the federal poverty level and larger subsidies for meals served to students from households with income below that level.

Outlays for the federal child nutrition programs are mostly classified as mandatory spending, with small discretionary components. Funding for both the mandatory and the discretionary components of the programs is provided by annual appropriations, which generally cover the cost of providing benefits to all eligible applicants. However, CBO's baseline for the mandatory spending components of those programs is constructed under the assumption that, in the event of a shortfall, the Department of Agriculture would request an additional appropriation.



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	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2025- 2034
Millions of dollars, by fiscal year											
	Increases in Direct Spending (Outlays)										
Increase the Community Eligibility Provision Multiplier From 1.6 to 2.5	265	2,059	2,135	2,197	2,257	2,314	2,374	2,433	2,510	2,593	21,137
Waive the Summer EBT Administrative Match Requirement	285	268	205	167	113	74	34	0	0	0	1,146
Provide \$50 million in Summer EBT Implementation Grants for Three Years	137	130	99	60	17	17	17	0	0	0	477

EBT = Electronic Benefits Transfer.

CBO's estimates are relative to the June 2024 baseline.