



SUMMER EBT: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE



Economic Mobility & Well-Being Conference
August 27–30, 2023

Summer EBT: Past, Present, and Future

Economic Mobility and Well-Being Conference
Long Beach, CA

Rogelio Carrasco and Whitney Peters

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)

August 29, 2023 at 2:15pm – 3:30pm



United States Department of Agriculture



Today's Agenda

- **Background**
- **Past: Summer EBT Demonstrations & Pandemic-EBT**
- **Present: Implementation and Operations in the Early Years**
- **Future: Summer EBT in 2030 & Beyond**
- **Q&As/Conversation**

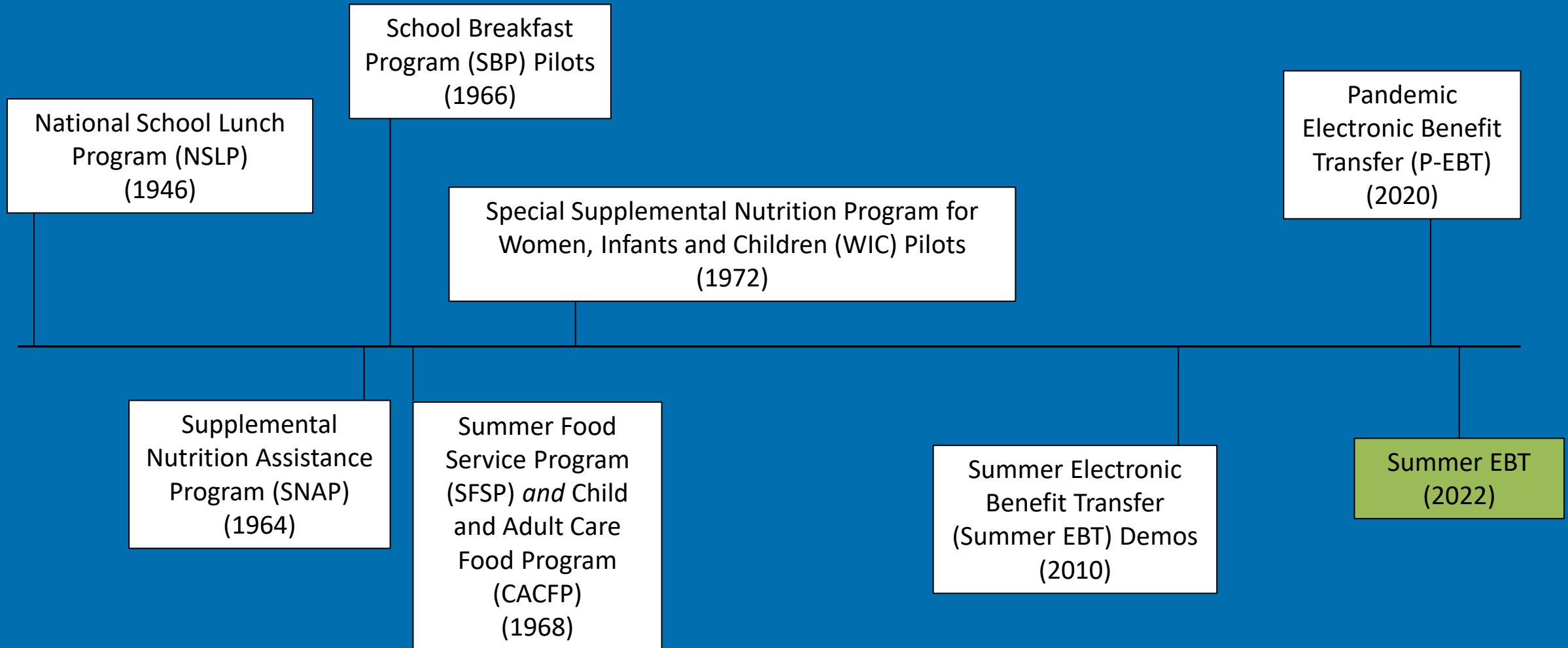




Background



FNS Programs Over the Years



THE SUMMER FEEDING GAP



- The National School Lunch Program serves about 31 million low-income children each school day.
- There is a meaningful gap during the summer, with an increase in food insecurity.
- The existing Summer Meals programs reach only about 16 percent of low-income children who get school meals during the school year.



Past: Summer EBT Demonstrations & Pandemic EBT



United States Department of Agriculture

Summer EBT Works!

- Summer EBT benefits reduced the most severe category of food insecurity among children during the summer by one-third compared to those receiving no benefits
- Children who participated ate more fruits and vegetables, whole grains, and dairy than those who didn't get Summer EBT
- Participants generally were satisfied with how the projects operated and found the benefits easy to use
- Retailers noted that their summer business increased significantly due to Summer EBT benefit use



Summer EBT Demonstration Projects

States and Tribes Participating in the Summer EBT Demonstration Projects														
Grantee	Model	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Cherokee	Food Package													
Chickasaw	Food Package													
Connecticut	Debit Card													
Delaware	Debit Card													
Inter Tribal Council of AZ	Food Package													
Michigan	Food Package													
Missouri	Debit Card													
Nevada	Food Package													
Oregon	Debit Card													
Tennessee	Debit Card													
Texas	Food Package													
Virginia	Debit Card						*							
Washington	Debit Card													
Wisconsin	Debit Card													

*Virginia offered EBT benefits in the summer through the Grants to End Childhood Hunger



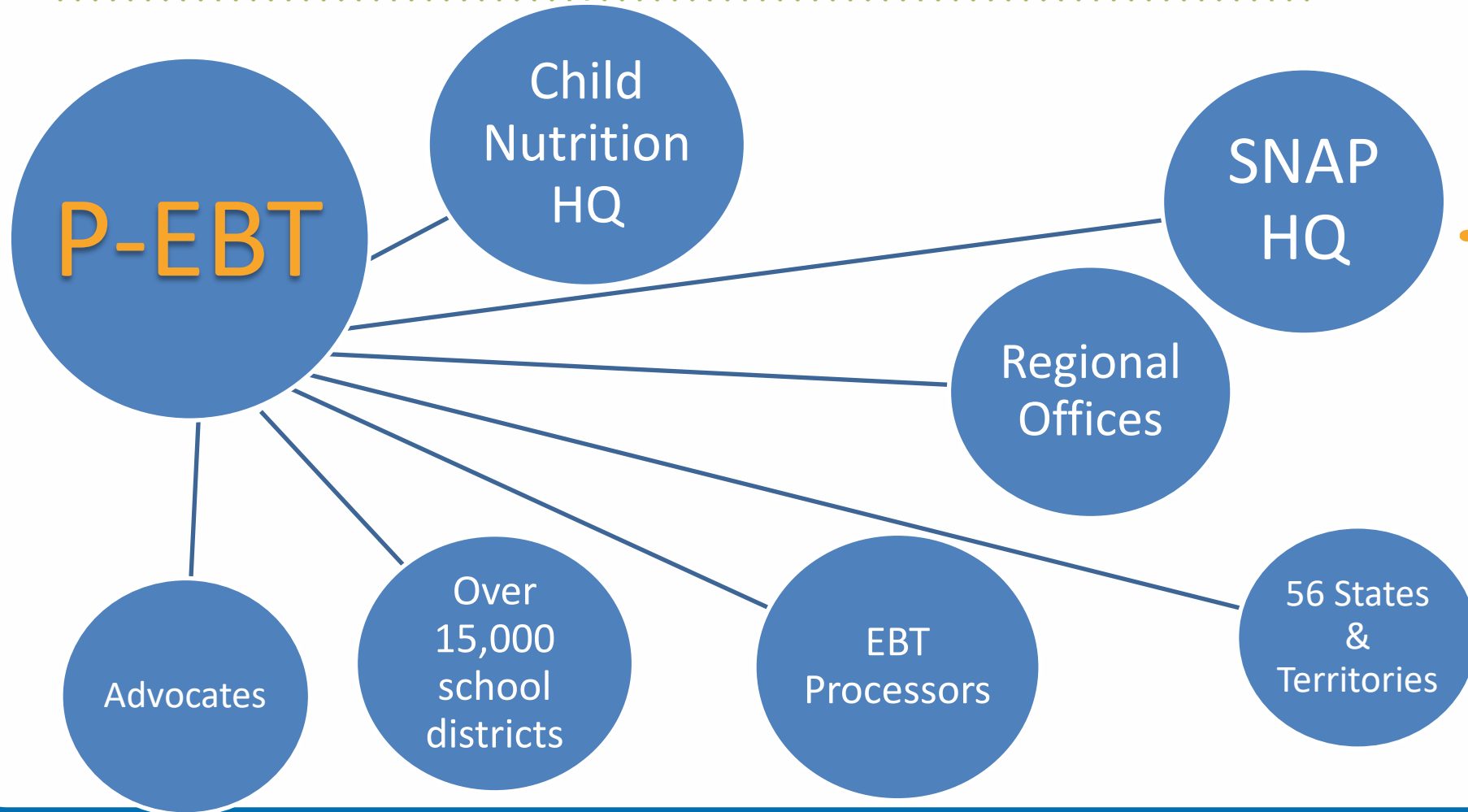
Lessons Learned

Grantees emphasized the importance of:

- Building relationships between the EBT agency and state or local school nutrition agencies
- Clear and consistent support for families that is delivered through multiple media
- Dedicated and trained staff available to work on Summer EBT year-round



P-EBT Context: The Players



P-EBT Context: Circumstances

- P-EBT did not exist on March 17, 2020
- Stood up new program in +/- six weeks
- Supposed to be temporary program...
 - Extended & modified, because it met a need
- In that time, we saw numerous changes
 - Real-life
 - Legislative/policy



P-EBT Context: Difficulties

- P-EBT was difficult to implement.
- States made it happen.
- P-EBT was a lifeline for children.



P-EBT Effects

- Served over **36 MILLION** children
- Issued over **\$67 BILLION** in benefits
- Reduced food insecurity for low-income kids by 30%, in week following issuance (Brookings Institution)



Looking To The Future

- Lessons learned
- Future Impact
 - 30 **MILLION** kids
 - \$120/Summer (indexed for inflation)
 - For decades





Present: Implementation and Operations in the Early Years

.....



United States Department of Agriculture

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023

The law permanently authorized:

- An option through the Summer Food Service Program for take-home meals in eligible rural areas
- A **nationwide Summer EBT** program



NEW

Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (Summer EBT)

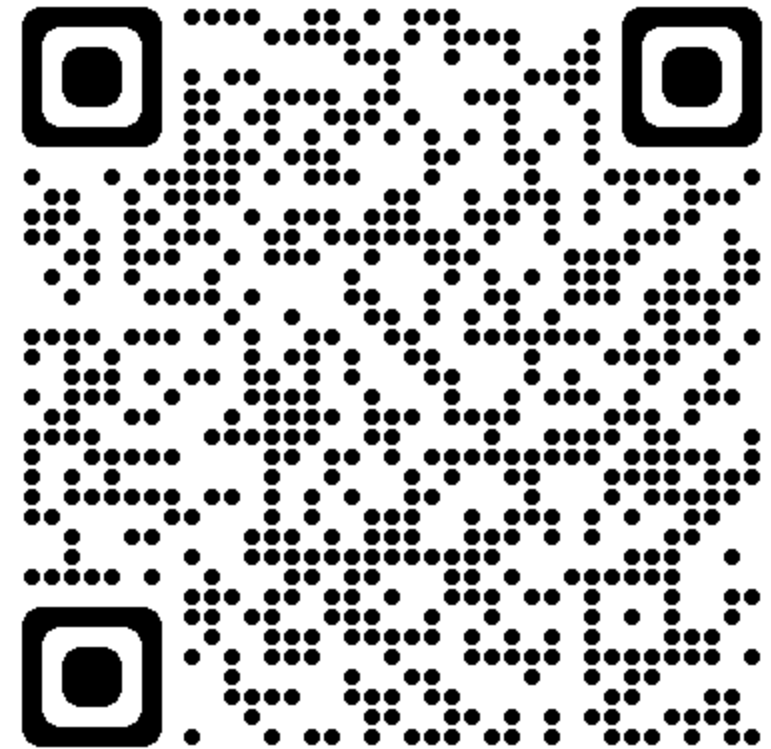
- Permanent Summer EBT begins **Summer 2024**
 - Households with children eligible for free/reduced price school meals may receive \$40/child/summer month for groceries
- **50% of administrative expenses paid for with federal dollars**
- Interim final regulations are expected to be issued in **December 2023**



USDA Guidance

- **June 7, 2023:** USDA Issued Initial Guidance for State Implementation of Summer EBT in 2024
- **June 13, 2023:** USDA Issued Initial Guidance for Implementation of Summer EBT in 2024 by Indian Tribal Organizations
- **July 31, 2023:** USDA guidance on Summer EBT Eligibility, Certification, and Verification

QR Code for USDA Summer EBT Webpage



Guiding Principles for Summer EBT

- Effectively deliver benefits to eligible families
- Streamline program administration
- Minimize burden on schools
- Provide states temporary flexibilities where needed/possible, as they work to stand up Summer EBT



Summer EBT Eligibility & Enrollment

- Covers children who are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals
- States must automatically enroll certain eligible children
- States must make applications available to enroll children who are not automatically enrolled



Summer EBT Eligibility & Enrollment

Streamlined Certification

- Direct certification with SNAP, FDPIR, TANF
 - Includes Medicaid in DC-M demo states
- Categorically eligible (e.g. homeless children)
- Certified for F/RP meals by application

**Summer EBT
Application**

**Summer EBT
Eligibility**

Key Dates



- **December 29, 2022:** Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 signed into law
- **Summer 2023:** States may issue summer P-EBT benefits to eligible children, may authorize non-congregate meal service in certain rural areas
- **End of 2023:** USDA expects to issue **Interim Final Regulations** on Non-Congregate Meal Service in Rural Areas and Summer EBT
- **Summer 2024:** States may issue Summer EBT benefits



Future: Summer EBT in 2030 & Beyond



United States Department of Agriculture



.....

Our vision is that all States, tribes, and territories will work together to create a unified strategy to ensure all children have the nutrition they need in the summer months using all of the resources available, including Summer EBT, summer meal programs, WIC, and SNAP.

.....

Working Across Entities

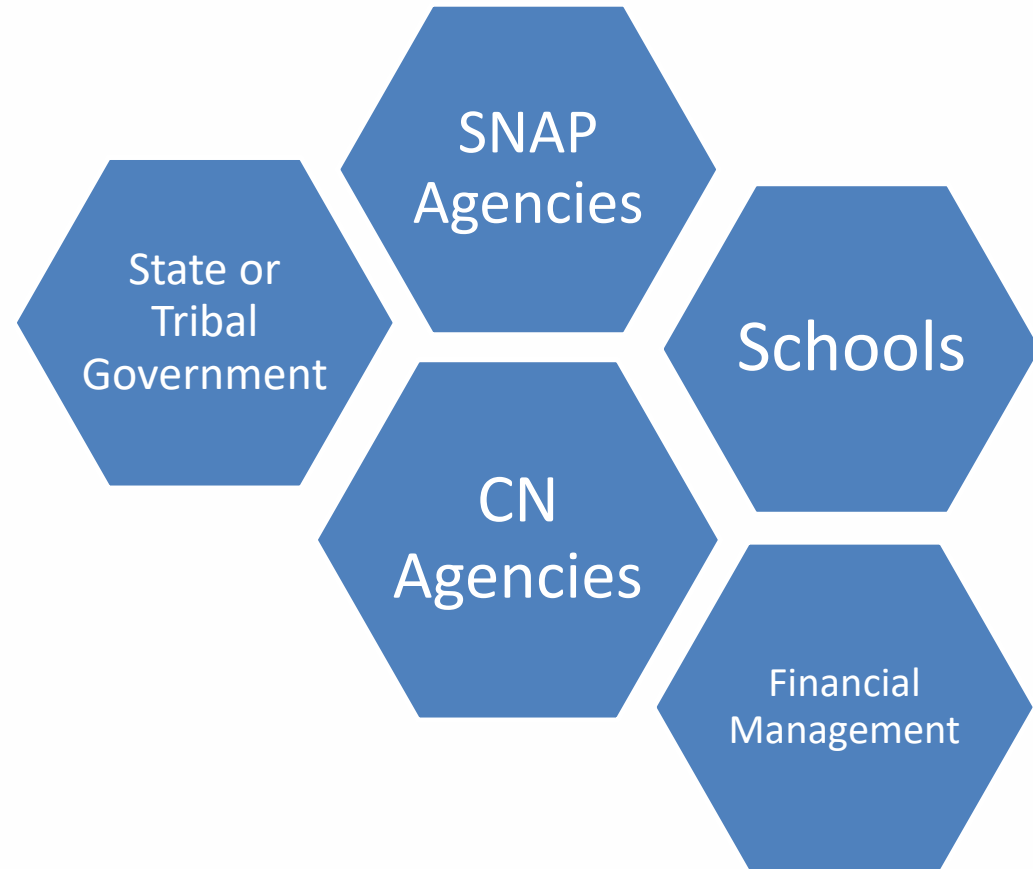
Collaboration



Clear delineation of roles and responsibilities



Keys to success





Thank you!



United States Department of Agriculture



Questions and Answers/Conversation





Economic Mobility & Well-Being Annual Conference

Thank You for Attending

See you next year!

USDA

United States Department of Agriculture
Hyatt Regency Long Beach | Long Beach, CA

 @APHSA1 #EMWB23