

# AB 2054 (Thurmond): Federal Opportunities to Fund Summer EBT for Children



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## Summer EBT for Children

**Summer EBT for Children (SEBTC) is nutrition assistance used to purchase groceries when school is out of session and school meals are not available.** In response to the prevalence of hunger among low-income children during the summer and the limitations of summer meal programs, in 2010 Congress mandated USDA to implement a demonstration program that uses the existing electronic benefits transfer (EBT) systems to help low-income households buy food for their eligible children during the summer.



## Federal Opportunities

AB 2054 directs the state to pursue federal authority and funding to operate Summer EBT for Children. **Federal authority and funding may be made available through a variety of vehicles:**

- ✓ The federal spending bill for FY 2016 included an increase in funding for SEBTC demonstration projects. The bill did not limit SEBTC to communities where demonstration projects are already taking place. Future federal appropriations may create similar opportunities for California to establish a SEBTC program.
- ✓ The President's FY 2017 budget includes a proposal to expand SEBTC nationwide and permanently, rolling the program out over a number of years.
- ✓ There is a recurring opportunity for federal lawmakers to expand authority and funding for SEBTC via Child Nutrition Reauthorization (CNR). Congresswoman Susan Davis introduced the Stop Child Summer Hunger Act to expand SEBTC nationally through CNR.

## The Need for AB 2054

Federal funding for Summer EBTC began in 2011 through a competitive grant process in which **California did not apply**. While there are multiple opportunities for federal expansion of this promising program, it is likely that funding will be available to states on a competitive basis.

AB 2054 will help ensure that CA is able to maximize these federal funding opportunities -- and do so in a timely way. **Summer EBT for Children works, but it's not yet at work in California. Let's not miss another opportunity to fight child hunger and help all children thrive.**

*For more than 20 years, CFPA has been the state's trusted food policy advocacy organization dedicated to increasing low-income Californians' access to healthy food at home, at school, and throughout entire communities. CFPA's advocacy agenda draws on the anti-hunger, nutrition, and health movements. Working as both a policy leader and supportive policy ally, CFPA continues to build on its long history of success.*