CalFresh EBT Program Information & Rules

Sonora Farmers Market

2026 Market Season

Participation
We are thrilled to be able to process CalFresh EBT payment for your eligible products! All market vendors selling eligible products are asked to accept EBT scrip (tokens) as payment.

Vendor/Market EBT Agreement
Prior to your participation, please ensure that we have a signed agreement form and a W-9 form on file with the City of Sonora.

EBT-Eligible Foods—Only the following foods may be purchased with the CalFresh EBT Card

- Fruits and vegetables
- Meat, poultry, and fish
- Dairy products
- Breads, cereals, and nuts
- Food-producing plants and seeds
- Hummus, Salsa & other dips
- Coffee beans & coffee grounds
- Olive Oil & Honey
- Non-alcoholic cold beverages
- COLD prepared foods that can be consumed later

Households CANNOT use their EBT benefits to buy:

- Any non-food items
- Foods that must be eaten immediately
- Hot foods

How the Program Works

- The customer brings their CalFresh EBT card (formally known as food stamps) to the market information booth. Customer decides how much they want to spend and asks the market staff to sell her EBT scrip (tokens) worth that amount. Tokens are in $1, $5 and $10 increments.
- The market staff swipes the card through the wireless POS terminal. The amount of the sale is debited from the customer's card. The market staff will give the customer EBT scrip for the full amount requested.
- The customer shops at the market for eligible foods, using scrip like cash. **No change may be given,** but customers may combine cash with tokens to pay for eligible foods.

- At the end of each market day, Market staff will account for vendor tokens. The City of Sonora will issue reimbursement checks to each vendor submitting tokens to the Market Manager prior to the next market.

- EBT is an optional program for market vendors. Not all vendors will qualify to participate in the program.

- Vendors will need a W-9 form on file to receive payment from the program. If you already have a W-9 on file with the City and the information is up to date, no need to resubmit this form.

Program Rules:

- **No US currency is to be given as change or exchanged for scrip in any manner.** The sale must be for the exact amount of the scrip or the customer can make up the difference with cash.
- **Accept only Sonora Farmers Market scrip (tokens). No other market scrip can be accepted at this market.**
- All market vendors and farmers must accept scrip for eligible food products. Customers using EBT scrip should receive the same respect and service as other customers.
- All **CalFresh eligible food items, food seeds and food plants** can be purchased with EBT scrip.
- **No hot food or non-food items** such as flowers, clothing or crafts can be bought with EBT scrip.
- Vendors may only exchange tokens with the market manager, **not with one another,** to ensure tracking records are accurate.

Thanks for your participation!