

Magnetic Stripe-Only EBT Cards Deactivating April 19, 2026

Sacramento County is reminding EBT cardholders that older magnetic stripe-only EBT cards will soon be permanently deactivated as part of a statewide security upgrade. California has transitioned to new chip-enabled and tap EBT cards, which offer stronger protection against fraud and theft. Most cardholders have already received their new card—but some older cards may still be in use.

What You Need to Know

- Magnetic stripe-only EBT cards will be deactivated starting April 19, 2026.
- This applies to remaining older cards that were not part of the original replacement process.
- If your old card is deactivated, it will no longer work for purchases or withdrawals.

Who May Be Affected

You may be impacted if:

- You are still using an older magnetic stripe-only EBT card, OR
- You recently reactivated benefits but did not receive or activate a new chip card

Some individuals may still have benefits available on their account even if they are not currently active recipients.

What Happens If You Don't Act

- Your old magnetic stripe card will stop working after deactivation
- You may temporarily lose access to your benefits until you get a new card

Why This Change Is Happening

The new chip and tap EBT cards:

- Provide better protection against fraud and skimming
- Add extra security features like a card security code and expiration date
- Help keep your benefits safe

Where to Get Help

- Call EBT Customer Service Center: **1 (877) 328-9677**
- Visit the EBT Client Website for updates: ebtEDGE.com
- Call your local office: **1 (800) 560-0976**

Don't wait! Activate your new card today to avoid any disruption in your benefits. For more information, visit www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/ebt.