



**FEEDING**<sup>®</sup>  
**GEORGIA**

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**OASIS**

Older Adult SNAP Income Supplement (OASIS)

# Proposed:

Increase minimum SNAP benefit for one and two person households with at least one member who is an Older Adult (65+) **from \$23 (Federal benefit minimum) to \$50 per month** by adding a State OASIS Supplement of \$27 to provide more buying power for healthy groceries for older adults experiencing food insecurity.

**194,125** low-income older adults (60+) in Georgia received SNAP in the period (5/1/2023 - 4/30/2024) with an average benefit of **\$121.63 per month.**

Estimated number 65+ years old receiving **ONLY \$23/month minimum: 65,450**

Estimate State Dollars Needed for OASIS Fiscal Note: **\$1,767,150/month; \$21,205,800/year.**

Estimated Economic Spending Leverage in Georgia Economy: **\$31,808,700**

According to USDA, 15 cents of every SNAP dollar is spent in a Farmers Market.

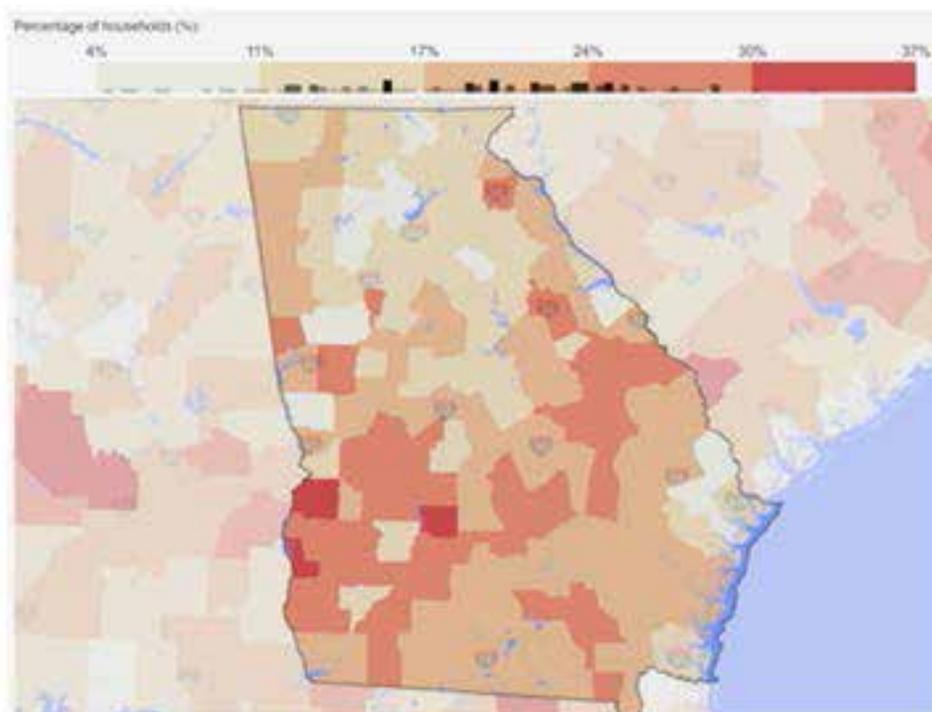
**Food Insecure Individuals incur an additional \$1,863 per year per person in healthcare costs.**

Food Insecurity and Health Care Expenditures in the United States, 2011-2013 Berkowitz, et al., 2019

# SNAP use highest in rural Georgia. So are grocery prices.

In fy 2022, SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) helped **1,608,200 Georgians**, or 15% of the state's population (1 in 7) more than 32% of whom are in households with members who are **older adults or are disabled**. Overall, 83% of eligible individuals participated in SNAP.

SNAP Usage in Georgia as a % of Households in a County



For rural communities with grocery stores, grocery prices tend to be higher than urban stores due to transportation costs. In “Food Deserts”, access to food through Farmers Markets is a solution, but those fruits and vegetables tend to be more expensive than grocery foods.

# Health Consequences of Senior Hunger in the US

Evidence from the 1999-2016 NHANES (Dr. James P. Ziliak and Dr. Craig Gunderson, August 2021)

## Food insecure seniors have lower nutrient intakes.

For each of the 11 nutrients, average intakes are statistically lower by between **8 & 24%** for food insecure seniors as compared to food secure se-

## Food insecure seniors have worse health outcomes compared to food secure seniors:

- **74%** more likely to be diabetic
- **2x** as likely to report fair or poor general health
- **19%** more likely to have high blood pressure
- **71%** more likely to have congestive heart failure
- **64%** more likely to have experienced a heart attack
- **78%** more likely to have asthma

# Georgia Hunger Study 2023

University of Georgia, Dr. Jung Sun Lee

In Summer 2023, Feeding America food banks in Georgia surveyed neighbors receiving charitable emergency food assistance from its pantry network that revealed significant food insecurity in diverse groups, including low-income families, seniors and working individuals:

- **32.7%** received Social Security and/or pension and **24.5%** received disability, worker's compensation or SSI
- **52.2%** of households contained at least one senior age 60 or older
- **70%** reported having a member of the household with a diet related health condition
- **77%** said they could not afford balanced meals; more than half (55%) cut meal size or ate less than they felt they should. More than half (51%) used a coping strategy of buying the cheapest food even if it wasn't the healthiest choice
- Those who used charitable assistance only (food pantries) were **more likely to be food insecure** than those using SNAP in addition to the charitable food. Those using only charitable food assistance programs were more likely to use coping strategies that compromised the quality (buying the cheapest food) and safety (eating food past expiration date) of their food than those using SNAP.

# Feeding America's "State of Senior Hunger"

Released April 2023:

- **13.4%** of Georgia's Seniors are food insecure (**1 in 7**)
- Over the last two decades, the growing population of seniors (60+) resulted in growing numbers that are food insecure. Compared to 2001, the percentage of Food Insecure (reduced variety and quantity of food) and Very Low Food Security seniors (disrupted meal patterns) **increased by 35% and 90% respectively.**
- Given the compelling evidence in Gundersen and Ziliak (2021) study that food insecurity is **associated with a host of poor nutrition and health outcomes among seniors**, the findings of the Feeding America report implies that food insecurity among seniors will continue to lead to additional public health challenges and costs for our country. (Berkowitz et al., 2017; Berkowitz et al., 2019)

# Georgia by 2050

## Age & Location

The total population of the state is forecasted to grow by **30 percent/3.25 million people**, with most of the growth occurring in non-rural counties. Older adults will experience the largest percentage growth of any major age group with a **75% increase** in Georgians 65+ by 2050. So food insecurity among older adults will be a growing problem that will impact healthcare related spending in our state.

AGE GROUP	2020	2030	2040	2050	CHANGE #	CHANGE %
<b>0 to 19</b>	2,828,221	2,993,241	3,159,165	3,433,560	605,339	21%
<b>20 to 64</b>	6,144,528	6,609,943	7,008,199	7,469,476	1,324,948	22%
<b>65+</b>	1,734,454	2,376,603	2,839,198	3,041,528	1,307,074	75%
<b>Total</b>	10,707,203	11,979,787	13,006,562	13,944,564	3,237,361	30%

AGE GROUP	2020	2030	2040	2050
<b>0 to 19</b>	26%	25%	24%	25%
<b>20 to 64</b>	57%	55%	54%	54%
<b>65+</b>	16%	20%	22%	22%
<b>Total</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%

POPULATION	2020	2030	2040	2050	CHANGE #	CHANGE %
Urban Counties	8,946,356	10,150,670	11,160,856	12,090,300	3,143,944	35%
Rural Counties (< 35K Population)	1,760,847	1,829,117	1,845,706	1,854,264	93,417	5%
<b>Total</b>	10,707,203	11,979,787	13,006,562	13,944,564	3,237,361	30%

<https://opb.georgia.gov/census-data/population-projections>