

CONNECT WITH 3,400+ LEADERS ACROSS ALL 50 STATES

JOIN DISCUSSIONS ON POLICIES AND SYSTEMS IMPACTING PRENATAL-3 OUTCOMES

ACCESS RESOURCES AND EVENTS FOR PN-3 INITIATIVES

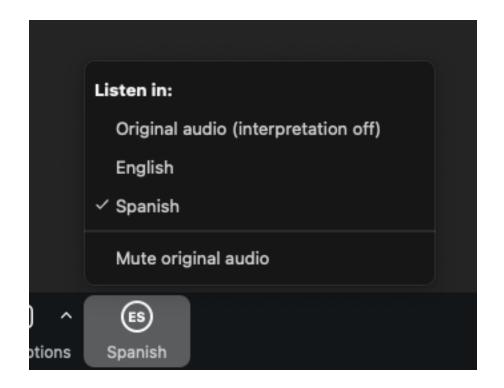
LEARN FROM PEERS AND EXPERTS ANYTIME, ANYWHERE!

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Language Interpretation

Once the interpretation function is activated, click the globe icon at the bottom of your screen.

Then click Spanish to listen in that language. (To turn off interpretation, click "Original audio.")







Whole Child, Whole Family, Whole Systems Webinar Series

Hungry for Change: Tackling Food Insecurity and Nutrition through Systems that Work

Moderated by Omotunde Sowole-West and Ngozi Lawal

September 11, 2025



What do you do?



Today's Objectives

- Learn from a mother of two about her first-hand experience navigating food insecurity while supporting a young child.
- Discover the prevalence of food insecurity among families with young children and the consequences of this food insecurity.
- Understand the key federal food assistance programs for these families, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and the Child Care and Adult Food Program (CACFP).
- Highlight Feeding America's network of 200 food banks, which provides families with children the resources and nutritious food they need to thrive.
- Explore how Feeding America engages families with living experience in hunger, called neighbors to better inform policy opportunities.
- Describe how Voices for Healthy Kids supports state and community advocates to pass nutrition security policies and how to access Voices for Healthy Kids' technical assistance.
- Comprehend how a former Voices grantee successfully secured appropriations for a SNAP incentive program and how they utilized Voices for Healthy Kids support.
- Gain insight on the Pritzker Children's Initiative's commitment to and future efforts to reduce food security in PN-3 households.



Presenters



Laurie Little Dog

Advocate for Nutrition Security in Montana, Alumni of Feeding America's Elevating Voices Power Summit



Ed BolenDirector of SNAP State

Strategies,
Center on Budget and
Policy Priorities



Katie Bishop Kendrick

Consultant,
Voices for Healthy
Kids/American Heart
Association

National Senior Advocacy



Will Sellers

Executive Director, Wholesome Wave Georgia



Kelly Quintero

Sr. Director of Policy, Feeding America



Amilcar Guzmán

Program Officer, J.B. and M.K. Pritzker Family Foundation



HOW NUTRITION ACCESS AFFECTS THE PRENATAL TO AGE 3 PERIOD

LAURIE LITTLE DOG

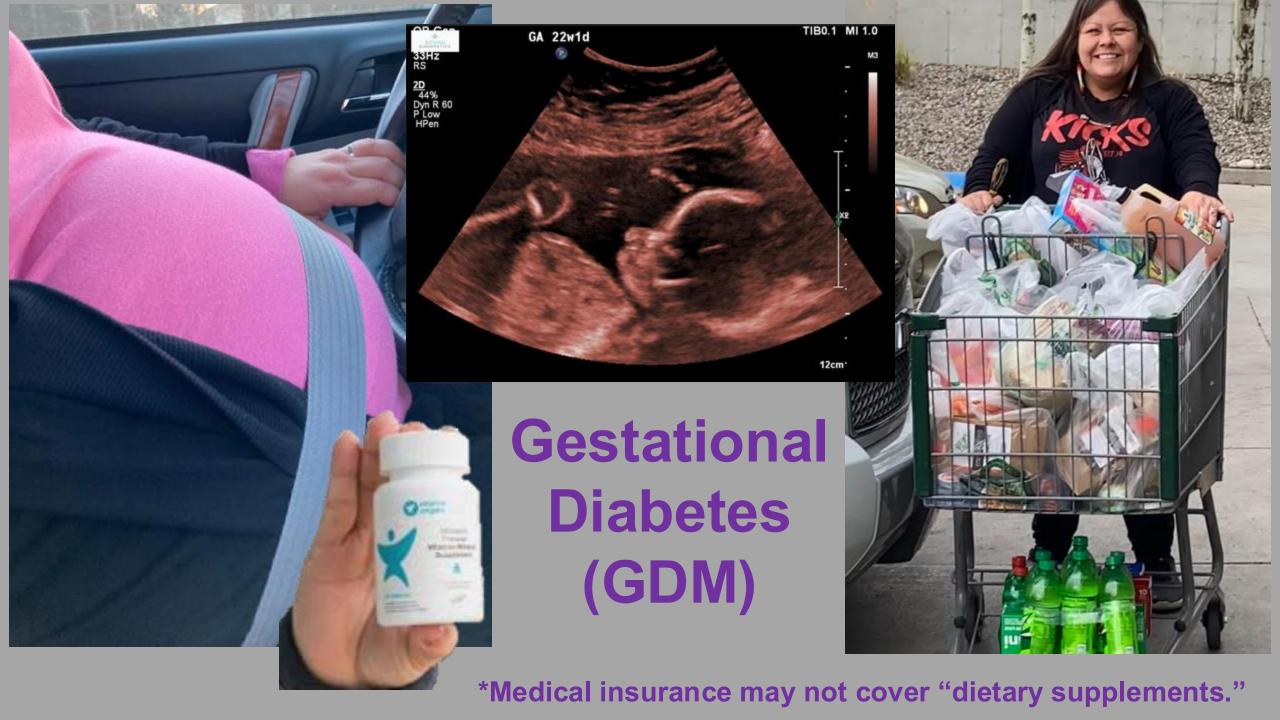
Candid Insights from a Mother of 2



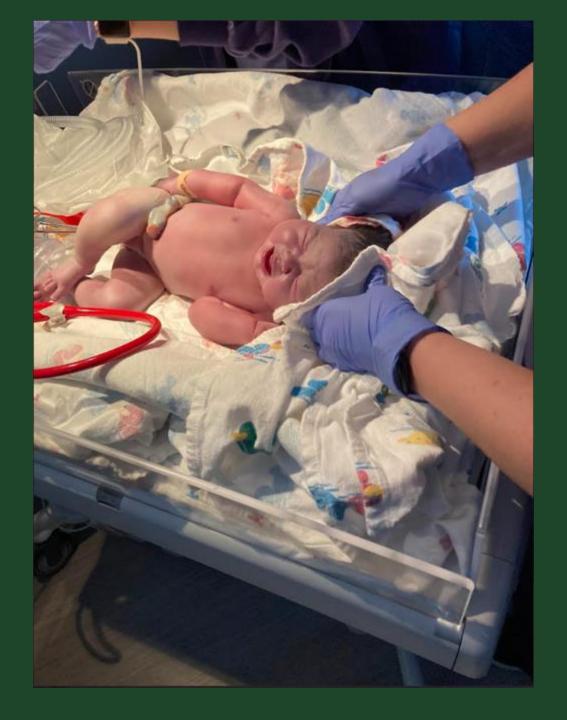


PARTICIPANT

- **1.** WIC
- 2. SNAP
- 3. (Pre-Natal) Vitamin Angels
- 4. Gallatin Valley Food Bank & Montana Food Bank Network
- 5. Feeding America
- 6. Mother's Milk Bank
- 7. Produce Rx (Pilot Program)











2 Formula Recalls









Transportation to pick-up formula is a significant barrier to infant nutrition (especially in rural areas).

Please drop-ship formula to baby's doorstep!



Please support a transportation stipend or monthly allocation bump to help rural children access nutritious foods.

Many people living in food deserts such as Indian Reservations must travel over 70 miles in order to access affordable groceries. This means that SNAP dollars do not go as far. Rural children are surviving on diets filled with Ramen noodles and hotdogs. This lack of real nutrition sets them up for co-morbid health problems like childhood obesity, diabetes, and heart disease.

This is about food access and nutrition equity.







SNAP IS NOT ENOUGH.

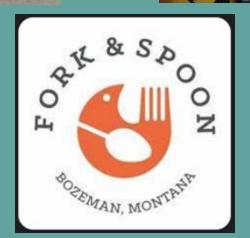














































Food Assistance Programs from Prenatal to Three

Ed Bolen Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

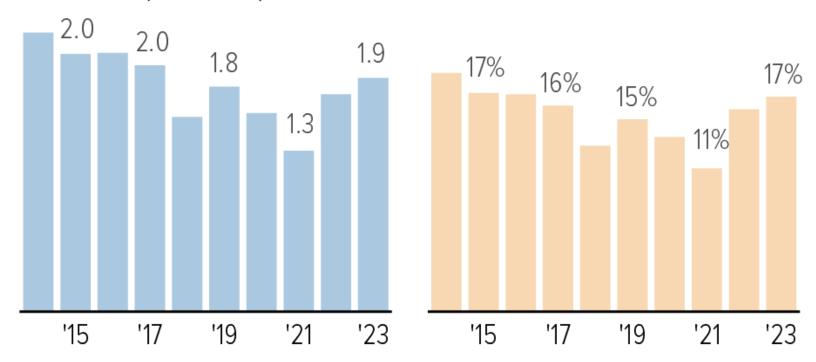
September 11, 2025



Nearly 2 Million Children Under 3 Lived in Food Insecure Households in 2023

Number of children under 3 in food insecure households (in millions)

Share of children under 3 living in food insecure households

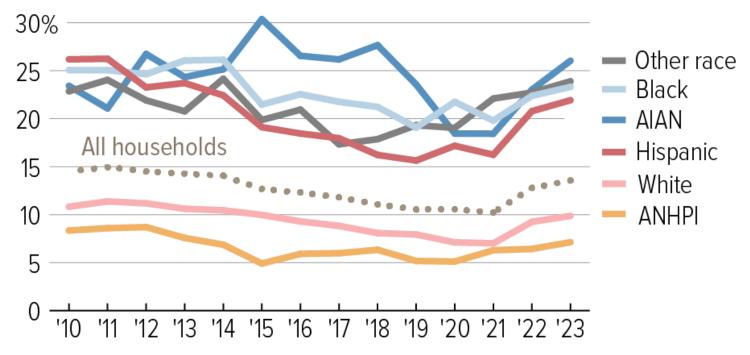


Source: CBPP analysis of Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement data, 2014-2023



Food Insecurity by Race and Ethnicity Reveals Stark Inequities

Households that lacked access to adequate food at some point in the calendar year



Note: Other race = people who are more than one race. AIAN = people who are American Indian or Alaska Native. ANHPI = people who are Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander. Hispanic households may be of any race. Race and ethnicity for the household are based on that of the household reference person (in whose name the housing unit is owned or rented).

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement 2010-2023



What Happens When There's Not Enough Money for Food?

- Food insecurity increases
- Hospital admissions rise
- School disciplinary problems rise, and test scores fall





SNAP: Safeguarding Food Security and Health

How SNAP Works

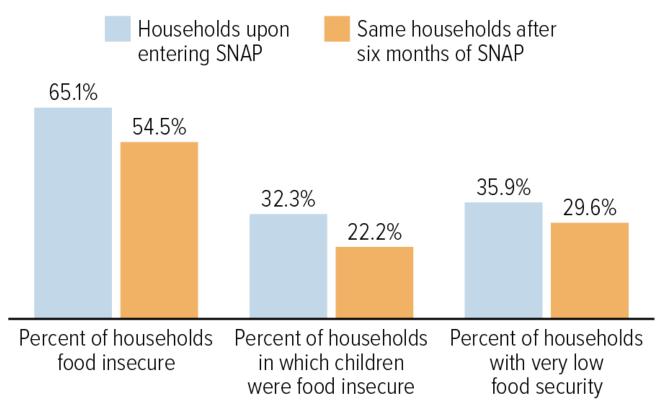
- Available for low-income households
- Monthly benefits to buy food issued on debit-like cards
- Benefits supplement income; lower-income households get higher benefits
- Benefits average \$1.40 per person/meal







SNAP Helps Families Afford Adequate Food



Note: "Food insecure" = household lacks consistent access to nutritious food at some point during the year because of limited resources. "Households with food insecure children" = households in which both children and adults experience food insecurity during the year. "Very low food security" = one or more household members have to skip meals or otherwise eat less at some point during the year because they lack money.

Source: Agriculture Department, "Measuring the Effect of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Participation on Food Security," August 2013. This chart shows the results of a study that looked at longitudinal data comparing SNAP households upon beginning to receive SNAP, and six months after SNAP receipt.



Better self-reported health

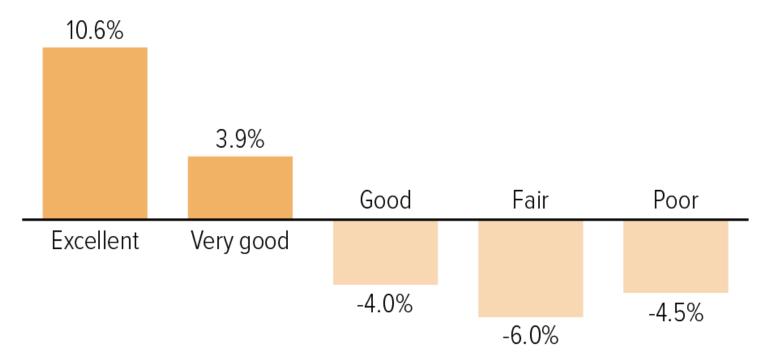
Better medication adherence

Lower health care costs

Long-term health effects of receiving SNAP

SNAP Participants Report Better Health Than Eligible Non-Participants

Percent more or less likely to describe health as:



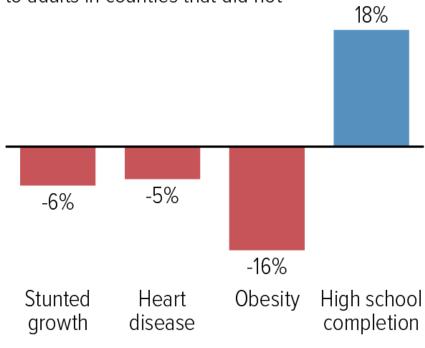
Note: Adjusted for differences in demographic, socioeconomic, and other characteristics. Sample includes adults aged 20-64 in households with income at or below 130 percent of federal poverty level.

Source: Christian A. Gregory and Partha Deb, "Does SNAP Improve Your Health?" Food Policy, 2015



Children With Access to SNAP Fare Better Years Later

Percentage-point change in outcomes for adults in counties that implemented SNAP, compared to adults in counties that did not



Note: The study compared individuals in counties that implemented SNAP (then food stamps) during their early childhood, after the program's introduction in the 1960s and early 1970s, to similar individuals in counties that did not (because they were born before its introduction).

Source: Hoynes, Schanzenbach, and Almond, "Long-Run Impacts of Childhood Access to the Safety Net," American Economic Review, April 2016.



What's Coming: Unprecedented Cuts to Food Assistance

- More than 41 million people including children, parents, seniors, and veterans at risk of losing food benefits.
- Largest cut to SNAP in history (about 20% of benefits)
- Shifts additional administrative costs to states
- Significant expansion of SNAP's already harsh, ineffective, and red-tape laden work requirements
- Takes food benefits away from many lawfully present immigrants
- •SNAP benefits won't keep pace with cost of health diet
- Shifts share of benefit costs (5-15% for most states) to states for first time, starting in 2028
- States that can't or won't pay cost shift would see SNAP program end



Child Nutrition Programs: WIC and CACFP

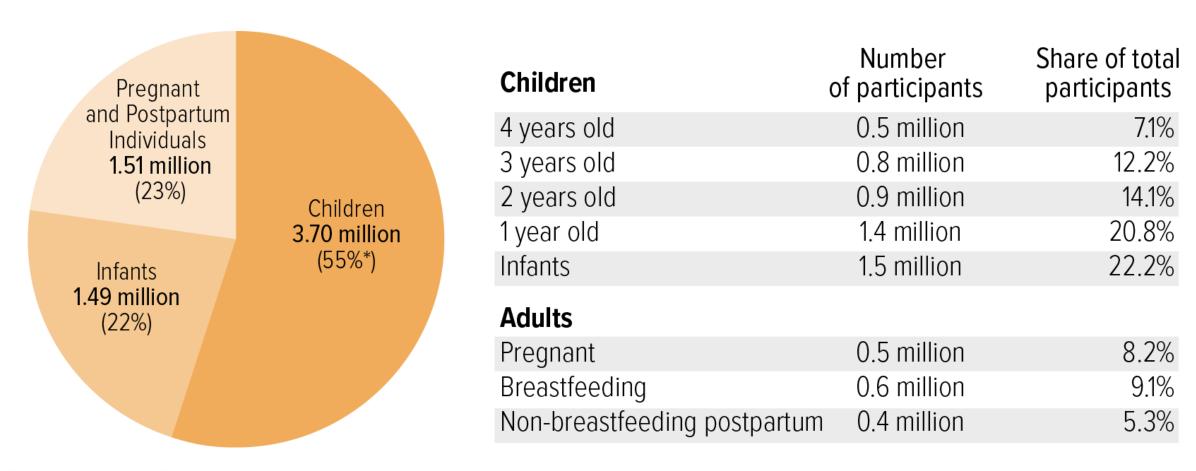
WIC – Targeted Nutrition for Pregnant and Postpartum People, Infants and Children 1-4 years old

- Tailored food packages science-based process for determining allowable foods
- Benefits include nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and referrals
 - Services provided at WIC clinics
 - Food benefits provided on EBT cards
- WIC is associated with improved outcomes:
 - Healthier births (reduced risk of premature birth, low birthweight, and infant mortality)
 - More nutritious diets, improved infant feeding practices
 - Better health care for children, improved academic achievement for students





WIC Serves More Than 6 Million Low-Income Infants, Children, and Pregnant or Postpartum Individuals



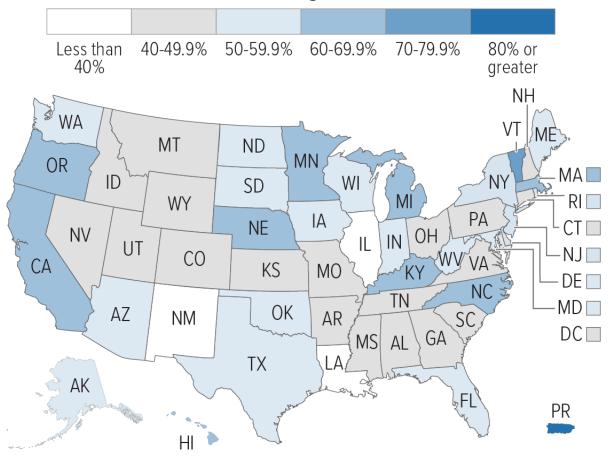
^{*}Includes children for whom no age data are available.

Source: CBPP analysis of U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) administrative data for fiscal year 2024. The number of children aged 1 to 4 is estimated using USDA, "WIC Participation and Program Characteristics 2022"

State WIC Coverage Rates Varied Substantially Compared to National Coverage Rate

Share of WIC-eligible people who participated, 2022

National coverage rate: 53.5%



Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture's report on "National and State Level Estimates of WIC Eligibility and Program Reach" for 2022



Child and Adult Care Food Program Nutritious Meals and Snacks in Childcare Settings

- Provides meals and snacks to children at childcare centers, family day care homes, Head Start programs, emergency shelters, and afterschool programs
- Young children can receive up to two meals and a snack that meet USDA nutritional standards.
- In FY 2024, ~4.4 million children received CACFP meals and snacks on an average day
- Majority of CACFP participants are preschoolaged children.
- Eligibility is based either on the site's area eligibility or on the enrolled child's family income.





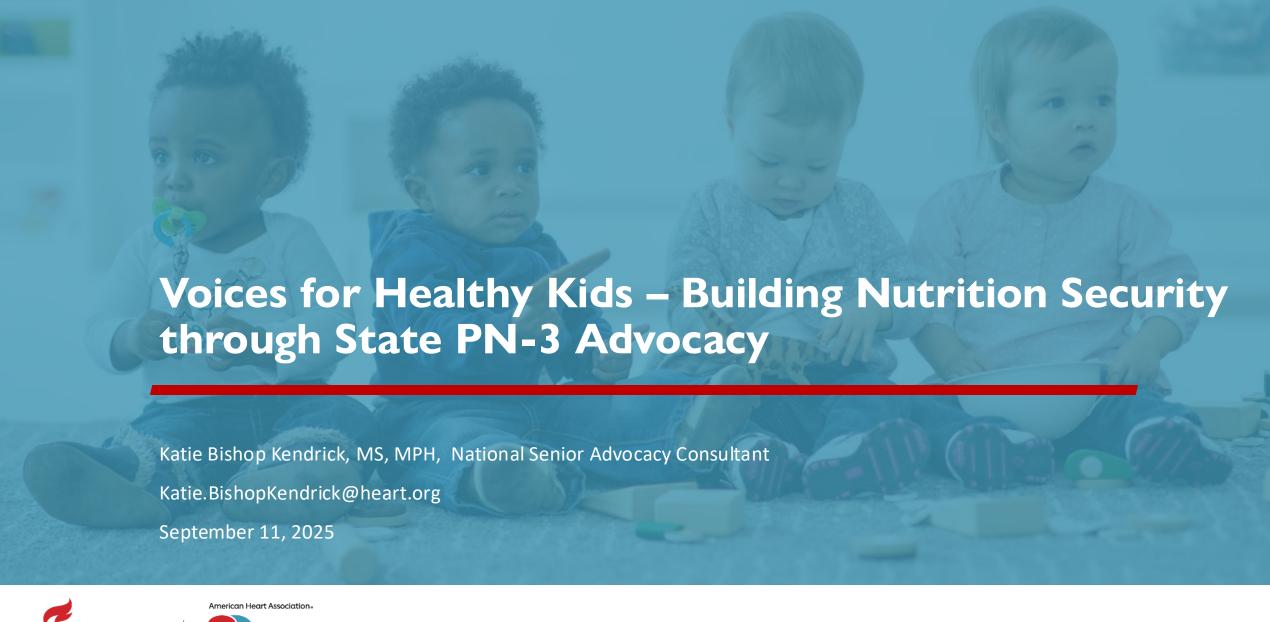
Protecting and Strengthening WIC and CACFP

WIC priorities:

- Ensuring adequate funding in FY 2026 (more funding needed for higher caseloads and food prices)
- Maintaining current level of cash value benefit for fruits and vegetables
- Allowing for continued flexibility for virtual appointments
- CACFP priorities:
 - Ensuring adequate meal and snack reimbursement rates
 - Reducing paperwork burden
- Across WIC and CACFP:
 - Protecting immigrant access











The Power Prism®

Build more power for your mission by using any or all of the six "power tools"







Supporting State Advocates

- Support advocates working to pass state and local policies to improve the health and wellbeing on infants, toddlers, and their families
- SNAP, WIC
- SNAP Incentives
- Other Policies to Improve Nutrition Security for PN-3 Folks



SNAP Incentives





- Provide additional resources to help SNAP participants purchase fruits and vegetables
- State or local level
- Not available everywhere
- Diet quality, food security, and better perceived health







Wholesome Wave Georgia's City of Atlanta Donation Presentation

Will Sellers, Executive Director

wholesome wave georgia







MISSION

Wholesome Wave Georgia (WWG) makes fresh, healthy, locally-grown produce affordable and available to all Georgians.

WholesomeWaveGeorgia.org | @WholesomeWaveGA

DONATION OBJECTIVES: FRESH FOOD AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

On Monday, November 7, 2022, the Atlanta City Council approved a Donation to Wholesome Wave Georgia to:

- 1. Expand SNAP utilization within the City of Atlanta to increase access to fresh, healthy, locally grown fruits and vegetables; and
- 2. Support SNAP expansion as part of an holistic approach to address affordable housing among the City of Atlanta's food-insecure citizens.

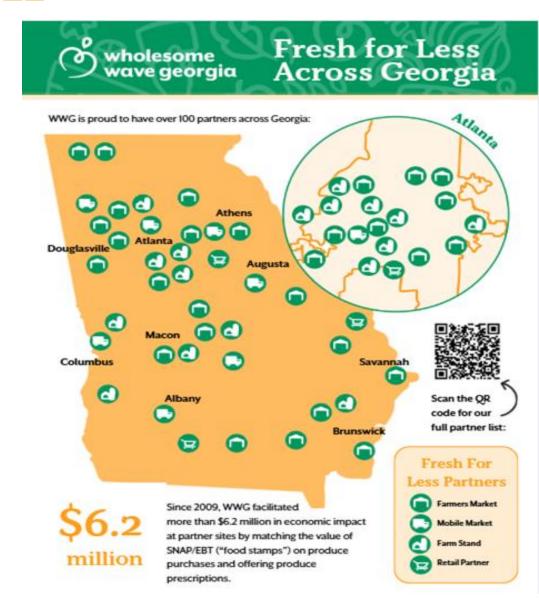
Wholesome Wave Georgia met the City of Atlanta's goals.



MAKING FRESH, HEALTHY FRUITS AND VEGETABLES AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE

YEAR	2023	2024	2025
DIRECT INVESTMENT	\$384,206	\$435,916	\$470,789

Source: Wholesome Wave Georgia Fresh for Less program data: Actual 2023 and 2024. Projected 2025 program demand with an applied <u>8%</u> growth rate from 2024.



CATEGORY	SUB-CATEGORY	EXPENDITURE
COMMUNITY INVESTMENT		
	Local Food Infrastructure Support	\$147,259.95
	Neighbor Community Support	\$109,901.39
	Professional Fees: Evaluation, Communications	\$73,780.00
	Local Food Fellow: Compensation and Benefits	\$40,266.73
	Local Food Incentives	\$28,638.98
	Infrastructure Support: Farm-to-Retail	\$17,832.61
	Brick-And-Mortar Signage and Graphic Design	\$17,715.05
	Community Engagement Support	\$7,279.35
	Community Partner Meetings	\$1,551.93
	Community Investment Total:	\$444,225.99 (88.85%)

Source: Wholesome Wave Georgia in	sternal financial data	
	Overhead Expense Total:	\$55,774.01 (11.15%)
	Administration and Overhead	\$507.00
	Meals and Travel	\$582.07
	Miscellaneous	\$698.20

Office Supplies/Software

Indirect Costs

SUB-CATEGORY



EXPENDITURE

\$50,000.00

\$3,986.74

CATEGORY

OVERHEAD EXPENDITURES

Thank you for the opportunity to share our nonprofit's program!

Will Sellers

Executive Director

C: 404-219-8551

E: will@wholesomewavegeorgia.org





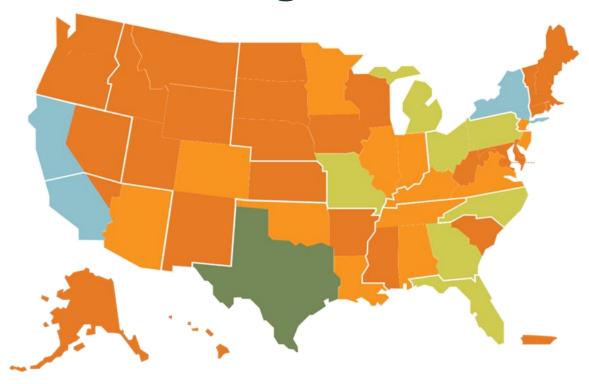
An America Where No One is Hungry

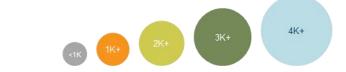




HOW FEEDING AMERICA WORKS

The Feeding America Network





*NUMBER OF FEEDING AMERICA FOOD BANK PARTNER AGENCIES, FOOD PANTRIES AND MEAL PROGRAMS



60,000*
FOOD PANTRIES
SERVING EVERY
COUNTY ACROSS
THE U.S.



PEOPLE WHO EXPERIENCE FOOD INSECURITY IN THE U.S.



Increased Need for Food Continues



sought charitable food assistance in 2023



Persistent Need Relentless Challenges for the **Network**



Cost of household essentials

Higher food and housing prices

Dwindling food supply and supply chain disruptions for other operating needs



Families Can Count on the Feeding America Network



Month after month, most food banks report that the number of people turning to them is either same or higher than the prior month



Healthy Meals Help Ensure Kids Learn and Grow

Last year, food insecurity affected nearly

141V1 children





Advocating for Policies that will Help End Hunger

ADVOCATE FOR:

- Full funding for federal nutrition programs on annual spending bills, including \$8.2 billion for the Special Supplemental Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), \$425 million for CSFP, and \$80 million for TEFAP storage and distribution.
- A bipartisan Farm Bill that protects and expands federal nutrition programs like SNAP and TEFAP.
- Additional USDA food purchases to make more food available for food banks.
- Strong and effective federal policies that increase economic resources to neighbors in need like the Child Tax Credit.





THIS IS THE STORY

Of hunger in a land of plenty

Of the movement of people who share a belief that it doesn't have to be this way.

Of the role you can play.

But most importantly, it's the story of the people behind the numbers.

The neighbors at the center of the story, whose voices inform, fuel and inspire the movement to end hunger.



FEEDÎNG AMERICA

2025 **Elevating Voices: Insights Report**







FOREWORD

Across the country, people experiencing hunger are navigating an affordability crisis that has pushed food insecurity to its highest level in nearly a decade. These challenges have undermined access to healthy, nutritious food, leaving more individuals susceptible to myriad mental (e.g., anxiety, stress) and physical health conditions (e.g., chronic conditions like diabetes, heart disease and high blood pressure). Even as circumstances shift, individuals continue to advocate, organize and support one another, demonstrating self-determination and the willpower needed to end hunger together.

Amid growing economic uncertainty-and in the wake of the passage of legislation that includes changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and other essential resources-one thing remains clear: People facing hunger must lead the way in shaping the solutions

needed to ensure access to food and better health outcomes. Their stories and ideas for change are featured in the 2025 Elevating Voices: Insights Report.

snapshot of the reality of hunger in the U.S., informed by survey data from people facing the issue. This year's survey.

FEEDING"

AMERICA

fielded as new fe advanced, offers facing on the s legislation's impa

In the 2025 repo circumstances h strain household food prices incr keeping food a neighbors. Some while just as man

their conditions may worsen. Neighbors continue to feel stuck in a cycle that threatens not only their food security. but also their health and overall well-being.

Since 2022, the Insights Report has offered an annual As neighbors uplift that they are eager to participate in the movement to end hunger and continue to call on the nation's top leaders to address the issue, neighbors desire

Need Help

M Sign up

DONATE

HUNGER IN AMERICA

OUR WORK

TAKE **ACTION**

FIND A **FOOD BANK** HUNGER BLOG

SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

Feeding America fielded the 2025 Insights Report survey from June 17 to July 7, 20 to understand the experiences, concerns and policy views of neighbors-define this report as people who have received charitable food assistance and experienced food insecurity within the past two years. (Learn more about the sur methodology on page 4).

Everyone deserves fair access to the food and resources they say they desire need to thrive, regardless of their background, demographics, location and/or abi To make this a reality, Feeding America listens to and learns from everyone fachunger to address food insecurity and related challenges together. In organization's most expansive survey yet, Feeding America heard from over 1 neighbors across the country, representing a varied range of backgrounds and experiences, and confirming that hunger is a persistent challenge in every commu in the U.S. Learn more about the neighbors who participated in the survey.

Elevate Voices, End Hunger: Discover Powerful Insights

We can create a hunger-free nation when we center the individuals closest to the issue.

Our latest Elevating Voices: Insights Report highlights the stories and perspectives of people facing hunger—the real experts. Looking behind the stats and data on food insecurity, our neighbors share valuable firsthand experiences for developing actionable solutions.

This year's survey, fielded as new federal legislation advanced, provides urgent perspectives on the challenges communities are experiencing right now-and what they say is needed to build lasting food and health security.

Download the report and join the movement to end hunger!









INTEGRATING THE AUTHENTIC VOICES OF NEIGHBORS WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE

When Kelli, who worked full-time throughout her pregnancy, had to stop working for health reasons, she said, "Losing my ability to work felt like losing my ability to survive."

Faced with rising rent, utility and grocery bills, and with no maternity leave benefits, she donated plasma so she could buy baby formula and meet her basic needs.

Through Feeding Northeast Florida, Kelli received food and access to rent support. She eventually received additional help through federal assistance programs. Now, she uses these experiences to advocate for living wages and affordable health care for all, especially mothers.









AMILCAR GUZMAN, Ph.D. | HUNGRY FOR CHANGE: TACKLING FOOD INSECURITY AND NUTRITION THROUGH SYSTEMS THAT WORK

September 11, 2025

PRITZKER

Children's Initiative

PCI NORTH STAR AND GOALS

<u>PCI's North Star:</u> Every child is thriving and flourishing by age three. Every family has access to the resources and supports they need to help their children thrive.

Goal 1: By 2027, 100% of families with children in the US live in states and communities in which significant **new public resources** have been invested in PN-3 supports.

Goal 2: By 2027, 100% of families with children PN-3 that live in historically underinvested communities in PCI-funded "system" states are able to **connect to resources** they **want and need** so their families can thrive and with significant progress towards this goal made by PCI-funded "movement" states.

WHOLE CHILD/WHOLE FAMILY

PN-3 WHOLE CHILD/WHOLE FAMILY STRATEGY OVERVIEW

Prenatal Supports

Supports that ensure that expectant parents are healthy and birth outcomes are improved.



Healthcare

Adequate care to ensure expectant parents, infants and toddlers are healthy.



Early Interventions

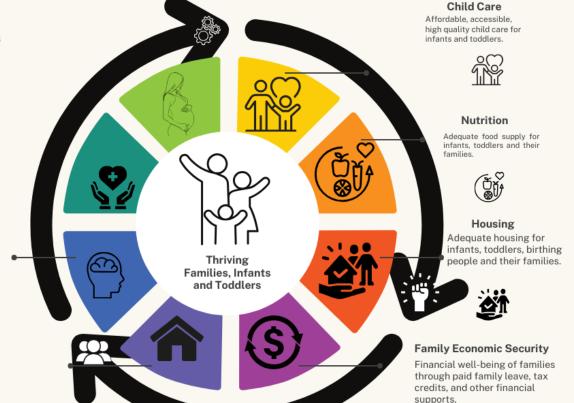
Identifying children at risk for cognitive, motor, communication or socialemotional delays.



Parenting Supports

Promoting positive parenting practices and enhancing family bonds.





<u>PCI's North Star:</u> Every child is thriving and flourishing by age three. Every family has access to the resources and supports they need to help their children thrive.

THE PROBLEM

Families from historically underinvested communities with infants and toddlers are increasingly food insecure. State and federal efforts are necessary to ensure that more families PN-3 have an adequate supply of food.

THE PATH



PARTNERS





American Heart Association .













Thank you for joining us today!

Presenters' Contact Information

Laurie Little Dog

Laurielittledog@gmail.com

Ed Bolen

Bolen@CBPP.org

Katie Bishop Kendrick

Katie.BishopKendrick@heart.org

Will Sellers

Will@wholesomewavegeorgia.org

Kelly Quintero

Kquintero@feedingamerica.org

Amilcar Guzman

Aguzman@pritzkerfoundation.org

Save the date for the final webinar in our nine-part series! October 9 from 2-3:30 PM ET.



REGISTER for the BUILD25 Conference December 2-4, 2025 Los Angeles, California

BUILDInitiative.org/events/BUILD25/

Please fill out the survey!!