

Food Insecurity and Seniors: Addressing the Issue

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Vision, Mission and Core Values

Vision

Stronger Families for a Stronger Georgia.

Mission

Strengthen Georgia by providing Individuals and Families access to services that promote self-sufficiency, independence, and protect Georgia's vulnerable children and adults.

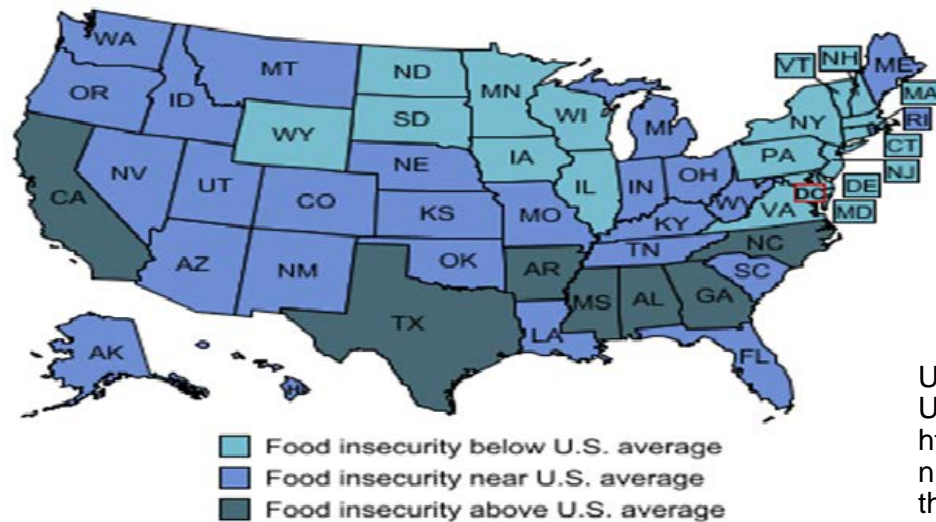
Core Values

- Provide access to resources that offer support and empower Georgians and their families.
- Deliver services professionally and treat all clients with dignity and respect. Manage business operations effectively and efficiently by aligning resources across the agency.
- Promote accountability, transparency and quality in all services we deliver and programs we administer.
- Develop our employees at all levels of the agency.

Food Insecurity

- The limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways.

Source: Life Sciences Research Office



USDA ERS. Food Insecurity in the U.S.- Key Statistics & Graphics:
<http://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us/key-statistics-graphics.aspx#map>

Food Insecurity Facts

- Georgia ranks seventh in rates of senior hunger.
 - Source: www.mowaa.org/about-senior-hunger
- Food insecurity in Georgia is 23.8%, nationally it is 20.3%.
 - Source: Alisha Coleman-Jensen et al, *Household Food Security in the United States in 2011*, USDA Economic Research Report Number 141, September, 2012
- Factors of food insecurity: Access/food deserts, living alone, never married, reside in the south, ability to prepare

Consequences of Food Insecurity

Increased Nutrition Risk	Unhealthy Weight
Lower Cognitive Function	Exacerbation of diet-related chronic illness
Non-adherence to prescribed medications	Increased healthcare utilization
Extended hospital stays	Increased caregiver demand
Anxiety/Depression	Decreased quality of life

Jung Sun Lee, *Food Insecurity, Food and Nutrition Programs, and Aging: Experiences in Georgia*, Journal of Nutrition for the Elderly, 2010

Recommendations

- CDC, Georgia Supermarket Task Force, Georgia Food Policy Council

Prioritize SNAP/WIC enrollment	Develop safe, affordable transportation
Explore food hub opportunities/locations	EBT in Farmer's Markets
Financial incentives to attract grocery stores and mobile farmers to food deserts	Connect beginning farmers, food distributors, and retailers to collaborate on local food infrastructure
Promote adoption of state grown purchasing priority	Include nutrition education whenever possible

Senior SNAP

- Simplified Application
- Medical Deductions
- No face-to-face meeting

SNAP is underutilized by older adults. Currently, it is estimated that 89,000 eligible older adults in Georgia are not participating (35.5%).

Barriers: Stigma, Application issues, Misperception of benefit amounts.

- Jung Sun Lee, Mary Ann Johnson, Arvine Brown, 2010. Older Americans Act Nutrition Programs Improves Participants' Food Security in Georgia: Georgia Advanced Performance Outcomes Measures Project 6 Continuation Study (GA Advanced POMP 6). *The Journal of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology*, 24 (Meeting Abstract Supplement) 213.4.
- Administration on Aging. Age Projections by State. http://aoa.gov/prof/Statistics/future_growth/State-age-projections-2005-2030-full-dataset.xls

Division of Aging Services

- Strong partnership with DFCS
- SNAP Outreach Grant
- SNAP-Ed Grant
- Georgia Food Policy Council (Education and Consumption Workgroup)



Looking Ahead...

- Continue to develop and strengthen partnerships with DFCS, Georgia Supermarket Task Force and Georgia Food Policy Council
- Increase referrals to food resources
- Enhance data collection and reporting

Questions?

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