

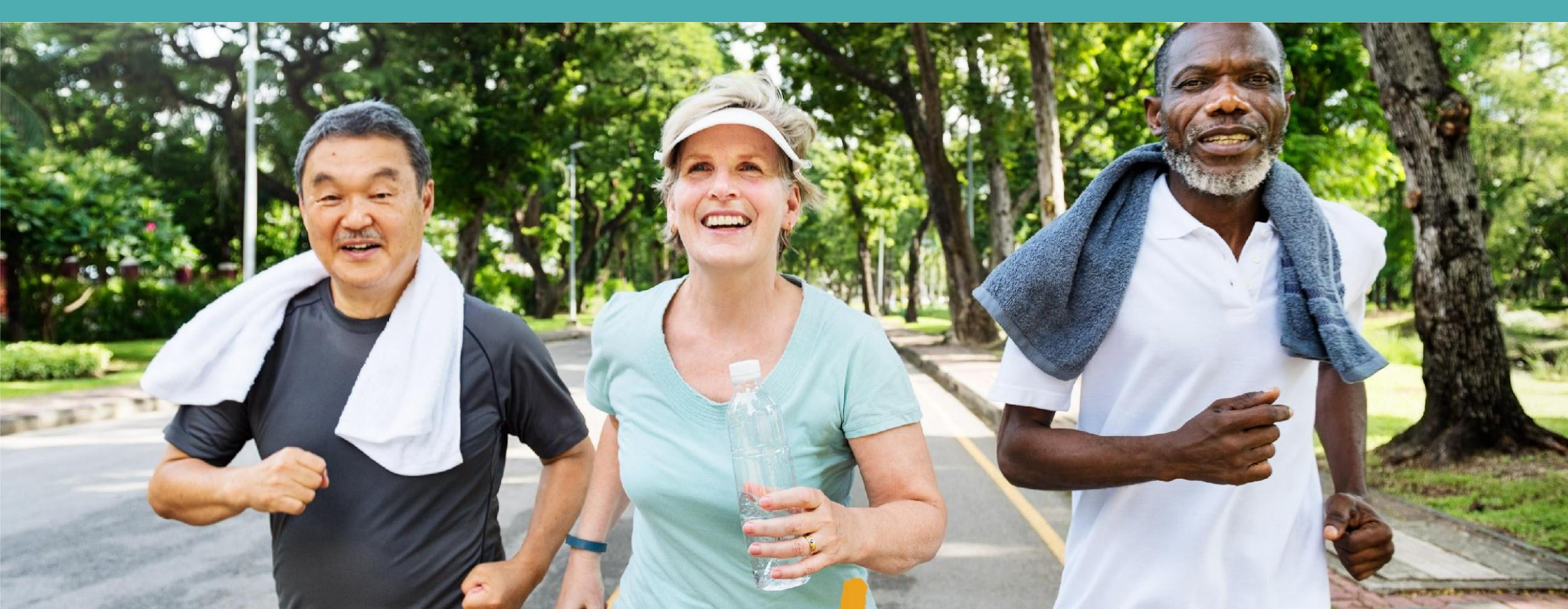


Georgia Department of Human Services
Division of Aging Services

Addressing Senior Hunger in Georgia: A Statewide Approach

***SENATE IMPROVING ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOODS
AND ENDING FOOD DESERTS STUDY COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 5-6, 2021***

Temitope Walker, Ph.D.
Senior Hunger Nutrition Coordinator
Division of Aging Services



stronger families

FOR A STRONGER GEORGIA



Overview

- 1. Background on Senior Hunger**
 - a. Seniors and Senior Hunger in Georgia
 - b. Keys to Addressing Senior Hunger: Challenges and Opportunities

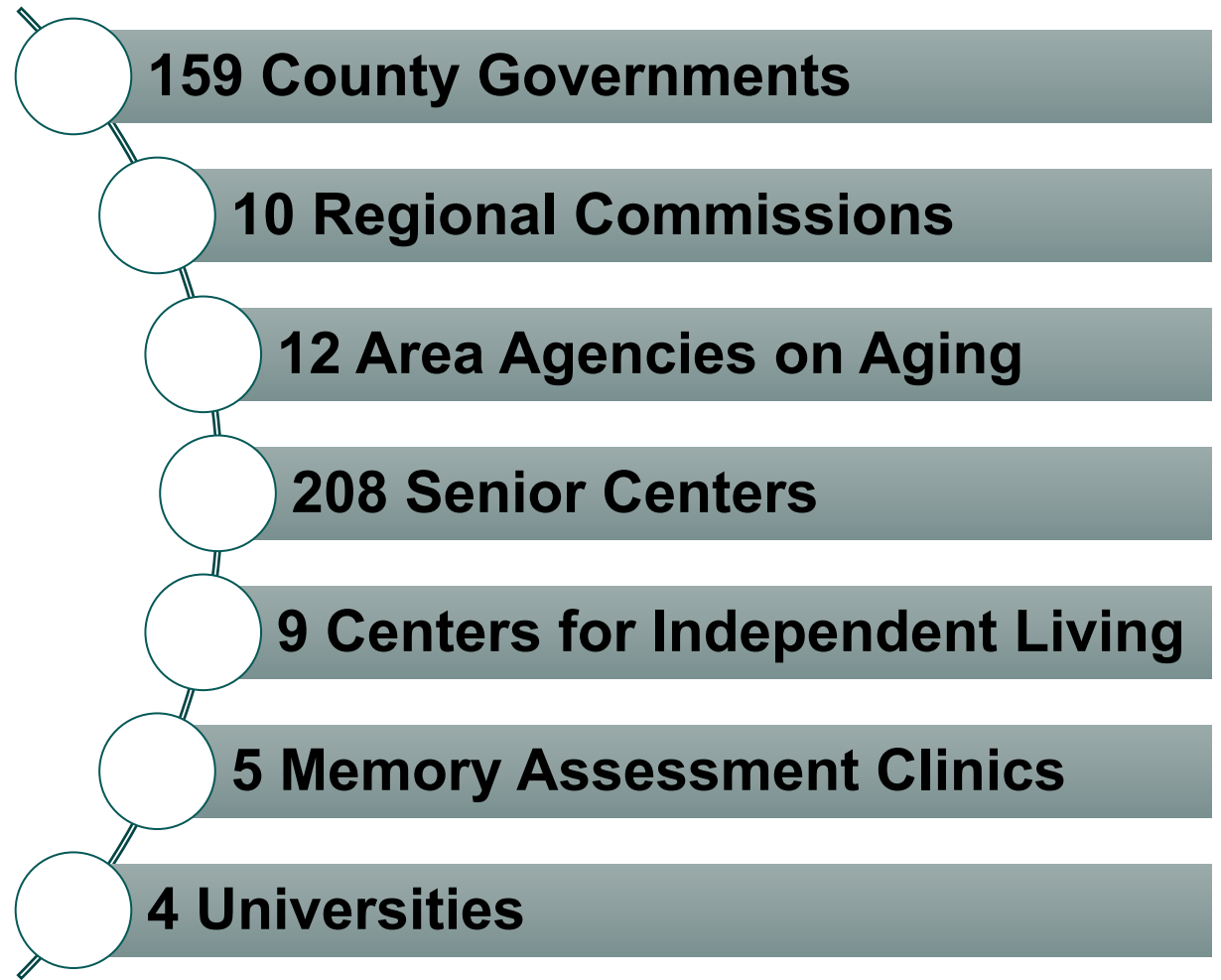
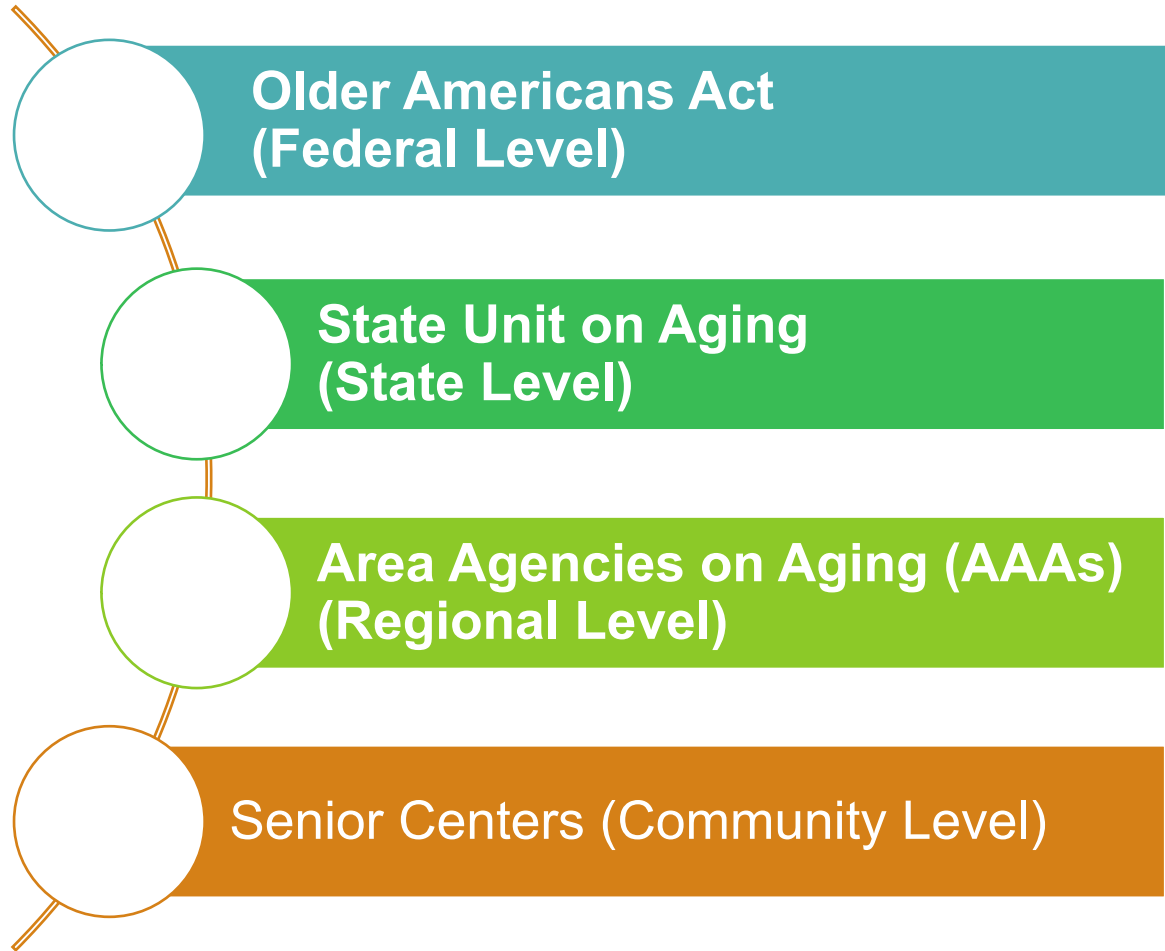
- 2. Georgia's Senior Hunger State Plan**
 - a. Recommendations
 - b. Focus Areas

- 3. Addressing Senior Hunger**
 - a. Progress on the State Plan on Senior Hunger
 - b. Senior Hunger Initiatives and What's Next

- 4. Q&A**



DHS Division of Aging Services



Terms of Senior Hunger

- a. **Hunger**: An individual-level physiological condition reflected as a feeling of discomfort or weakness caused by lack of food.
- b. **Food Insecurity**: Household-level economic and social condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate food. A state of being without reliable access to sufficient quality of affordable nutritious food.
- c. **Malnutrition**: Lack of proper nutrition caused by not having enough to eat, not eating enough of the right things or being unable to use the food that one does eat.
- d. **Food Desert**: An area where it is difficult to buy affordable or good-quality fresh food.
- e. **Food Reclamation**: Food Rescue; practice of gleaning edible food that would otherwise go to waste from places such as restaurants, grocery stores, produce markets or dining facilities and distributed to local emergency food programs.



Older Adults in Georgia

	U.S.	Georgia
Older Adult Population (60 +)	73.1 m (22.3%)	2.1 m (19.7%)
Women	54.6%	55.7 %
Race/White	81.3%	69.5%
Householder Living Alone	39.4%	38.7%
< High School Education	13.9%	15.2%
Having a Disability	29.9%	30.3%
Employment	28.3%	27.6%
Households Receiving Social Security	74.8% (of 43.66 m)	75.3% (of 1.24 m)
Living in poverty (< 100% FPL)	9.9% (of 43.66 m)	10.8% (of 2.03 m)
Owning Home	77.9%	79.3%

1-year American Community Survey (2018), US Census Bureau



Assessing Senior Hunger:

Modified version of the 6-item U.S. HFSSM

1. During the last 30 days, how often was this statement true: The food that we bought just didn't last, and we didn't have money to get more	Often Sometimes Never
2. During the last 30 days, how often was this statement true: We couldn't afford to eat balanced meals.	Often Sometimes Never
3. In the past 30 days, did you or other adults in your household ever cut the size of your meals because there wasn't enough money for food?	Yes No
4. In the past 30 days, did you or other adults in your household ever skip meals because there wasn't enough money for food?	Yes No
5. In the last 30 days, did you ever eat less than you felt you should because there wasn't enough money to buy food?	Yes No
6. In the last 30 days, were you ever hungry but didn't eat because you couldn't afford enough food?	Yes No

Lee JS, Johnson MA, Brown A, Nord M., Modified 6-item U.S. Household Food Security Survey Module Validated in the Georgia Advanced Performance Measures Project 2008-2009 2011.



Senior Hunger Initiative

Serving Georgia By The Numbers

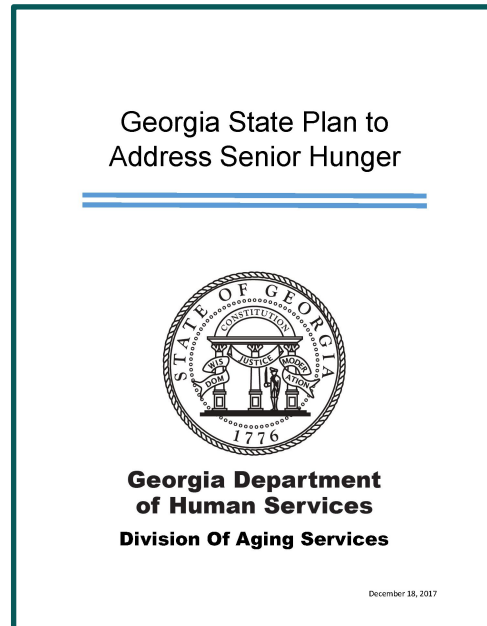
- **16%** of older adults, 60+, are marginally food insecure in 2018

- **77.2%** of older adults, 60+, living in poverty are SNAP recipients in 2018
- **4 million** meals provided to older or disabled adults by CM and HDM in SFY20
- **70,558** customers and family members served by the ADRC in SFY20
- **135,862** individuals received Senior SNAP benefits in SFY20

5-year American Community Survey, US Census Bureau; SFY 2020 Georgia Department of Human Services Annual Report, 2021; 2020 Feeding America Report; America's Health Rankings analysis of U.S. Department of Agriculture, Characteristics of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Households, United Health Foundation, AmericasHealthRankings.org.



Georgia's State Plan to Address Senior Hunger



Visit us online:

aging.georgia.gov/get-involved/senior-hunger

Email us:

senior.hunger@dhs.ga.gov

Implemented December 2017



Georgia State Senior Hunger Plan

Recommendations

- Establish DHS DAS Senior Hunger Position ✓
- Develop Regional Coalitions ✓
- Establish Policy Review Council ✓
- Coordinate Data Collection and Analysis ✓
- Develop and Provide Education and Training *On-going* ✓
- Continue and Expand the What a Waste Program ✓
- Provide Entrepreneurial Mini Grants ✓



12 Georgia Regional Coalition Sites



Georgia State Senior Hunger Plan

Five Focus Areas

Focus Areas	Common Themes
Today's Seniors	Define needs of current seniors; identify impact of household dynamics; M-F service may not be enough
Meeting the Needs of the Community	Avoid service duplication; improve partnership with faith-based community; build school partnerships
Food Access	Transportation resources and alternatives; reducing food deserts; SNAP participation
Food Waste and Reclamations	Clear and consistent policy needed; improve outreach to food collection agencies; enhance partnership with food resource organizations
Health Impact of Senior Hunger	Exacerbation and development of chronic conditions; more data needed



Today's Seniors

- What are differences between young and older seniors?
- What are the food needs of each generation?
- What is culturally acceptable to each generation?
- *How can we be person-centered and meet the needs of diverse older adults?*



Meeting the Needs of the Community

- What policies and guidelines need to be streamlined?
- What statewide data is needed?
- What methods should be used to increase community awareness of the issue and resources?
- ***What community and corporate partnerships need to be developed?***

Senior Centers
Independent Living

City Planning

Available Resources

Research and Data



Food Access

- Where are the food deserts?
- Is there access to alternative food delivery systems?
- Is there transportation for those who do not drive?
- *What national, state and local resources can be used?*
- How can access to SNAP benefits be improved?



Food Waste and Reclamation

- What policies exist to support food reclamation and reuse?
- *What programs and partnerships already participate in food reclamation in the community?*
- Is there duplication of efforts in some areas?
- Are there food safety concerns with reclamation programs?



Health Impact of Senior Hunger

- What is the disease prevalence with hunger and food insecurity?
- What counter measures can prevent malnutrition?
- ***What are established and needed links between primary care and community resources?***
- What is the ROI for decreasing senior hunger?
- What partnerships needed with managed care entities ?



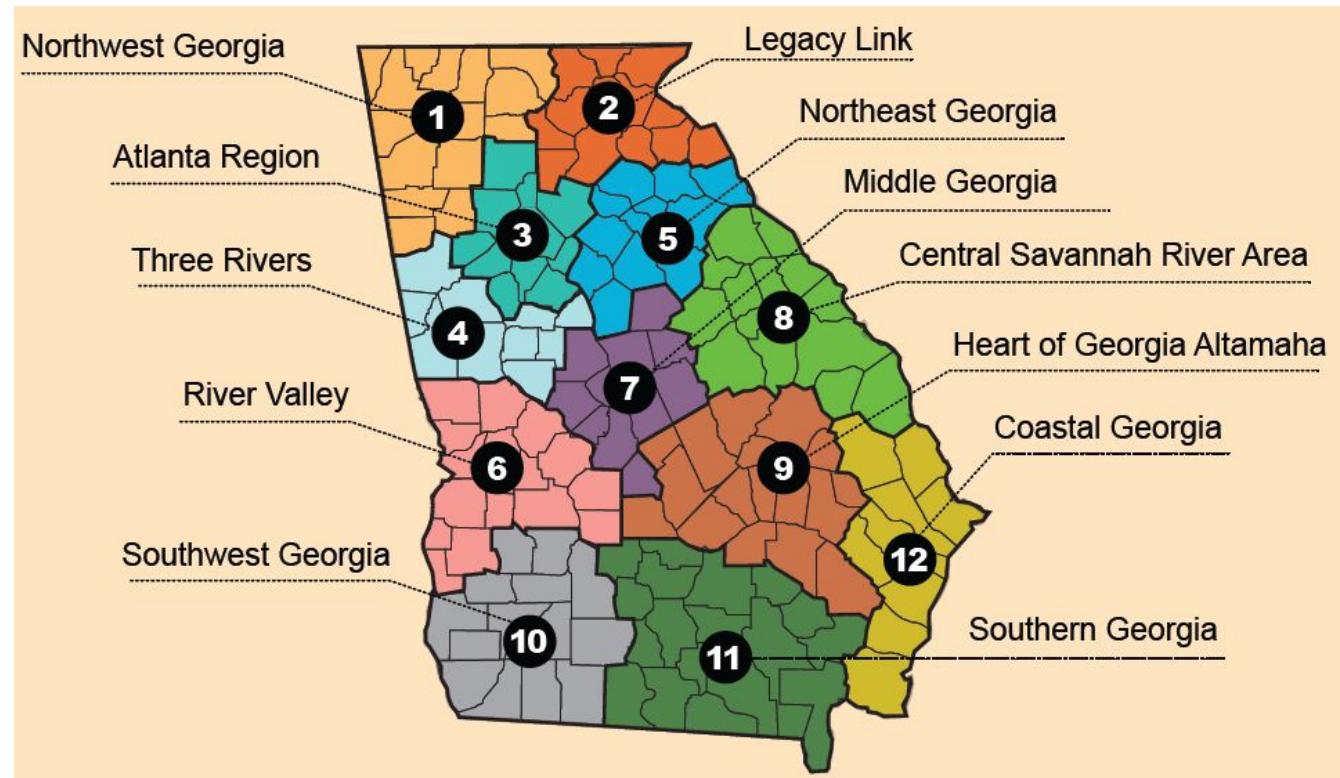
Senior Hunger Regional Coalitions

- **Coalition Make-up and Directive**

- Diverse stakeholders
- Hold a minimum of 3 meetings within the state fiscal year

- **Action Items**

- Find resources, gaps and duplication of services
- Identify best practices
- Develop regional strategy to address senior hunger



All Established in SFY 2019



Georgia's Annual Senior Hunger Summit

Raising Awareness and Seeking Solutions

1. 5th Senior Hunger Summit (*virtual*)

- ✓ 357/449 engaged on the platform
- ✓ 31 states represented
- ✓ Highlights – Honoring Kroger Company as first Senior Hunger Corporate Leader Award Recipient, Coalition Work, Cooking Demo, Networking/Video and Feeding America



Visit us at <https://aging.georgia.gov/senior-hunger-initiative>



Partnership & Engagement

- ✓ **Regional:** Senior Hunger Coalitions
- ✓ **Interagency:** SHIC*; SNAP Outreach (DHS)
- ✓ **Interstate:** ACL Grant with State of Kentucky + NFESH**
- ✓ **Research/Academic:** Collaboration with UGA + DAS/DFCS (DHS)
- ✓ **Non-Profit:** NFESH**; Open Hand Atlanta
- ✓ **For-Profit:** Honoring Senior Hunger Corporate Leaders

*SHIC: Senior Hunger Interagency Council

**NFESH: National Foundation to End Senior Hunger



Papers Published Using DAS Client Data

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2. Bengle, R., Sinnett, S., Johnson, T., Johnson, M. A., Brown, A., & Lee, J. S. (2010). Food insecurity is associated with cost-related medication non-adherence in community-dwelling, low-income older adults in Georgia. *Journal of Nutrition for the Elderly*, 29(2), 170–191.
3. Bhargava, V., Lee, J. S., Jain, R., Johnson, M. A., Brown, A. (2012). Food Insecurity Is Negatively Associated with Home Health and Out-of-Pocket Expenditures in Older Adults, *The Journal of Nutrition*, Volume 142, Issue 10, October 2012, Pages 1888–1895.
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12. Lee, J. S., Shannon, J. Brown, A. (2015). Characteristics of Older Georgians Receiving Older Americans Act Nutrition Program and Other Home and Community-Based Services. *J Nutr Gerontol Geriatrics*, 34(2), 168-188.
13. Lee, J. S., Sinnett, S., Bengle, R., Johnson, M. A., & Brown, A. (2011). Unmet Needs for the Older Americans Act Nutrition Program. *Journal of Applied Gerontology*, 30(5), 587–606.
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15. Sinnett, S., Bengle, R., Brown, A., Glass, A. P., Johnson, M. A., & Lee, J. S. (2010). The validity of Nutrition Screening Initiative DETERMINE Checklist responses in older Georgians. *Journal of nutrition for the elderly*, 29(4), 393–409.



Georgia's Senior Hunger Initiative

Next Steps

- ✓ Support Regional Senior Hunger Coalition efforts and innovations
- ✓ Continue Work with Senior Hunger Interagency Council (*SHIC*)
- ✓ Expand partnerships to better serve vulnerable older Georgians
- ✓ Conduct Listening Sessions for Next Senior Hunger State Plan
- ✓ Raise awareness & seek solutions at each Senior Hunger Summit



Georgia's Senior Hunger Initiative

What needs to be in the next state plan?

1. SNAP access, participation and benefit utilization (outreach); SNAP advocacy
2. Food as medicine
3. Role of senior centers during times of emergency preparedness
4. Health access and equity; Cultural competency
5. Comprehensive needs assessment incorporating key stakeholders
6. Rural hunger
7. Improving food access; Transportation
8. Identifying funding sources; Funding for senior hunger regional coordinators



Questions?

Temitope Walker, Ph.D.

Senior Hunger Nutrition Coordinator

Division of Aging Services

Georgia Department of Human Services

temitope.walker@dhs.ga.gov

aging.georgia.gov/get-involved/senior-hunger

Facebook: @GeorgiaDepartmentofHumanServices

Twitter: @GaDHS

Email: senior.hunger@dhs.ga.gov

