

PRESENTATION TO SR 283 - SENATE STUDY
COMMITTEE ON IMPROVING ACCESS TO
HEALTHY FOODS AND ENDING FOOD DESERTS



Food Insecurity and the Business Community

Presented by
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VALDOSTA-LOWNDES
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ADVOCATE | BUILD | CONNECT

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a mound of dark, rich soil. The hand is positioned in the center of the frame, with the fingers slightly curled to support the soil. The background is a solid, vibrant green color. Two vertical yellow bars are present: one at the top center and one at the bottom center, extending from the top and bottom edges of the image respectively. The text is overlaid on the hand and soil in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

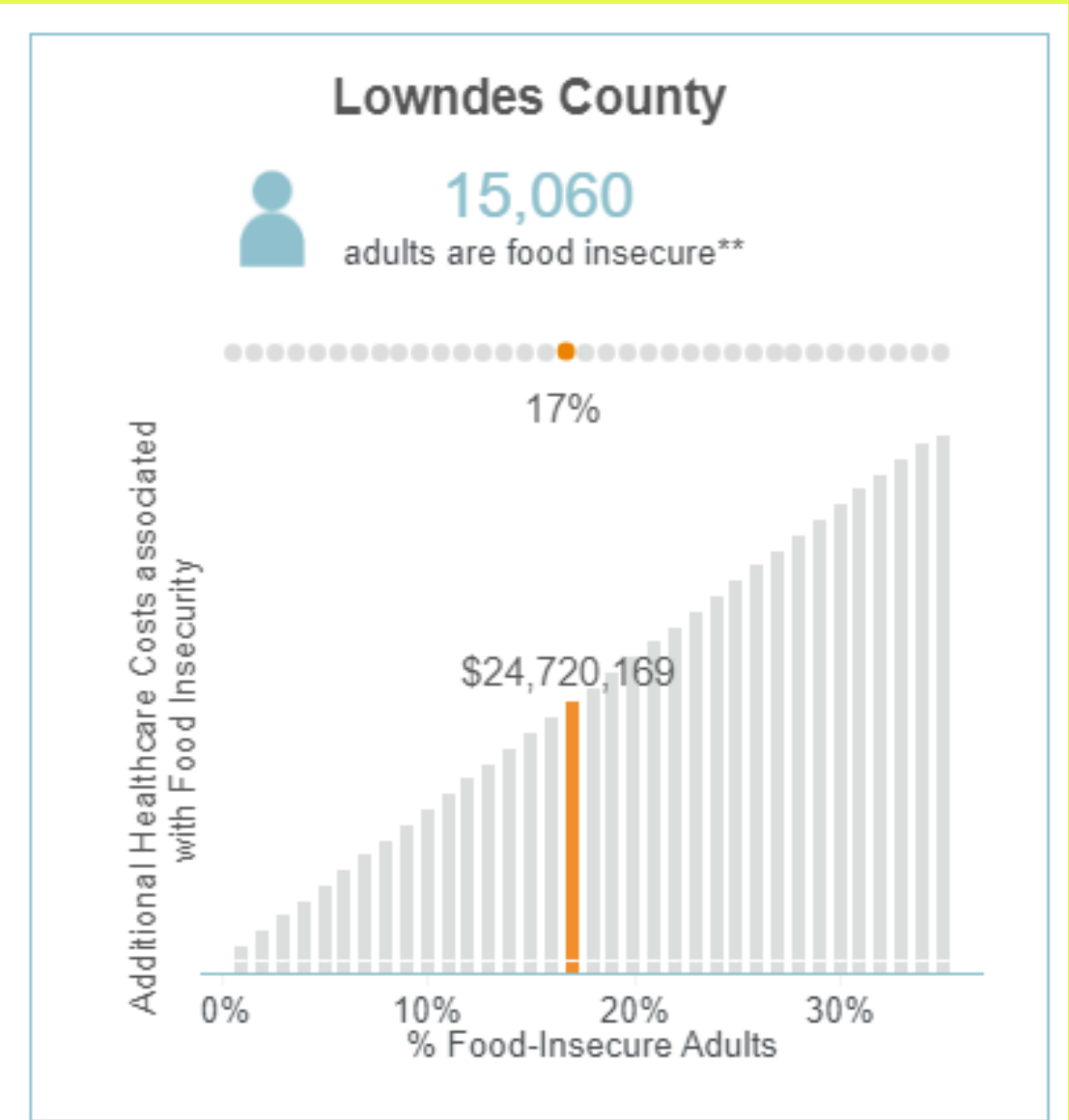
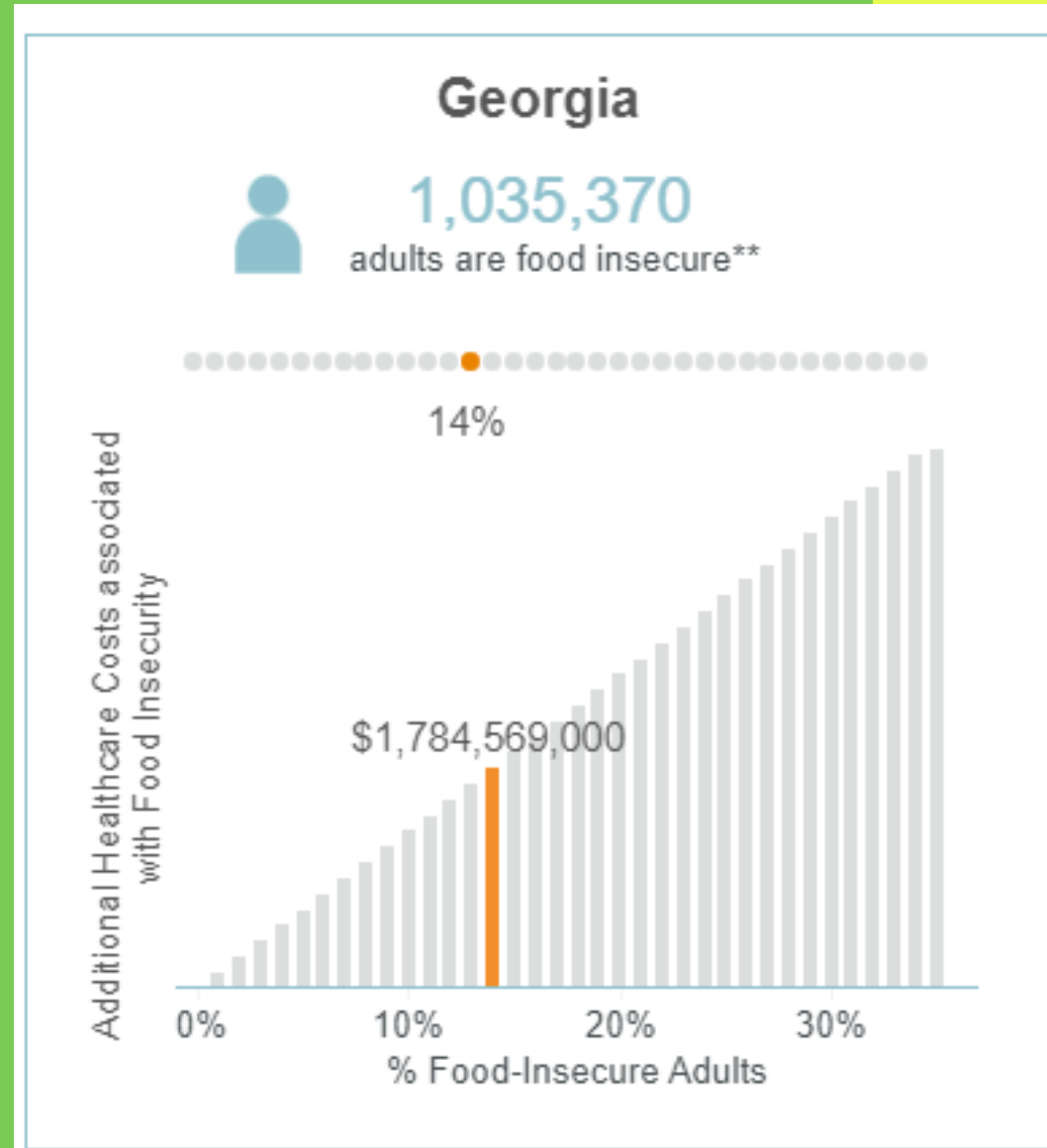
**WE RECOGNIZE THAT
FOOD INSECURITY IS A
COMPLEX ISSUE WITH
MANY CAUSES AND
BROAD IMPACTS.**

15,060

NUMBER OF FOOD INSECURE ADULTS IN LOWNDES COUNTY

Food Insecurity leads to Adults:

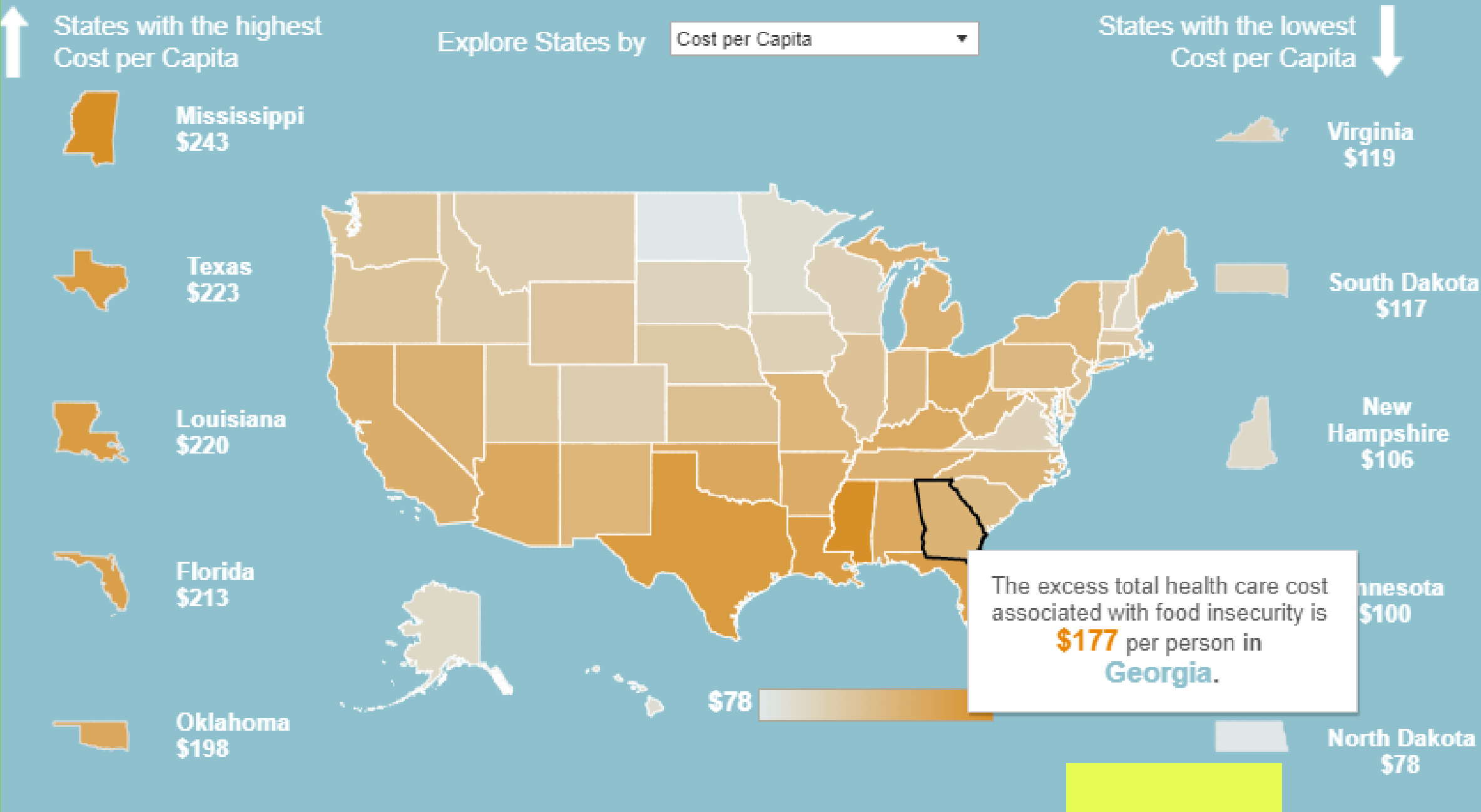
- having poor health
- calling out of work
- utilizing more local public and nonprofit services



\$24,720,169

INCREASED HEALTHCARE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH FOOD INSECURE ADULTS IN LOWNDES COUNTY

This data visualization illustrates the geographic variations of healthcare costs associated with food insecurity in the United States. In the map below, each dollar amount represents the additional healthcare costs per capita associated with food insecurity. Note that per capita refers to the entire state population, not only to the food-insecure population within the state.



Healthcare Costs associated with Food Insecurity

The total health care cost associated with food insecurity is **\$177 PER PERSON** in Georgia

The excess total health care cost associated with food insecurity is **\$1,686** per food insecure adult in Georgia.

Data is from: Feeding America "The Healthcare Cost of Food Insecurity" (July 2019): <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/feeding.america.research/viz/TheHealthcareCostsofFoodInsecurity/HealthcareCosts>

Impacting Our Future Workforce



POOR ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Kids who don't have reliable access to food are much more likely to face unhealthy, unsuccessful and uncertain futures.

INCREASED HEALTH EXPENSES

Children who are not provided adequate, healthy food are at greater risks for health issues later in life, like diabetes, high blood pressure, hypertension, heart disease, arthritis, and some types of cancer.





8%

SNAP ACCOUNTS FOR ABOUT 8% OF THE FOOD U.S. FAMILIES BUY FOR THEIR HOMES

80%

OF SNAP-AUTHORIZED RETAILERS ARE SMALL BUSINESSES

INCREASE PURCHASING POWER

SNAP helps poor households free up cash for other non-food necessities such as diapers, medication, etc. resulting in increased retail sales.



IMPROVING ECONOMY

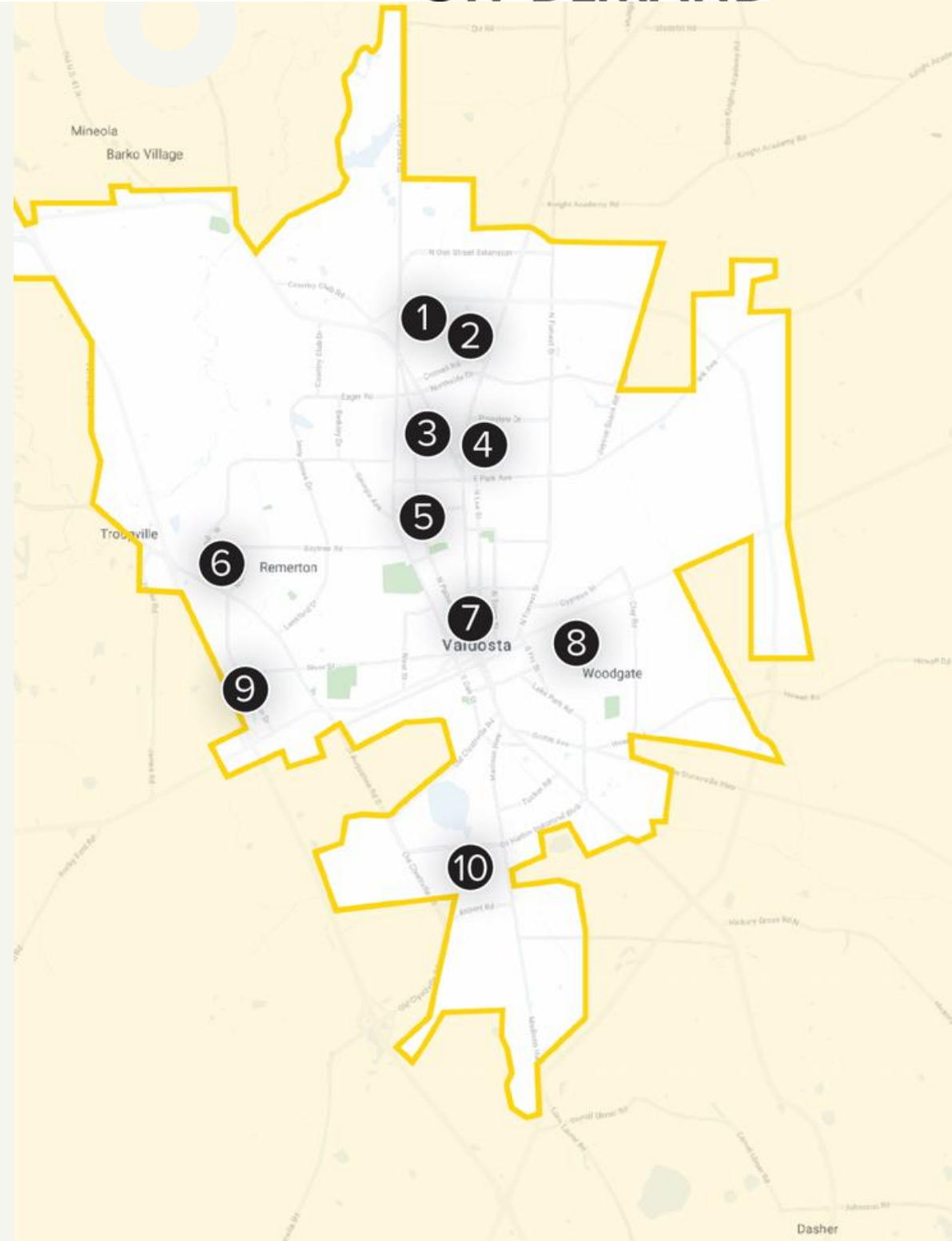
Every dollar in new SNAP benefits spent when the economy is weak and unemployment elevated would increase the gross domestic product by \$1.54, a recent USDA study estimated.



We've discussed why the business community cares about food insecurity but let's talk about solutions....

Valdosta

ON-DEMAND



Popular destinations:

- ① Walmart (Inner Perimeter Rd)
- ② South Georgia Regional Library (Julia Dr)
- ③ South Georgia Medical Center
- ④ Castle Park Shopping Center
- ⑤ Valdosta State University
- ⑥ Valdosta Mall
- ⑦ Downtown Valdosta
- ⑧ Mildred Hunter Community Center
- ⑨ Walmart (Norman Dr)
- ⑩ Azalea Business Park

Support Creative Transportation Solutions



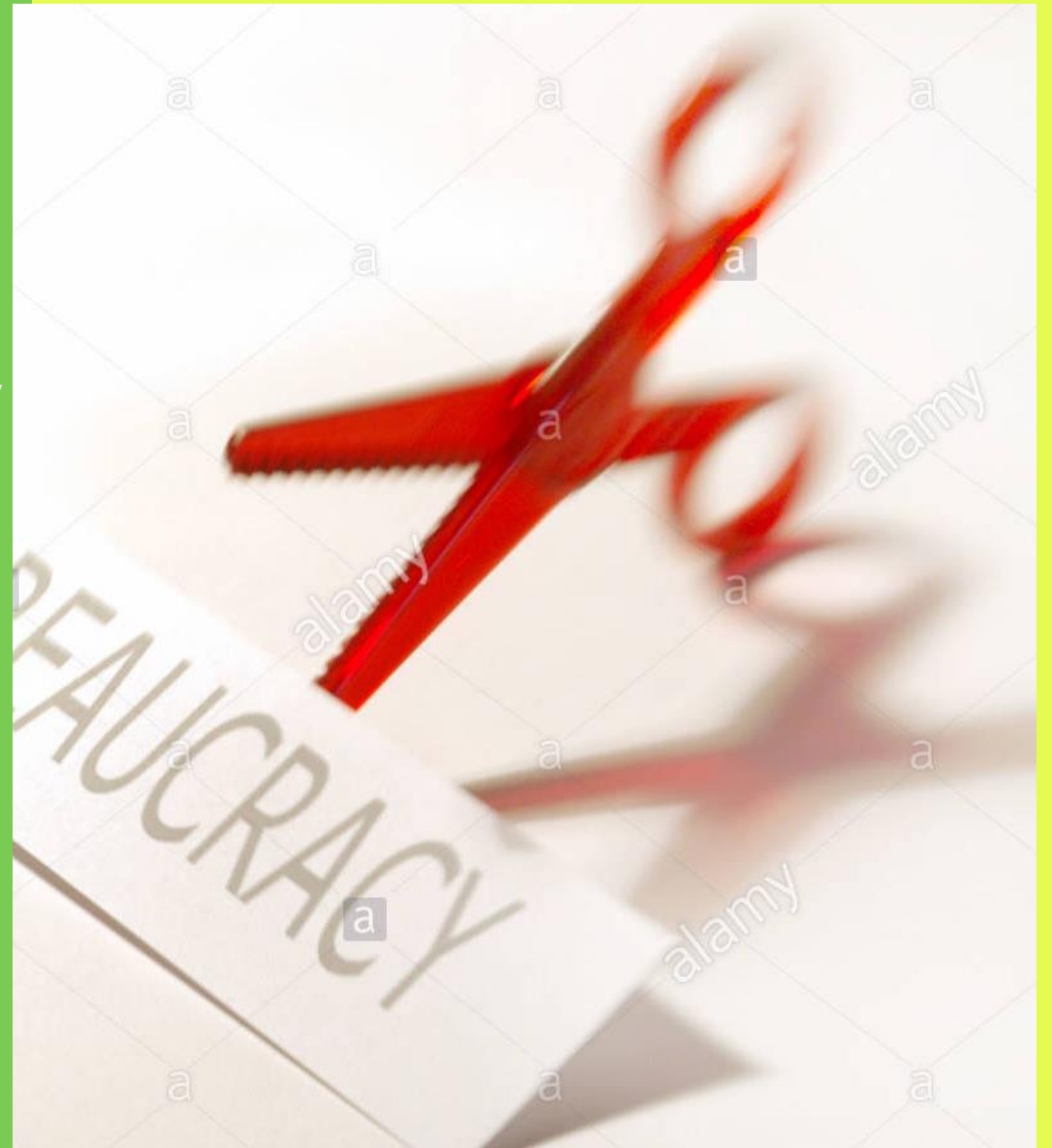
Instead of generic bus routes, Valdosta ON-DEMAND allows users to go anywhere in the city for \$2 per ride.

For more information, visit: <https://www.valdostacity.com/public-works/valdosta-demand>

Cut the Bureaucracy

THERE IS NO ONE-SIZE-
FITS-ALL SOLUTION

Federal and state funds often come with so many restrictions that the organizations on the ground cannot use the funds to address the specific nutrition needs of the local communities.



Fund More Than Food

THERE ARE MANY OBSTACLES TO FOOD ACCESS



TRANSPORTATION

Many food programs are under utilized because would be participants have no way to pick up food.



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Many successful programs need help ensuring that they effectively manage complex federal grants.



OUTREACH

Support effective outreach to families that lack healthy food access



Incentivize Partnership

WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER

One organization or government cannot solve the issue of food insecurity alone. Incentivize shared planning between schools, governments, nonprofits, etc. to increase effectiveness and decrease overlap and waste.

Thank you!



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