

# Overview of Federal Child Food and Nutrition Programs in Georgia

**When given access to adequate nutrition, the impact is clear:** children are healthier and perform better in school.<sup>1</sup> However, children who are not provided adequate, healthy food often perform poorly in school and are more likely to experience mental health problems.<sup>2</sup> These children are also at greater risks for health issues later in life, like diabetes, high blood pressure, hypertension, heart disease, arthritis, and some types of cancer.<sup>3</sup>



## CHILD HUNGER IN GEORGIA

Food insecurity affects approximately  
**360,210**  
 of Georgia's children under the age of 18.<sup>4</sup>

### PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO SUPPORT HEALTHY AND ADEQUATE CHILD NUTRITION

Program Description	Enrollment in Georgia <sup>^</sup>
<b>Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)</b> Reimburses for nutritious meals. Child care programs, afterschool care programs, child care homes, emergency shelters, and adult care centers can be CACFP eligible. <sup>5</sup>	108,420 average daily attendance <sup>6</sup>
<b>National School Lunch Program (NSLP)</b> Provides nutritionally balanced, free or reduced-cost (based on a sliding scale) free lunches to children in public and nonprofit private schools, and residential child care institutions. <sup>7</sup>	694,147 total participation <sup>8</sup>
<b>School Breakfast Program (SBP)</b> Provides cash subsidies to public or non-profit private schools and residential child care institutions to provide meals that meet federal nutrition requirements. Meals are provided to eligible children for free or at a reduced cost. <sup>9</sup>	481,991 total participation <sup>10</sup>
<b>Seamless Summer Option (SSO)</b> Provides the same meal service that is available during the regular school year to hungry kids in the community during the summer. This program is provided through either the NSLP or SBP. <sup>11</sup>	112,495 average daily participation <sup>12</sup>
<b>Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)</b> Reimburses for healthy meals and snacks served to children from low-income areas during summer months when school is not in session. <sup>13</sup>	56,900 average daily attendance <sup>14</sup>
<b>Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)</b> Provides a nutrition-designated electronic benefit card to supplement food budgets of individuals or families with low-income. <sup>15</sup>	301,000 households with children <sup>16</sup>
<b>Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)</b> Provides supplemental food assistance, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women, infants, and children up to age five. <sup>17</sup>	202,200 total participation <sup>18</sup>  This is only 49% of the number eligible for WIC.

<sup>^</sup>Pandemic-related USDA waivers, which provide increase program flexibility and reduce barriers, may be a factor in the decreased participation compared to previous years (e.g., required applications, universal meals)



## Sources for Federal Child Food Programs

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