

**October 31, 2025**

**VIA EMAIL**

The Honorable Brian P. Kemp  
Governor, State of Georgia  
Office of the Governor  
206 Washington Street  
Suite 203, State Capitol  
Atlanta, GA 30334

**RE: Use Emergency Funds Now to Prevent a SNAP Crisis in Georgia**

Dear Governor Kemp:

On behalf of the Southern Poverty Law Center and the undersigned community, faith, health, education, business, and government partners, we urge you to deploy state emergency resources immediately if the federal government shutdown continues and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits lapse on November 1.

As you know, the SNAP program is our nation's largest food assistance program. More than 1.4 million Georgians rely on SNAP to buy groceries for their families, a disproportionate number of whom are Black and or LGBTQ+. Nationally, people of color account for a combined 46.5% of SNAP recipients, 36% of SNAP recipients are children, and 1 in 7 LGBTQ+ people rely on the program. A benefit interruption at the start of the month would trigger an avoidable food-security emergency across urban, suburban, and rural communities alike. Given the critical importance of SNAP benefits, the Governor's office must take all possible steps to ensure that families do not go hungry.

This is not theoretical. Food banks and pantries are already signaling strain. If SNAP dollars stop flowing, demand for food assistance will spike overnight, especially among seniors, people with disabilities, working parents with young children, college students, and military families stationed in Georgia. Local providers cannot backfill a federal nutrition program at this scale without immediate bridge support from the state.

We recognize that SNAP benefits are federally funded and administered. We also know the State of Georgia has tools to cushion the blow when Washington stalls. In the past, during fiscal disruptions and disasters, governors have utilized flexible state dollars and emergency authorities to stabilize essential services while pressing the federal government to act. We ask you to do the same here.

**Our specific requests**

- **Use the bully pulpit.** Publicly pressure Congress, the White House, and the Administration to restore federal funding without delay. Georgians need clarity and urgency from every level of government. This includes urging:

- Congress and the White House to end the shutdown by passing a funding deal that protects health care and federal funding.
- The White House and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to use all available tools to enable SNAP benefits to be paid through or close to the end of November, including using the contingency funding that is available for SNAP or transferring legally available funds from other USDA nutrition programs.
- **Activate emergency state funding to stabilize the food pipeline.** Allocate immediate, time-limited support to Georgia’s regional food banks and their partner networks to purchase food, expand cold storage and transportation, and extend hours. Prioritize high-need counties and low-access areas.
- **Set up a statewide coordination hub.** Direct DHS, GEMA/HS, and DPH to coordinate real-time data sharing with food banks and local governments; publish county-level need indicators; and issue weekly public updates until federal SNAP benefits resume.
- **Cut red tape for rapid response.** Temporarily streamline state procurement, logistics, and pass-through grants so providers can buy and move food quickly. Where permissible, waive or suspend non-essential state-level paperwork that slows disbursement.
- **Protect children and keep families stable.** Collaborate with school districts to ensure ongoing access to breakfast and lunch programs and to establish emergency meal distribution arrangements as needed. Ensure WIC clinics have clear guidance and contingency plans if federal systems are disrupted.
- **Fund community outreach.** Provide small, rapid grants to trusted local organizations to run multilingual outreach, point families to food resources, and counter misinformation about benefit status.

### **Why acting now matters**

Every SNAP dollar lost is a grocery purchase not made at Georgia stores and markets. The program’s stabilizing effect on local economies is well-documented- for every dollar in SNAP benefits generates [\\$1.79 in economic activity](#). A lapse would ripple from kitchen tables to checkout counters to small distributors and farms —disproportionately harming communities of color. Emergency state action cannot replace SNAP, but it can prevent humanitarian and economic shock while Washington resolves its impasse.

Your administration has often emphasized resilience, local problem-solving, and fiscal stewardship. A targeted, time-limited state bridge for food access reflects those values. It keeps families fed, reduces



pressure on law enforcement and hospitals, and buys Georgia the time it needs until the federal government restarts benefits.

We stand ready to help. Our organizations can assist with coordination, outreach, legal analysis, and on-the-ground logistics. We request a meeting with your office and relevant agencies within 48 hours to align an emergency plan and establish an implementation timeline.

Georgia families cannot eat promises. They need groceries in the cart on November 1.

Respectfully,

**Southern Poverty Law Center**

**Organizational Signers**

*50501 Veterans*  
*Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc*  
*Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Tau Pi Omega Chapter*  
*Amplify Georgia Collaborative*  
*Antioch A.M.E Church*  
*ASIA Ministry*  
*Asian American Advocacy Fund*  
*Athens Immigrant Rights Coalition*  
*Atlanta Grandmothers for Peace*  
*Atlanta-Fulton Family Connection*  
*Barred Business*  
*Birds of Paradise*  
*Blair Flair Beautique*  
*Burmese Rohingya Community of Georgia*  
*CASA*  
*Catholic Charities Atlanta*  
*Center for Constitutional Rights (Southern Regional Office)*  
*Center for Employment Opportunities*  
*Central Outreach and Advocacy Center*  
*Coalición de Lideres Latinos*  
*Cobb County Democracy Center*  
*Common Cause Georgia*  
*Concerned Citizens Coalition of Southeast DeKalb*  
*Cosmopolitan A.M.E. Church*  
*Crossroads Church Douglassville*  
*DeKalb County Democrats*  
*Dignidad Inmigrante en Athens*  
*Diocese of Atlanta*  
*Divine Healing Ministries of GA*  
*Dr. Earl Stewart, Jr., Family Foundation*  
*Eritrean-American Community Center*  
*Everything Left & Center Glynn*  
*Four E Youth Organization, Inc*  
*GA House Representative District 35*  
*GA Voices United*

# **SP LC** **GEORGIA**

*GA Working Families Power*  
*Georgia Budget and Policy Institute*  
*Georgia Equality*  
*Georgia Muslim Voter Project*  
*Georgia Poor People's Campaign*  
*Georgia STAND-UP*  
*Georgia Voices United*  
*Georgia Youth Justice Coalition for Education*  
*Georgians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty*  
*Global Growers Network*  
*God's Angel for Single Parents (GASP)*  
*Good Samaritan Center of Douglas County*  
*Human Rights Campaign*  
*I'm Every Woman Inc.*  
*Indivisible ATL*  
*Indivisible Cobb*  
*Indivisible Columbus ga*  
*Indivisible CSRA*  
*Indivisible Georgia Coalition*  
*Indivisible Georgia District 10*  
*Indivisible Gwinnett*  
*Indivisible Lumpkin*  
*Indivisible North Metro Atlanta*  
*Inspiritus*  
*Intercultural Development Research Association*  
*Interfaith Atlanta*  
*Interfaith Children's Movement*  
*International Rescue Committee*  
*Jewish Community Relations Council of Atlanta*  
*Jewish Family & Career Services of Atlanta*  
*Kids to leaders*  
*Latino Community Fund Georgia (LCF Georgia)*  
*Legal Action Center*  
*LIFETOOLS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORP*  
*Love Christian Center Food Pantry*  
*Moms Rising*  
*Motherhood Beyond Bars*  
*Mothering Justice*  
*Necessary Trouble*  
*New American Pathways*  
*New Bethel AME Church, Lithonia, GA*  
*North GA United Methodist Housing and Homeless Council*  
*North Georgia United Methodist Housing and Homelessness Council*  
*Occupational Workplace Solutions*  
*Onyx Impact*  
*PAD Initiative*  
*PFLAG Rome Inc.*  
*Poder Latinx*  
*Prince Hall Masons of Georgia*

# **SP LC** GEORGIA

*Refuge Coffee Co.*  
*Refuge Women's Network, Inc.*  
*Reproductive Freedom for All Georgia*  
*Restore Georgia*  
*Rome/Floyd Indivisible*  
*Senior Citizens of America*  
*Social Justice Guild of the First Existentialist Congregation*  
*Southern Indigenous Coalition*  
*The Coalition for the People's Agenda*  
*The Coalition of Refugee Service Agencies*  
*The Village at Stone Mountain Association*  
*The Welcome Co-Op*  
*Third Act Georgia*  
*U-Lead Athens*  
*Union of Southern Service Workers*  
*Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Athens*  
*United Campus Workers of Georgia, CWA Local 3821*  
*Unity coalition*  
*Village at Stone Mountain*  
*Virtuous Woman Life Academy*  
*Women Watch Afrika*  
*Zeitgeist-Atlanta*

## **Local & State Government**

*Georgia Legislative Black Caucus*  
*Georgia State Rep. Al Williams, District 168*  
*Georgia State Rep. Bryce Berry, District 56*  
*Georgia State Rep. Inga Willis, District 55*  
*Georgia State Rep. LC Myles, District 126*  
*Georgia State Sen. Kim Jackson, District 41*  
*Mr. Tim Denson, Clarke County School Board Member, District 5*

## **Residents of Georgia**

*Alfreda Brooks*  
*Alicia Henderson*  
*Andrea Kuklenyik*  
*Aneatha Deloach*  
*Angela Genus*  
*Barbara Dennis*  
*Barbara McCarthan*  
*Beverly German*  
*Brittney Casper*  
*CM Burke*  
*Camilla Paul*  
*Caroline Johnson*  
*Charlene Matthew*  
*Chas Monty*  
*Cherelle Williams*  
*Cynthia D Dix*

# **SP LC** **GEORGIA**

*Dale Bentley*  
*Darlene Robinson*  
*Dashannique Bridges*  
*David Brown*  
*Dollie Whittle*  
*Dontè Philpot*  
*Dr. Barbara Smith*  
*Dr. Kyra M. Caldwell Templeton*  
*Dujuana Webster*  
*Dujuana Webster*  
*Dywanna Harris*  
*Felicia Tucker-Lively*  
*Ferdenia Haywood*  
*Jacqueline Brown*  
*Jacqueline Manning*  
*Jamie Gile*  
*Jasper Carpenter*  
*Jessie Bates*  
*Joan Curtis*  
*Karae Jenkins*  
*Kate Denny*  
*Kathy J Collins*  
*Kristen Carter*  
*LaShon Philpot*  
*Lydia Glaize*  
*Marla Tepper*  
*Marléne Anderson*  
*Mary Gordon*  
*Melody Johnson*  
*Monica Sanchez*  
*Nichole Phillips*  
*Nikki James*  
*Perri Higgins*  
*Portia Brantley*  
*Rhonda Pitts*  
*Rinald Henderson*  
*Sakeenah Whitley*  
*Samarah Brinson*  
*Sandra Bur*  
*Shannon Bridges*  
*Shon Fletcher*  
*Simone Heard*  
*Stephanie Hollingsworth*  
*Suzanne Moccia*  
*Thomasina Greene*  
*Tia curry*  
*Tinya Moe*  
*Tony Tibbitts*  
*Trenell Ellsworth*



**Primary Contacts for Follow-Up**

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**CC:**

The Honorable Raphael G. Warnock, United States Senator (Georgia)

The Honorable Jon Ossoff, United States Senator (Georgia)

Members of the Georgia Congressional Delegation

Leadership of the Georgia General Assembly