



Georgia Department of Human Services
Division of Aging Services

Georgia Senior Hunger Initiative

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Vision, Mission and 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.**



Overview

- Introduction
 - Senior Hunger Nationally and in Georgia
 - How we got started with the initiative
 - Initial Projects
- The Senior Hunger State Plan Development Process
 - Development of Five Topic Areas
 - Senior Hunger Summit 2016
 - Senior Hunger Fighter Workgroups
 - 2017 Senior Hunger Listening Sessions
 - Drafting the State Plan
- Discussion of the Five Topic Areas
 - Waste and Food Reclamation
 - Today's Seniors
 - Meeting the Needs of the Community
 - The Health Impact of Senior Hunger
 - Food Access



What is Senior Hunger

- Glossary

- Hunger: An individual-level physiological condition that may result from food insecurity. A feeling of discomfort or weakness caused by lack of food
- Food Insecurity: the condition assessed in the food security survey and represented in USDA food security reports- a 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
- Malnutrition: A 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
- Food Desert: A area in which it is difficult to buy affordable or good-quality fresh food
- Food Reclamation: aka. Food Rescue, is the 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



What are the national statistics?

- Meals On Wheels America: More than 10 Million older Americans (16% of older adults or 1 in 6 older adults) face hunger each year. (2017)
- NCOA: Food insecurity rate for all senior households is 8.3% (2015)
- NFESH: 15.8% of seniors face the threat of hunger. This translates into 10.2 million seniors (2014)
- AARP Foundation: we have seen an increase in older adult hunger of 79% between 2001 and 2009



TOGETHER, WE CAN DELIVER.™

The number of seniors in our country will grow exponentially over the coming years. Meals on Wheels is a proven public-private partnership that effectively addresses the challenges of aging by promoting health and improving quality of life for our nation's most vulnerable seniors. By leveraging the existing Meals on Wheels network, we have the opportunity to not only keep seniors at home, but also save billions in tax dollars by keeping them out of more costly healthcare settings.



TOO MANY SENIORS ARE LEFT BEHIND, ALONE AND HUNGRY, STRUGGLING TO STAY INDEPENDENT AND HEALTHY.



1 IN 6 seniors struggles with hunger

15.2 MILLION are isolated, living alone

9.6 MILLION are threatened by hunger

18.4 MILLION are living in or near poverty

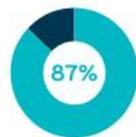
MEALS ON WHEELS DELIVERS THE SUPPORT THAT KEEPS SENIORS IN THEIR OWN HOMES, WHERE THEY WANT TO BE.



say it improves their health



say it enables them to remain living at home



say it makes them feel more safe and secure

SENIORS REMAINING AT HOME, OUT OF HOSPITALS AND NURSING HOMES, SAVES BILLIONS IN MEDICARE & MEDICAID COSTS.



What are the Georgia Statistics?

Georgia is ranked 9th for senior hunger/food insecurity in the nation. (NFESH 2014)

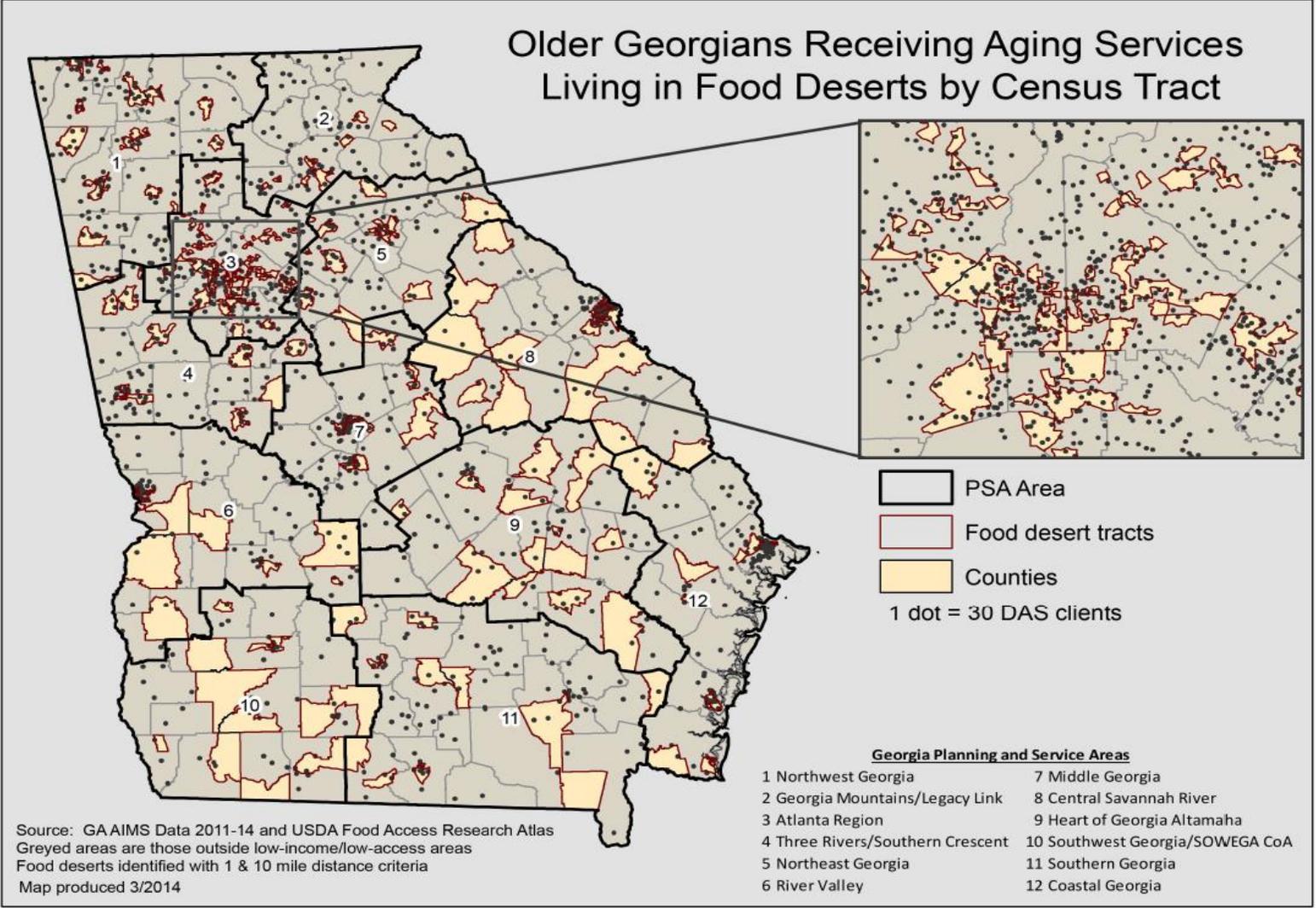


Food Insecurity by Planning and service Area

Overall 28.9%	Food Insecurity	
PSA	%	Rank
1. Northwest Georgia	42.70	1
2. Georgia Mountains	38.85	2
7. Middle Georgia	32.70	3
11. Southern Georgia	31.71	4
12. Coastal Georgia	31.17	5
6. River Valley	28.56	6
10. SOWEGA	27.68	7
3. Atlanta Region	24.33	8
9. Heart of Georgia/Altamaha	24.03	9
5. Northeast Georgia	21.67	10
8. Central Savannah River	20.52	11
4. Southern Crescent	18.93	12

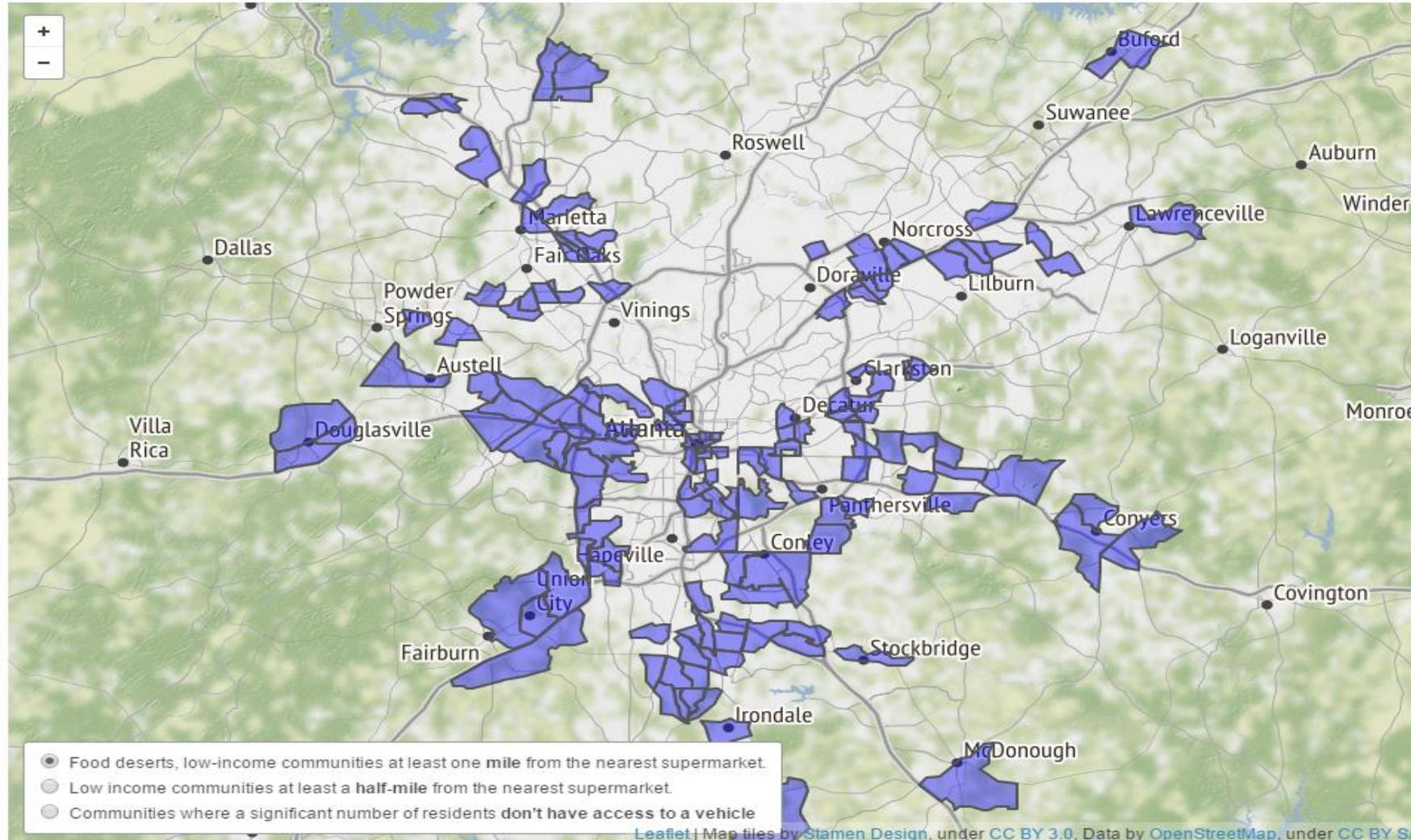


Older Georgia's Receiving Aging Services living in Food Deserts by Census Tract



Metro Atlanta food deserts

Food deserts are defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as low-income communities located more than one mile from a reliable source of fresh produce and other healthy whole foods. Residents of food deserts who lack a reliable source of transportation are often forced to shop at convenience stores, where prices are higher than full-service supermarkets and selection is typically limited to processed foods high in fat, salt and sugar. This map shows where food deserts are located in metro Atlanta. Use the toggle buttons at the bottom to change the categories.



How Georgia Embarked on the Senior Hunger Initiative

- 9th in senior hunger and food insecurity is not a top ten list we want to be on.
- Supportive Department of Human Services Commissioner
- Supportive Governor and First Lady
- State Plan Goal to host a Senior Hunger Summit



What Can Be Done?

A promotional graphic for the Senior Hunger Summit. The top half features a wooden crate filled with fresh vegetables like tomatoes, carrots, and bell peppers. In the center of the crate, the words "Senior HUNGER SUMMIT" are written in a mix of fonts, with "Senior" in orange script, "HUNGER" in large grey block letters, and "SUMMIT" in smaller white block letters. To the left of the text is a stylized orange and white wheat stalk icon. Below the crate, the phrase "Save the date" is written in a large, orange, cursive font. The bottom half of the graphic is a white rectangular area with a green border, containing event details in black and orange text.

DHS | Division of Aging Services

**Senior
HUNGER
SUMMIT**

Save the date

Join us for
The Georgia Senior Hunger Summit
Building Partnerships to Help End Senior Hunger

September 28-29, 2017

Marriott Century Center
2000 Century Blvd NE
Atlanta, GA 30345

For more information, contact Gwentyth Johnson at
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EXPERTS | **POLICYMAKERS** | **COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS**

Raising awareness. Seeking solutions.



What Can Be Done?

- Partnership with the National Foundation to End Senior Hunger (NFESH)
 - Key Note Speaker for Georgia Senior Hunger Summit 2016
 - What A Waste Program First Cohort
 - 3 Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) Applied to Participate
 - 3 Senior Centers per AAA
 - 9 initial sites
 - What A Waste Program Second Cohort
 - 9 Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) Applied to Participate
 - 3 Senior Centers per AAA
 - 27 additional sites



State Plan Development Process

- Review of National and State Research
- Develop five primary topic areas
- First Ever Georgia Senior Hunger Summit
- Senior Hunger Fighter Workgroups Formed
- Listening Sessions Held in All 12 Regions of the State
- State Plan Outlined and Drafted Based on Collected Information
- Second Georgia Senior Hunger Summit
- State Plan Delivered



First Ever Senior Hunger Summit

- Selected a committee of state individuals from across the state to help develop a well rounded summit
- Used 5 topics to drive the breakout sessions and the post summit work groups
- Invited speakers from national and local organizations
- Invited for profit organizations, not for profit organizations, faith community leaders, legislators and members of government, older adults and members of the aging network
- Post summit working session evolved into the 5 workgroups
- Support from Georgia's Governor and First Lady



12 Regional Listening Sessions

- One session held in each of the 12 planning and service areas of the state aging network with the support of the Area Agencies on Aging
- Support from North Highland Contractors to conduct the sessions
- Five primary topics provided prior to the listening session to help develop the conversation
- The primary topics were used as an outline to guide each session
- Notes were taken on site via computer, sticky notes and flip charts and followed up with an on line survey
- Reports from each session are included in the state plan appendices and are reflected in the recommendations



Drafting The State Plan

- Enlisting an intern
- Starting with the research
- Developing a Glossary of terms for better communication and understanding
- Review and inclusion of the listening session reports and workgroup notes
- Review of five topic areas and common themes from listening sessions with two conference groups in Georgia
- Development of multilevel recommendations



Recommendations

- Regional Coalitions developed in 12 regions of the state to bring together the aging network with for profit, not for profit, faith based, civic, healthcare and other organizations as well as older adults, and their caregivers.
- Senior Hunger Coordinator Position to coordinate all state senior hunger activities
- Inter-Agency Policy Review Committee established to review policy that impacts a variety of aspects of senior hunger and food reclamation to information sharing.
- Data Collection and Analysis to measure the success of the state plan on senior hunger across organizations
- Education and Training for agencies and individuals across a variety of topics
- Continuation of What A Waste to ensure best use of existing resources and shared best practices
- Entrepreneurial Mini Grants to support creative initiatives that alleviate the issues of senior hunger, food deserts and isolation



Five Topic Areas and Common Themes

- Meeting the Needs of the Community
 - Streamlined policies and guidelines
 - Access to state wide data
 - Increase community awareness of the issue and resources
 - Partnership development needed



Five Topic Areas and Common Themes

- Health Impact of Senior Hunger
 - Disease prevalence with hunger and food insecurity
 - Link between primary care and community resources
 - Explaining the ROI for decreasing senior hunger
 - Partnerships needed with managed care entities



Five Topic Areas and Common Themes

- Food Access
 - Where are there food deserts?
 - Where 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 to meet the needs?



Five Topic Areas and Common Themes

- Today's Seniors
 - General difference between those aged 60 or 90 years
 - 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?



Five Topic Areas and Common Themes

- Food Waste and Reclamation
 - What policy exists to support food reclamation and reuse?
 - What programs and partnerships already participate in food reclamation in your community?
 - Are there food safety concerns with reclamation programs?
 - Is there duplication of efforts in some areas?



Partnering with the National Foundation to End Senior Hunger

- Key note at the first senior hunger summit
- Partnership for “What A Waste Program” Pilot in Georgia
 - Three Area Agencies on Aging (AAA)
 - Three Senior Centers per AAA
- Expanded Partnership and the What A Waste University
 - Expanded to the remaining 9 AAAs
 - Three Senior Centers per AAA



Next Steps for Georgia

- Continued Expansion of the What A Waste Program
- Expanding partnerships to better serve older adults in need
- Support of grassroots efforts and innovations
- Annual best practices session at state wide aging conference



Questions?

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