



**Georgia Department
of Human Services**
Division of Aging Services

Senior Hunger: Georgia's State Plan in Implementation

Temitope Walker, PhD, Senior Hunger Nutrition Coordinator, DHS DAS Livable Communities

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

- **Senior Hunger and Georgia**
 - Status of Senior Hunger in Georgia
 - Seeding the State Senior Hunger Initiative
- **Development of the State Plan**
 - 2016 Senior Hunger Summit
 - Senior Hunger Workgroups
 - 2017 Senior Hunger Listening Sessions
 - Drafting the State Plan
- **State Plan to Address Senior Hunger**
 - Five Focus Areas
 - Recommendations
 - Implementation



Status of Senior Hunger in Georgia

Older Adults (60+) in Georgia

- High poverty (11.1%) and food insecurity (18.1%, 9th in US)
 - > 300,000 older Georgians are at risk of food insecurity
- High prevalence of poor nutritional health, diet-related chronic conditions, and functional limitations
- High minority population (~28%)
- 7% of 60+ grandparents living with grandchildren (6th in US)
- **These statistics have significant program and policy implications**

Ziliak and Gundersen, 2017; United States Census Bureau, 2018; America's Health Rankings 2018



Address Senior Hunger in Georgia

Some Preliminary Work

- **Partnership with the National Foundation to End Senior Hunger (NFESH)**
 - **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**
- **Served as the foundation for one of the five focus areas**



Seeding the State Senior Hunger Initiative

Critical Steps in the Process

- **Recognized food insecurity among older Georgians**
- **Desire to address senior hunger from different stakeholders**
- **Key leadership support**
 - Department of Human Services Commissioner
 - Governor and First Lady
- **State plan included goal to host a senior hunger summit**



State Plan to Address Senior Hunger: Development Process

- Review of national and state research
- Identify and develop five focus areas
- First ever Georgia Senior Hunger Summit
- Senior hunger workgroups formed around 5 focus areas
- 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



Georgia State Senior Hunger Plan

First Senior Hunger Summit

- Invited speakers from national and local organizations
- Used five focus areas in developing breakout sessions
- Invited for-profit organizations, non-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 five workgroups



Georgia State Senior Hunger Plan

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
- Notes were taken on site via computer, sticky notes and flip charts and followed up with an online survey
- Reports from each session are included in the state plan appendices and are reflected in the recommendations



Georgia State Senior Hunger Plan

Drafting the State Plan

- Intern enlistment
- Literature review
- Glossary of terms
- Incorporated listening session reports and workgroup notes
- Summary of five topic areas and common themes
- Development of multi-level recommendations



Georgia State Senior Hunger Plan

Five Focus Areas

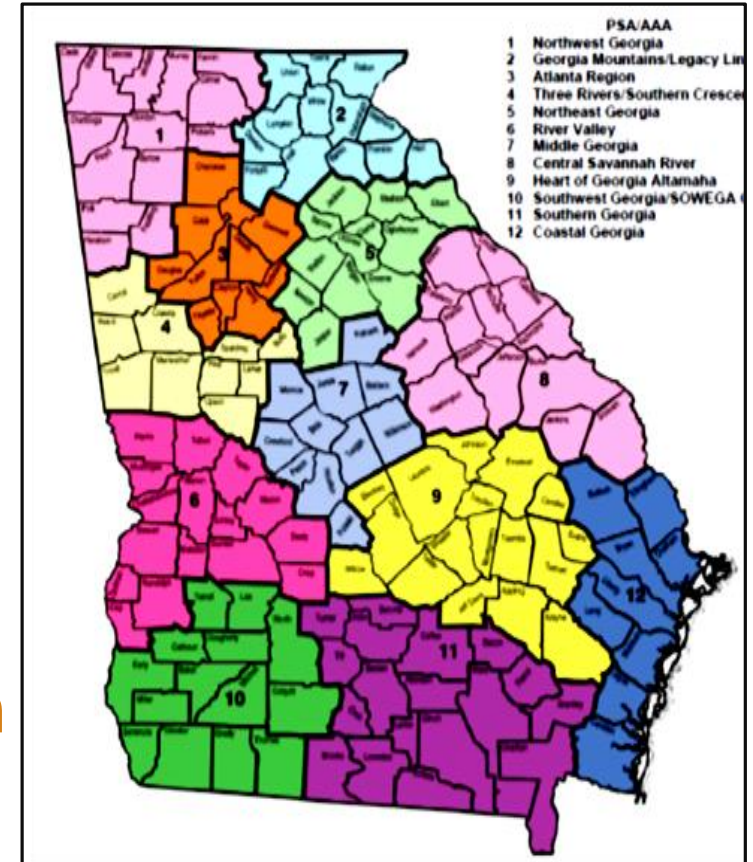
Focus Areas	Common Themes
Today's Seniors	Define needs of current seniors; identify impact of household dynamics; M-F service may not be enough
Meeting the Needs of the Community	Avoid service duplication; improve partnership with faith-based community; build school partnerships
Food Access	Transportation 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



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
- Continue and Expand the What a Waste Program
- Provide Entrepreneurial Mini-Grants



GEORGIA REGIONAL
COALITION SITES



Georgia State Senior Hunger Plan

Recommendations

- **Senior Hunger Coordinator** to coordinate all state senior hunger activities
- **Regional Coalitions** 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
- **Inter-Agency Policy Review Committee** 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
- **Education and Training** for agencies and individuals on senior hunger 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



Implementing the State Plan

Next Steps for Georgia

- Address the five focus areas of state plan
- Continue and expand partnerships to better serve older adults in need
- Support grassroots efforts and innovations
- Continue annual senior hunger summits to raise awareness and seek solutions
- **Develop Regional Coalitions**
- Establish Policy Review Council
- Coordinate Data Collection and Analysis
- Develop and Provide Education and Training
- Continue and Expand the What a Waste Program
- Provide Entrepreneurial Mini-Grants



Implementing the State Plan

Raising Awareness and Seeking Solutions



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



Questions?

Temitope A. Walker, PhD

Senior Hunger Nutrition Coordinator

DHS DAS Livable Communities

temitope.walker@dhs.ga.gov

404-463-9006 (office)

Abby Cox

DHS DAS Director

Georgia Department of Human Services

abby.cox@dhs.ga.gov

