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Atlanta Community Food Bank & State Partners Fill The Gap With Summer Meals
20.9% of Children are Food Insecure in Georgia

ATLANTA, GA (June 12, 2018) -- Summer is typically a time for fun in the sun, but for one out of five Georgia children, this can be a stressful time, because many do not have access to the school meals they received during the school year. The Atlanta Community Food Bank is working to alleviate some of that stress with their support of Summer Meals programs in Georgia. The free programs provide healthy and nutritious meals for children 18 years and younger.

Nearly 63 % of children in the state's public schools are eligible for the free and reduced lunch programs offered during the school year. However during the Summer only 17% of those same children have access to lunch during the summer break. Throughout the state, schools, community and faith-based organizations participate in either the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), which is administered by Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning or the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) which is administered by Georgia Department of Education: Nutrition Department, also serves as an additional avenue for many individuals to participate in nutritious meals and snacks during the summer season.

Last year, the Summer Meals programs served 9.4 million meals throughout the state with more than 2,900 summer meals sites. Meals provided through the program are nutritious and meet USDA meal pattern guidelines. Families may text **FOOD GA to 877-877** to find summer feeding sites near them.

In 2017, the Food Bank and its partners connected more than 5,000 children and adults to 44,915 meals at summer meal site locations.. The Atlanta Community Food Bank's Child Nutrition Team supports the work of summer meal sponsors in 29 counties throughout Metro Atlanta and North Georgia through outreach and marketing campaigns.

In addition to supporting the summer meals program, the Food Bank will host summer school pantry sites where families will not only be able to get free lunches, but they will also have the opportunity to receive groceries to help assure that their nutritional needs are met. The Food Bank's summer initiatives are funded by generous donations from: The Arby's Foundation, BJ's Charitable Foundation, The Junior League of Atlanta, Inc. and Waffle House.

For a list of summer meal sites, and for more information on the programs, visit acfb.org.

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About the Atlanta Food Community Bank

The Atlanta Community Food Bank works to end hunger with the food, people and big ideas needed to ensure our neighbors have the nourishment to lead healthy and productive lives.



Far too many people in our own community experience hunger every day, including children, seniors and working families.

Through more than 600 nonprofit partners, we help more than 755,000 people get healthy food every year. Our goal is that, by 2025, all hungry people across metro Atlanta and North Georgia will have access to the nutritious meals they need when they need them. It takes the power of our whole community to make that possible. Join us at [ACFB.org](https://www.acfb.org).