

Major SNAP Cuts Would Increase Food Insecurity & Harm Local Economies in the 8th Congressional District¹

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program helps about 13% of Georgians put food on the table

- About 1.4 million Georgians rely on SNAP to help them meet the growing costs of food.³
 - This includes about 171,486 people in counties represented in the 8th congressional district.⁴
- In 2024, about 18% of the people living in the counties represented in the 8th district utilized SNAP compared to the state average of 13%.⁵

While research finds SNAP reduces food insecurity by 30%, the program's impacts go beyond nutrition.⁶ Research finds:

- Seniors who use SNAP are better able to afford their fully prescribed medication compared to other seniors with low incomes who do not have SNAP.⁷
- Children whose mothers accessed SNAP while they were pregnant had better long-term health and greater financial security as adults than the mothers who didn't.⁸

The US House of Representatives wants a multi-billion-dollar reduction to SNAP. There is no way to do this without cutting benefits and/or limiting eligibility.

SNAP is a highly efficient program; a focus on fraud, waste and abuse will not be enough to pay for billions in cuts. SNAP has a history of bipartisan congressional oversight and robust USDA program integrity efforts. Incidents of intentional SNAP fraud are rare. SNAP overpayments are largely unintentional and are not fraud, but mistakes by recipients or state workers/systems. Without major cost reductions from program integrity efforts, Congress will have to make cuts elsewhere in the program.

A proposal to shift SNAP costs to the states would put a heavy burden on state budgets. In 2026, if Georgia was required to pay for 10% of SNAP benefits, that would cost the state about **\$325 million**. Georgia lawmakers are likely to not cover this new annual cost, especially if there is a loss of federal Medicaid funding, and would cut SNAP benefits and/or limit eligibility.



171,486 or 18% of people in counties in the 8th congressional district rely on SNAP



SNAP issued about \$375,384,368 in benefits to people living in counties represented in the 8th district



These benefits helped support 1,224 SNAP retailers in these counties



SNAP supports local economies, particularly those in rural counties.

- In 2023, about 10,000 SNAP retailers redeemed more than \$3 billion in federal SNAP benefits throughout Georgia.⁹
- In 2023, SNAP issued about 375 million in benefits to people living in counties represented in the 8th district,¹⁰ Those benefits helped support the 1,224 SNAP retailers in the counties that make up the 8th district.¹¹

SNAP is more likely to be utilized in rural areas and small towns. Those regions of the state experience more economic benefit from SNAP than metropolitan areas. A 2021 report found that during the Great Recession recovery from 2009 to 2014, SNAP boosted rural economic output by 1.25% and jobs by 1.18%, compared to urban economic output and jobs of 0.53% and 0.50%, respectively.¹²

Major cuts to SNAP would increase food insecurity and reduce demand at local grocery stores and for farmers’ produce.

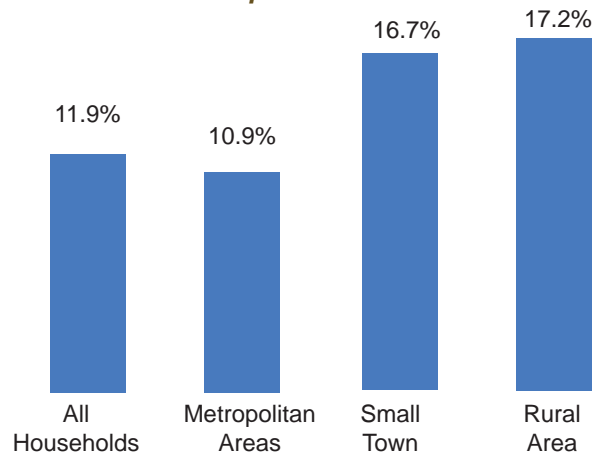
An estimated 13.1% of Georgians were food insecure in 2022.¹³ The level of food insecurity will rise if SNAP is cut. Food banks and pantries will not be able to meet the need. According to the Food Research and Action Center, for every meal a food pantry provides, SNAP provides nine.¹⁴

Furthermore, a cut to SNAP means people would have less to spend at grocery stores potentially negatively impacting jobs, farmers, and the larger food distribution pipeline especially in rural areas and small towns.

SNAP brings billions of federal dollars to the state and millions of dollars to local economies

	Georgia	Counties represented in the 8th District
Number of SNAP retailers in 2023	9,972	1,224
Amount of federal SNAP benefits issued in 2023	\$3.2 billion	\$375,384,368

Rural Areas and Small Towns in Georgia Utilize SNAP at Higher Rates Than Metropolitan Areas



Source: Food Research & Action Center analysis of 5-year 2017-2021 American Community Survey data.

To review endnotes, see data for other Georgia localities or get more information, visit GBPI.org/SNAPsources

