

# Overview of Federal Child Food and Nutrition Programs

When given access to adequate nutrition, the impact is clear: children are healthier and perform better in school.<sup>1</sup> However, children who do not eat enough healthy food often perform poorly in school and are more likely to experience mental health problems.<sup>2</sup> These children are also at greater risks for health issues later in life, like diabetes, high blood pressure, hypertension, heart disease, arthritis, and some types of cancer.<sup>3</sup>



## Child Hunger in Georgia

Food insecurity affects approximately  
**461,720**  
 of Georgia's children under the age of 18.<sup>4</sup>

### Programs Designed to Support Health and Adequate Child Nutrition

Program Description	Enrollment in Georgia
<b>Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)</b> Reimburses for nutritious meals. Child care programs, afterschool care programs, child care homes, emergency shelters, and adult care centers can be CACFP eligible. <sup>5</sup>	<b>130,208*</b> average daily attendance <sup>12</sup>
<b>National School Lunch Program (NSLP)</b> Provide nutritionally balanced, free or reduced-cost (based on a sliding scale) lunches to children in public and nonprofit private schools, and residential child care institutions. <sup>6</sup>	<b>1,128,798*</b> total participation <sup>13</sup>
<b>School Breakfast Program (SBP)</b> Provides cash subsidies to public or nonprofit private schools and residential child care institutions to provide meals that meet federal nutrition requirements. Meals are provided to eligible children for free or at a reduced cost. <sup>7</sup>	<b>649,866*</b> average daily attendance <sup>14</sup>
<b>Seamless Summer Option (SSO)</b> Provides the same meal service that is available during the regular school year to hungry kids in the community during the summer. This program is provided through either the NSLP or SBP. <sup>8</sup>	<b>124,471</b> average daily participation <sup>15</sup>
<b>Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)</b> Reimburses for healthy meals and snacks served to children from areas with low-income during summer months when school is not in session. <sup>9</sup>	<b>52,521*</b> average daily attendance <sup>16</sup>
<b>Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)</b> Provides a nutrition-designated electronic benefit card to supplement food budgets of individuals or families with low-income. <sup>10</sup>	<b>417,226</b> households with children <sup>17</sup>
<b>Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)</b> Provides supplemental food assistance, health care referrals, and nutrition education for pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women with low-incomes, as well as infants and children up to age five. <sup>11</sup>	<b>231,480*</b> total participation <sup>18</sup>

\*Preliminary FY2024 data from the USDA

For more details about nutritious food programming, see Voices' [Child Food and Nutrition Programs: Household and Academic Settings](#) factsheet.





## References for Overview of Federal Child Food and Nutrition Programs

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