

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 9, 2026

The Honorable Brian Kemp
Governor, State of Georgia
206 Washington Street
Suite 203, State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Governor Kemp,

We write to you again to request Georgia's participation in the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Summer EBT program and your submission of Georgia's Plan of Operations and Management no later than February 15th, 2026.

Georgia has again missed the January 1st deadline to submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) to participate in USDA's Summer EBT program. This will be the third consecutive year that you have refused to allow families to participate despite the overwhelming rates of hunger and the rising cost of food across our state. Additionally, your office has not officially responded to any of the four previous letters from Members of Congress requesting that Georgia participate in Summer EBT.

Summer EBT provides working- and middle-class families with a \$40 benefit per eligible child per month, totaling \$120 dollars for the summer. Georgia is just one of 12 states that chooses not to participate in the program¹. Of the roughly 2.8 million children in Georgia, over 40% of them are eligible for this benefit but are prevented from participating due to your continued decision to opt out².

Committing to participate in Summer EBT is a basic step that you can take to ensure that children in our state, regardless of where they live or how much money their parents make, can afford the basic necessity of food when they are not in school.

Children in Georgia again went without consistent access to food this summer. A recent newsletter dated January 15th, 2026, from Georgia's Department of Early Care and Learning states that only 109 of Georgia's 159 counties had a Summer Food Service Program meal site and identified 50 counties without a meal site in 2025³. In 2024, 103 counties had a meal site, while 56 counties did not⁴. Participating in Summer EBT will help bridge that gap and ensure that families can afford food while the state continues to make progress on its self-stated goal to expand meal sites to every county⁴.

This matter takes on another level of importance given the cuts to Medicaid and SNAP as part of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. Because of these extreme cuts and their impact on area eligibility, some children will lose direct access to free and reduced priced school meals during the school year as well as during the summer⁵. Families in Georgia also needlessly continue to pay \$120 dollars more out of pocket for food during the summertime due to your refusal to participate in Summer EBT.

We again ask that you commit to participating in the summer of 2026 and submit Georgia's Plan of Operations and Management (POM) no later than February 15th, 2026. We ask you to engage in good faith on this issue and submit all appropriate materials as soon as possible.

We look forward to your response.

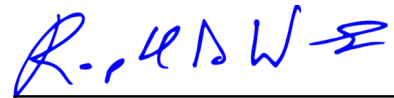
Sincerely,



Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator



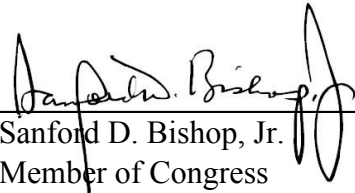
Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



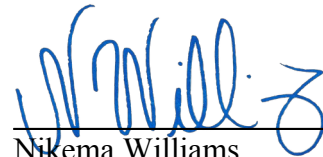
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



David Scott
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress

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<https://frac.org/news/summerebtjan2026#:~:text=WASHINGTON%2C%20January%209%2C%202026%20%E2%80%94,nourished%20and%20ready%20to%20learn>

²https://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/Summer-EBT-State-Fact-Sheets_GA.pdf

³<https://www.dec.al.ga.gov/documents/attachments/CACFPNewsletterJan2026.pdf>

⁴<https://www.dec.al.ga.gov/documents/attachments/HHNewsletterMay2025.pdf>

⁵<https://schoolnutrition.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/TAM-25-SNA-BBB-Bill-Summary.pdf>