



For Immediate Release
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MAP THE MEAL GAP 2018 RESEARCH REVEALS THAT FOOD INSECURITY EXISTS IN EVERY COUNTY THE FOOD BANK SERVES
32% of Residents May Only Be Able to Turn to Charitable Food Programs for Help

Atlanta, GA – May 15, 2018 – The Atlanta Community Food Bank announced the release of *Map the Meal Gap 2018*, the latest report by Feeding America® on food insecurity and the cost of food at both the county and congressional district level. *Map the Meal Gap 2018* reveals that food insecurity exists in every county that the Food Bank services. Although the overall demand is decreasing, the struggling residents in Metro Atlanta and North Georgia are facing even harder times, with the cost of food rising, increasing their average costs per meal.

Overall food insecurity throughout the Food Bank's network of more than 600 partner agencies ranges from a low of 5.5% of the population in Forsyth County up to 22.7% in Clayton County. The analysis also finds that in the Food Bank's 29-county service area, most of the people facing hunger are unable to participate in federal nutrition programs. In Fayette County, 53% of people struggling with hunger may not qualify for food assistance.

The Food Bank is one of 200 food banks in the Feeding America network that collectively provides food assistance to 46 million Americans struggling with hunger. Last year, the Food Bank distributed 70.4 million pounds of food, enough for 58 million meals.

Map the Meal Gap 2018 uses data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and food price data and analysis provided by Nielsen, a global provider of information and insights.

Key local findings:

- In our service area, data shows an overall decrease in people who deal with food insecurity by 2.7%, or roughly 22,650.
- The individual need among those who are food insecure continues to increase. The cost per meal has increased in our service area to \$3.03.
- 1 in 5 children in our service area are food insecure. The average county child food insecurity rate is 19.6% or nearly 6 percentage points higher than the average overall county food insecurity rate of 14%.

The study's findings underscore the depth of need that remains in the Food Bank's 29 counties and across the U.S., despite national measures from the USDA that indicate overall improvement. Food insecurity is a measure defined by the USDA as lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members.

The *Map the Meal Gap 2018* [interactive map](#) allows policymakers, state agencies, corporate partners, food banks and individual advocates to develop integrated strategies to fight hunger on a community level. The study is supported by [The Howard G. Buffett Foundation](#), [Conagra Brands Foundation](#) and [Nielsen](#). A summary of the findings, an interactive map of the United States, and the full report are available at map.feedingamerica.org.

About The Atlanta Community Food 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.

About Feeding America

Feeding America is a nationwide network of 200 food banks that leads the fight against hunger in the United States. Together, we provide food to more than 46 million people through food pantries and meal programs in communities throughout America. Feeding America also supports programs that improve food security among the people we serve; educates the public about the problem of hunger; and advocates for legislation that protects people from going hungry. Individuals, charities, businesses and government all have a role in ending hunger. Donate. Volunteer. Advocate. Educate. Together we can solve hunger. Visit <http://www.feedingamerica.org/>. Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FeedingAmerica or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/FeedingAmerica.

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