

THANK YOU

to our 2025 Community Supporters



Resources and Action to Help Stop Summer Hunger

For families facing food insecurity, summer has long marked a time when kids no longer have easy access to meals and snacks at school. Many families struggle to fill this gap, making the summer months among the most challenging times of year to keep food on the table.

These challenges come as the Food Bank and our partner network are facing unprecedented federal cuts to food programs. New research shows that more than 607,000 people are now food insecure across central and eastern North Carolina — an increase of nearly 47,000 people over the prior year.

The daunting figures quantify what many front-line organizations have long experienced in our communities: the combination of waning state and federal support as housing, food, and other essential costs rise has worsened the hunger crisis. As a result, demand for food assistance is as high as it's been since the Great Recession, and the gap widens when school meals are no longer accessible to area kids.

Fortunately, our network of 700+ local organizations is moving mountains to ensure nutritious food reaches affected families throughout the region. And together we offer a host of additional programs to help fill the meal gap when schools are closed. So, if you're in a position to support these efforts, there are concrete ways to have an impact right now. **Join us to help our network ramp up local efforts to Stop Summer Hunger!**

We're proud to have ABC11 and iHeartMedia as leading partners in this year's drive to Stop Summer Hunger. If you're in the Triangle area, join The Erica Show for G105's Summer Patio Parties every Thursday from June 19 to August 28. Your support at these events will go a long way in helping us meet the rising need this summer!

Check out resources and opportunities to get involved inside this issue or at StopSummerHunger.org

Help Ensure Kids and Families are Fed this Summer

Like so many food banks across the country, we continue to navigate a shifting landscape. Each week brings new challenges and questions, and there are many unknowns when it comes to the future of federal hunger policy. **Unfortunately, during the 90 long days of summer, we know thousands of children are missing out on school meals.** This additional pressure on families comes at a terrible time – food costs are still on the rise and cuts continue to be made to federal safety net programs.

As we embark on our Stop Summer Hunger initiative, we need your help more than ever before to feed kids and families this summer. Your support this summer means we can continue sourcing more food and moving it to our partner network. It means children and families will not have to worry where their next meal is coming from. Thanks to our generous donors, your donation will be matched through July 31. You can also take action in other important ways listed on page 4. I hope you'll join with the Food Bank this summer in ensuring everyone has access to the food they need.

Thank you for all you do,

Amy B.

AMY BEROS

President & CEO



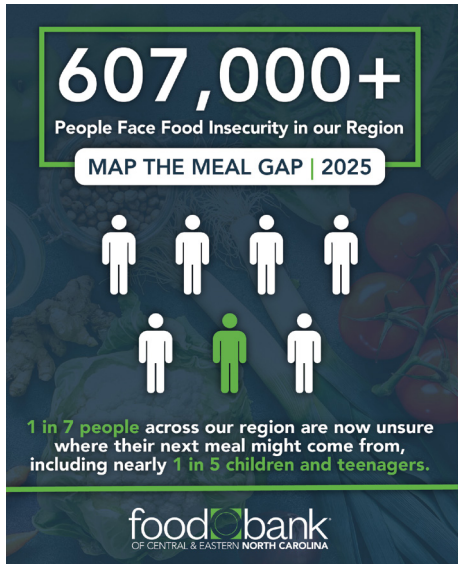
New Data Shows Increase in Food Insecurity for Second Straight Year

New data reveals a worsening hunger crisis in North Carolina and nationwide — as food insecurity reaches its highest level in more than 15 years.

According to Feeding America's annual Map the Meal Gap analysis, more than **607,000 people are now food insecure across the Food Bank's 34-county area service area — nearly 47,000 more than the prior year.** The analysis underscores the serious impact of federal cuts to food programs as the cost of housing, food, and other essentials continue to rise here in North Carolina.

These cuts are removing essential safety nets that working families use to make ends meet. As a result, **1 in 7 people across our region are now unsure where their next meal might come from, including nearly 1 in 5 children and teenagers.**

For more information on how the worsening hunger crisis is impacting our region, visit our blog at FoodBankCENC.org/25FoodInsecurity



Tell Congress: Pass a strong Farm Bill that helps local farmers and supports people facing hunger!

Right now, more than 607,000 people face food insecurity in our region — that's one out of every seven neighbors we run into at the grocery store, school, or the doctor's office. With hunger on the rise, we're grateful for the countless North Carolina farmers, food hubs, and local government partners that are part of the movement to make sure no one goes hungry.

Unfortunately, many of the federal programs that directly fund these efforts are under attack in Washington. We need our Senators and Representatives to understand that our communities need a strong U.S. Farm Bill that prioritizes local farms and families facing hunger.

We need legislation that:

- **Invests in initiatives** that help schools and food banks purchase fresh food from local farms
- **Protects SNAP** grocery support and ensure benefits keep up with rising prices; and
- **Expands programs** that help food banks meet the rising demand for food assistance

The Farm Bill only comes up only once or twice in a decade, so it's critical that our elected leaders get it right. Join us in contacting your legislators today — it only takes two minutes to make a big difference!

Watch the video and take action at FoodBankCENC.org/2025FarmBill



Summer is the Best Time to Volunteer

Whether you want to spend some time with family giving back or to build up service hours needed for school, there are so many opportunities available. And volunteering in the summer is special because you will be ensuring kids who might be missing out on school meals have food. Visit FoodBankCENC.org/Volunteer to view and sign up for opportunities at any of our 6 locations.

Investing in Local Black Farmers

Immanuel and Valarie Jarvis, owners of Jireh Family Farm, are training the next generation of Black farmers. And as proud Food Bank partners who grow and raise food for local families facing hunger, their impact in the local community is immeasurable.

Each summer, children come to their East Durham farm to learn sustainable ways to grow food. Over the years, Immanuel and Valarie watched children from summer camp start their own gardens and pursue college degrees in agriculture.

The Jarvis family's work is crucial in preserving the strong legacy of Black farmers engaged in local hunger relief efforts. A century ago, Black-owned farms made up nearly 16 million acres of land. But following generations of violence, land theft, and discriminatory lending practices, nearly 90% of that land has been lost. Today, only 2% of farms are owned by Black families, despite a deep and rich history in agriculture – at a time when 1 in 4 Black households face hunger in North Carolina.

The Jarvis family proudly keeps the farming tradition alive. Valarie grew up on her grandfather's tobacco farm in Virginia and is now passing along her knowledge and expertise to a fourth generation – to a daughter who purchased a car with the profits from her egg sales.

As we celebrate the Juneteenth holiday and honor the liberation of enslaved people across the country, it's clear more work is needed to support communities that have faced barriers for generations. The Food Bank has benefited greatly from the skill and generosity of Black farmers in our area – and we honor the longstanding partners who continue to nourish our communities.

Learn more about Jireh Family Farm and find out how to invest in their business by visiting FoodBankCENC.org/Jireh



Resources for Families while School is Out

- **Kids Summer Meals (Summer Food Service Program):** Free meals and activities for kids and teens at local community centers, campuses, faith-based organizations and summer camps.
- **SUN Bucks:** Extra grocery money for families while school is closed. Funds are deposited on easy-to-use debit cards that are accepted at many local retailers. Generally for families who have children eligible for free or reduced-cost school meal programs.
- **No-cost Pop Up Markets:** Working with local organizations, we bring seasonal produce and other items directly to communities.
- **FoodFinder:** Our network of 700+ pantries, no-cost markets, meal sites also ramp up operations when hunger is at its worst. Use this tool to find a location near you.

STOP
SUMMER
HUNGER

Action to Help #StopSummerHunger

- **Donate** to end summer hunger: All donations will be matched through July 31, so each dollar translates to 10 meals!
- **Volunteer** at a local food distribution center: In the average volunteer shift, a single person will sort and pack enough food to fuel more than 160 meals for local families.
- **Make your voice heard** on public policies that prevent hunger in our communities. Funding for SNAP grocery support (FNS or food stamps), school meals, and more will be up for debate this summer, and our elected leaders need to hear from us!

Visit StopSummerHunger.org for more information on resources or how to help!