



Hunger Bowl is the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia's annual competitive fund and food drive. Teams from across our 15-county service area compete to bring in the most donations to support the mission of the Food Bank. Teams raise money through their Hunger Bowl fundraising page, with offline monetary donations, with food drives, or with a combination of all three.

This year, it's time for **Hunger Bowl 2026: Hunker Down Against Hunger – and meet our goal of \$65,000!**

Where do I start?

1. The Team Captain received step-by-step instructions to create a personalized fundraising page for your organization on Wednesday, 09/25. Once your Fundraising Page is created, feel free to create a QR code that you can easily share with friends and family. Then you can log-in and manage your team page.
****If you need any help at all with the “tech aspects” of this, email HUNGERBOWL@FOODBANKNEGA.ORG and we can assist you! ****
2. If you plan to collect food, you'll need to secure your collection boxes and make sure you have a way to deliver the food to the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia (in Athens or Clayton) by **3:30PM on Friday, October 30th (Like last year - food delivery will be in “appointment windows.”)**
3. Start giving on Thursday, October 1stth through your Team Page! We recommend that you kickstart the contributions with a small donation supporting your own team. It sets the tone and shows others how easy it is to make an impact!

NEW THIS YEAR:

- The competition runs the ENTIRE MONTH of October this year! That is an entire month to support Neighbors in Northeast Georgia!
- Reusable Blue Bins are available for food drive collection.
- Rules for Blue Bin use:
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 - To ensure we have enough bins for everyone, teams may borrow up to 4 bins to fill and return to the Food Bank. If you think you need more than 4, let us know and we will check if we have any available extras.
 - Bins will be numbered and signed-out to the team captain.
 - You are responsible for tracking the location of your bins and returning every bin to the Food Bank in a manner that makes it usable again.
 - Your team is responsible for paying for any bins that are not returned or are returned damaged/unusable. **You will be issued an invoice for \$50 per bin if not returned or damaged beyond usefulness.**
 - These bins were purchased with a grant and serve as a vital tool in the Food Bank's food sourcing strategy.

Hunker Down Against Hunger Guidelines

1. Teams are divided into categories based on Team Type and Size. These divisions have been self-selected by the Team Captain when the team registered.
2. Donations made to your page must fall within the month long “competition window” – 12:00am, Thursday, October 1st, through 11:59pm on Saturday, October 31st. **EARLY REGISTRATION TEAMS (registered before 9/30/2026) HAVE 24BONUS FUNDRAISING TIME – SO YOUR ONLINE FUNDRAISING IS LIVE THROUGH 11:59PM ON Sunday, November 1st at 11:59pm.**
3. All food donations MUST follow the guidelines for donation to the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia. Please utilize the “Most Requested Items” list when collecting food.
4. **All food donations must be brought to the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia by 3:30pm on Friday, October 30th.** DONATION DROP-OFF TIMES WILL BE SCHEDULED DURING THE CAMPAIGN.
5. Overall scoring is calculated as “Meals Provided” and will follow these guidelines:
 - **Every \$2 donated = 5 meals:** Monetary donations yield more food, as the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia has wholesale purchasing power that far exceeds what you can buy at your local grocery store. (For example, we collect \$300 through our fund drive, which converts to 750 meals donated.)
 - **Every 1 pound of food donated = 1 meal:** Food donated to the Food Bank will be weighed on the Food Bank scale. The total is then convert from "pounds donated" to "meals provided." (For example, we drop off 300 pounds of food, which converts to 300 meals donated.)
6. Cash and Check donations are always welcome! **All “offline” donations can be turned in periodically over the course of the month-long Hunger Bowl drive, but must be turned in by 4pm on Monday, November 2nd .** Cash and check donations can be manually entered onto your team page by the Team Captain...and you'll see your total fundraising total go up as they are entered! *(If you need assistance, call the Food Bank, and we can help!)* Checks should be made payable to Food Bank of Northeast Georgia with your Team Name in the memo line.
7. **Winners** – Overall and Category winners – will not be announced until all donations have been received and processed by the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia staff. Please make sure you turn in everything by the deadline! We will work as quickly as possible to collect and total all donations to announce the winning teams.

Tips for Success

1. Have fun!
2. Ask questions. If you get stuck on how to drum up some more funds or have questions about anything, don't hesitate to reach out to the Food Bank staff. You can email: HUNGERBOWL@FOODBANKNEGA.ORG or call us at 706-713-9313.
3. Share your Team Giving link and your QR code freely with friends, neighbors, co-workers, classmates, roommates, and on-and-on!
4. Online financial donations are the easiest and most efficient donations. These don't require delivery; they generate instant receipts to the donor, and they are immediately reflected on your team page. They also eliminate the handling of any money on your end. Because your fund drive receives full credit for these donations, we encourage you to recommend that your potential donors choose this method of donation.
5. Food donations require additional effort from our staff and volunteers. To maximize the value of your donation, we encourage you to deliver your entire food donation to us. It is helpful to have a "team champion" who can rally food donations and coordinate delivery to the Food Bank.
6. Take pictures and tag the Food Bank on your social media! Tag us on Instagram @foodbanknega and on Facebook. Brag on your team! Share a story about why YOU support the Food Bank!