FOOD BANK
OF NORTHEAST GEORGIA

MEMBER CONFERENCE 2026

SERVICE & SIGNIFICANCE

Our Vision



Values: Our Shared Agreements

ACCOUNTABILITY

We commit to continuous improvement and transparency in all that we do.

BELONGING

We create a place of welcome and hospitality for all.

COMPASSION

We acknowledge that hunger is a burden that no one should bear alone.

DIGNITY

We honor the humanity of all people.

EFFICACY

We get things done, and we understand the urgency of our work.

STEWARDSHIP

We honor the power of giving by applying resources in a mission-driven and thoughtful manner.

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Food Bank Updates

Food Sourcing

New USDA Eligbility Forms

Vivery Updates & Member Renewal Process

Xodo Sign Contracts

Food Sourcing Update

- USDA pounds are down but we have replaced that with purchased product and retail.
- All in all we distributing just as many pounds this year as we did the same time last year.
- The difference is in how we are sourcing that food.
- Out team is making every effort to continue providing Members access to food.

New USDA Eligibility Forms

- 10/1/26-9/30/27 USDA Forms are online. Be sure to use these forms to replace last year's version.

- https://foodbanknega.org/membership/member-forms/

Vivery

Add more detailed information on your Vivery pages:

- Pictures
- Contact info
- Hours
- Information about Types of Food
- Other Services you Provide

Member Renewal Process

Renewal is due by December 1.

We are going digital!

A few additions to the agreement. Read carefully.

Member Manual will be online in early November.

Xodo Sign Contracts

- Xodo sign is the electronic signature platform we are using for Member Contracts and TEFAP agreements.
- Using Xodo Sign to complete contracts is not required, but it is preferred.
- Check the email of your main contact for Xodo sign contracts.
- If you would like to sign paper contracts instead of using Xodo Sign, please reach out to your Food Access Coordinator.

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Food Safety, USDA & Civil Rights Training

3 ways to complete the training

Online

Review Slide Deck + Email FAC your certificate

In Person

Nov. 19th 10 AM - Noon

Clayton & Athens

Watch Video Online

Link available on P2 in early Nov.

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Food Access & SNAP Support

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“The agent named Lynn was very nice and answered my questions and helped me with my application. I think having an agent fill out the form with the person over the phone really helps especially if you are 76 years old like I am!”

~ OUR NEIGHBOR

What is SNAP?

Supplemental

Nutrition

Assistance

Program

A program that provides a specified monthly grocery budget to an EBT card for eligible individuals/families to use at the grocery store for food items.



Renewals are every 6 months, with a renewal interview every 12 months.

Who is Eligible?

- [x] Employed 20 hours a week
- [x] Between Jobs
- [x] Senior (65+)
- [x] Already enrolled in WIC
- [x] Lives with Young Children

If you checked any of these boxes you may be eligible for SNAP benefits.

Why Consider SNAP

- SNAP is a renewable resource that gives the opportunity for choices about the foods that best fit individual needs, preferences, and lifestyle.
- We are here to help educate and overcome common program accessibility and application challenges faced by our neighbors and members.
- SNAP preserves the dignity of our neighbors by empowering them to choose the best foods for their needs and lifestyles.
- The best way to determine eligibility is to apply.

How the Food Bank Helps

- SNAP Benefits Coordinator
  - DFCS-registered Community Partner

- We help navigate benefits applications:
  - SNAP
  - Medicaid
  - WIC
  - TANF
  - CAPS

- A SNAP support appointment takes anywhere from 10-30 minutes and can be conducted over the phone or in person.

- We assist with applications, renewals, change reports, benefit disruptions, and case questions.

- Our SNAP Benefits Coordinator can also submit supporting documentation and follow up on applications throughout the application process.

Application Process

1

Submit Application

- Gather Documents
- Attend Application Appointment with Benefits Coordinator
- Application reviewed by DFCS

2

Submit Supporting Documentation

- Income
- Medical Expenses
- Rent/Mortgage Expenses
- Personal Information

3

Receive Decision

- In 3-4 weeks receive decision from DFCS
- EBT card sent to mailing address for grocery shopping

SNAP Misconceptions:

True or False?

People get on SNAP because they don't work

FALSE!

To be eligible for SNAP, you must present proof of employment if able bodied and under age 65.

You can use SNAP benefits to buy seeds and grow your own food.

TRUE!

Fruit and vegetable seeds, tomato plants, and edible herbs qualify, when purchased from a SNAP retailer.

There are limits on the types of food items you can buy with SNAP

SORT OF...

The only current food limitations are on hot prepared food items.

“I am very thankful that there’s someone there that cares, especially for the seniors. I have not been able to work due to illness for the last two years and it has really been a challenge for me.”

~ OUR NEIGHBOR

Information

Liz Mann

SNAP Benefits Coordinator

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Service & Significance

A Culture of Safety

Proactive over Reactive

Why is this important?

Serving Neighbors with difficult lives means that they are more vulnerable to be controlled by potential predators.

A Strong Culture of Safety Means We:

1. Establish clear boundaries and policies.
2. Respect the boundaries and adhere to policies consistently.
3. Notice when boundaries are crossed.
4. Speak up — even when something seems small.
5. Hold one another accountable.

See Something
Say Something

IT IS NOT YOUR JOB TO INVESTIGATE BUT TO RESPOND





KNOW SEE RESPOND

KNOW

Types of Abuse

NEGLECT

EMOTIONAL ABUSE

PHYSICAL ABUSE

SEXUAL ABUSE

Grooming

The process by which a perpetrator gradually erodes normal boundaries.



90% of abuse occurs by someone who is trusted



This relationship of trust is often built strategically and intentionally to create familiarity to exploit and cause harm.



Grooming behaviors can be small boundary violations, intended as tests.

“Boundaries Protect Everyone”

BOUNDARIES ARE NOT ABOUT DISTRUST

HEALTHY BOUNDARIES ENABLE AND STRENGTHEN TRUST

Boundaries Protect

- Neighbors
- Volunteers
- Staff
- The Organization

Breaking Boundaries

- Lap Sitting
- Affection
- Favors
- Electronic/Online Contact
- One on One Contact
- Contact outside of your organization
- Gift Giving

Predators Seek:

1. ***Access***
2. ***Privacy***
3. ***Control***

Access: Seeking employment or volunteer opportunities at organizations like yours to gain access to vulnerable neighbors.

Privacy: Interacting with a child, youth, or vulnerable adult without being observed by others.

Control: Using power and authority to influence behavior or emotions.

Neighbor Safety Plan: Must-Haves

Limit access of Neighbors (especially youth) to regularly trained staff, volunteers, or board members.

Limit opportunities for privacy.

Counteract power dynamics through policies and procedures such that no one person can control others.

What you can do:

Rethink your safety policies

Retrain your staff, volunteers and Board members on safety policies

Crosstrain your volunteers to limit access, privacy and control

Background Checks, including federal registries

Accountability is an Act of Care

SILENCE PROTECTS THE PROBLEM. ACCOUNTABILITY PROTECTS PEOPLE

THE RULES DO NOT CHANGE BASED ON WHO YOU ARE.
A CULTURE WITH HEALTHY BOUNDARIES IS THE GOAL,
NOT A CULTURE OF DISTRUST OR SUSPICION.

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Thank You!