

1 **A RESOLUTION TO DECLARE A LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY IN FULTON**
2 **COUNTY, GEORGIA DUE TO THE SUSPENSION OF SNAP BENEFITS AND THE**
3 **RESULTING FOOD INSECURITY CRISIS; TO AUTHORIZE UP TO \$4.4M OF THE**
4 **\$69M IN UNDERRUNS BE ALLOCATED TO ADDRESS THE CRISIS, AND FOR**
5 **OTHER PURPOSES.**

6 **WHEREAS**, as of November 1, 2025, federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
7 Program (SNAP) benefits have been suspended nationwide due to the current
8 government shutdown; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Governor Brian Kemp and state leaders have declined to utilize the
10 State's \$14.6 billion surplus to assist families who will lose SNAP benefits, choosing not
11 to provide emergency relief to the more than 1.3 million Georgians who rely on SNAP
12 benefits each month; and

13 **WHEREAS**, SNAP benefits are a critical source of food assistance for low-
14 income children and families, as well as seniors and veterans throughout Fulton County,
15 and their suspension constitutes an immediate threat to the health and welfare of
16 County residents; and

17 **WHEREAS**, data from the Atlanta Community Food Bank (ACFB) and Fulton
18 County Performance Dashboard shows that prior to the suspension of SNAP benefits,
19 Fulton County residents were already collectively facing an annual food budget shortfall
20 exceeding \$79 million; and

21 **WHEREAS**, 145,949 Fulton County households received SNAP benefits in 2023,
22 representing approximately 13.5% of all residents and the ACFB reports an increase in
23 demand for food of over 70% since 2022; and

24 **WHEREAS**, using the cost model provided on the ACFB website of "\$1 helps

1 provide 3 meals”, the **minimum** cost to feed Fulton County citizens who have lost their
2 SNAP benefits for the month of November is \$4,378,470; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Fulton County can access funds to address the hunger crisis from
4 the expected 2025 fiscal year underruns of approximately \$69 million; and

5 **WHEREAS**, Fulton County currently grants funds to nine organizations that
6 address food insecurity including Atlanta Community Food Bank, Open Hand, and
7 Hosea Feeds the Hungry; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Fulton County serves congregant meals to seniors, some of whom
9 are SNAP recipients, at its senior centers across the county, and makes fresh produce
10 available through its “Fulton Fresh” program; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners finds that extraordinary
12 and immediate action is necessary to address the food insecurity crisis resulting from
13 the loss of SNAP benefits.

14 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fulton County Board of
15 Commissioners hereby declares a State of Emergency in Fulton County, Georgia, due
16 to the disruption of SNAP benefits and the ensuing hunger crisis.

17 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that pursuant to the authority granted under GA
18 Const. Art. 9, § 2, ¶ 1(a), O.C.G.A. § 38-3-28(b), and Fulton County Code § 1-117, the
19 Board authorizes the activation of the County’s emergency powers to ensure the
20 continuation of food access for residents in need.

21 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners

1 directs the County Manager to identify the most effective strategies, partner
2 organizations, and resource allocations to alleviate food insecurity resulting from the
3 suspension of SNAP benefits and authorizes spending of up to \$4.4M of the \$69M in
4 2025 budget underruns to support these efforts.

5 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this local state of emergency shall remain in
6 effect up to sixty (60) days from the date of adoption and may be renewed or
7 suspended by the Board.

8 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that this Resolution shall become effective
9 immediately upon adoption, and all resolutions and parts of resolutions in conflict
10 herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

11 **PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County,
12 Georgia, on this 5th Day of November 2025.

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17 **FULTON COUNTY**
18 **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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20 **Sponsored by:**

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24 _____
25 Dana Barrett, Commissioner
26 District 3
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29 **ATTEST:**
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Tonya R. Grier,
Clerk to the Commission

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Y. Soo Jo, County Attorney