



March 18, 2025

The Honorable Josh Stein  
Governor of North Carolina  
20301 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Dear Governor Stein:

We are writing as North Carolina's members of the [Mayors Alliance to End Childhood Hunger](#), a nonpartisan coalition representing more than 400 mayors across all 50 states and Washington, DC, from large and medium cities to smaller communities and townships, working in partnership with Share Our Strength's [No Kid Hungry Campaign](#) to ensure that every child has the healthy food they need to thrive. Our offices are on the frontline of responding to challenges in our communities, and as mayors, we need every option available to fight childhood hunger.

When summer arrives, many families across North Carolina face a harsh reality: they struggle to provide enough food for their children. Summer has long been one of the hungriest times of the year as school meal programs pause and food insecurity spikes. While traditional summer meal sites provide an essential service, they often fail to reach many eligible families due to barriers such as transportation challenges, work schedules, and limited site availability—particularly in rural areas.

That's why **Summer EBT is a lifeline for North Carolina families**. This program provides a **\$120 grocery benefit per eligible child**, helping parents afford nutritious food during the summer months. Last year, North Carolina's participation in the program had a profound impact:

- **1.1 million children** received much-needed food assistance.
- Families used benefits to purchase more protein, fruits, and vegetables, helping children stay healthy and well-nourished.
- The program **brought over \$106 million into North Carolina's economy**, benefiting food retailers and supporting small businesses in rural communities.

**Investing in Summer EBT is an investment in North Carolina's future.** It ensures children have access to the nutrition they need to grow, learn, and thrive. Without state action, thousands of kids could lose this essential support in the summers ahead.

We urge you to champion this program and **include funding for Summer EBT in the 2026 budget**. North Carolina's children deserve a strong start, and ensuring they have enough to eat in the summer is a step in the right direction.

Thank you for considering our concerns and priorities. If you have any questions, please contact the Mayors Alliance's staff lead, Aaron Goldstein, at [mayors@strength.org](mailto:mayors@strength.org).

# MAYORS ALLIANCE

TO END CHILDHOOD HUNGER

Sincerely,

Mayor TJ Cawley  
Morrisville, NC

Mayor Christy Clark  
Huntersville, NC

Mayor Barbara Foushee  
Carrboro, NC

Mayor Cyril Jefferson  
High Point, NC

Mayor Vi Lyles  
Charlotte, NC

Mayor Esther Manheimer  
Asheville, NC

Mayor Dawn Ward  
Magnolia, NC

Mayor Glenn York  
Zebulon, NC