

2026
IGNITE
POSSIBILITIES



GEORGIA HISPANIC
Chamber of Commerce

Annual

LEGISLATIVE
BREAKFAST

PRIORITIES

17 FEB
2026

7:00 A.M. - 9:30 A.M.

GEORGIA FREIGHT DEPOT
65 MARTIN LUTHER KING. JR DR.
ATLANTA, GA 30303

LEGISLATIVE
BREAKFAST**2026 GHCC'S
LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES****Building a Stronger Workforce and
Resilient Economy for All Georgians**

Georgia's strength lies in its people, the entrepreneurs, tradesmen, educators, healthcare workers, and innovators who make this state a top destination for business and opportunity.

The 2026 GHCC's Legislative Agenda focuses on workforce growth as the foundation for economic resilience, while advancing policy solutions in housing, healthcare, immigration, small business, trade, resilience, and food security.

Georgia's Workforce Resilience | Our Flagship Initiative

Strengthen Georgia's #1 workforce ranking by expanding access to skills, training, and opportunity. The goal is to create a pipeline of job-ready talent for every region, raise incomes, and address workforce shortages across key sectors.

- Fund grants to local chambers and technical colleges to help small and mid-sized businesses establish apprenticeship programs.
- Increase capacity in advanced manufacturing, logistics, construction, and healthcare through new training hubs and instructor funding.
- Offer employers per-apprentice tax credits for retaining participants for at least 12 months.
- Provide last-dollar aid for high-demand certifications and other skills on demand (CDL, CNA, welding, HVAC, etc.).
- Create a pilot program to help support stipends or slots for working learners in critical shortage fields.
- Integrate employer-led training programs to help SNAP participants transition into stable employment.

Housing

Supports workforce mobility, reduces commute times, and ensures that those powering Georgia's economy can afford to live near their jobs.

- Increase housing supply and affordability near job centers.
- Expand the State Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) to attract workforce housing investment.
- Launch a Small Landlord Rehabilitation Fund to preserve naturally affordable housing stock and improve habitability standards.

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Healthcare

Strengthen access to affordable healthcare and behavioral health for Georgia's working families. Health coverage stability improves labor force participation and reduces absenteeism; Georgia's current waiver is undersubscribed and administratively heavy and potential fixes are pro-growth and budget-sensible.

- Streamline and scale the Pathways to Coverage program to expand enrollment with reduced administrative barriers.
- Create a Small Employer Premium Relief Pilot Program for firms under 50 employees offering health coverage.
- Expand Behavioral Health Loan Repayment & Telehealth Parity for rural and high-demand providers.

Immigration & Skilled Talent Pathways

Unlock the potential of Georgia's immigrant workforce. These priorities addresses workforce shortages, strengthens Georgia's talent base, and supports fair, lawful participation in the state's economy.

- Allow professional licensing for all work-authorized immigrants, including DACA recipients, in shortage fields like healthcare, construction, and education.
- Establish in-state tuition eligibility for DACA recipients who graduate from Georgia high schools.
- Modernize E-Verify compliance support for small businesses with technical assistance and templates.

Disaster Resilience, Relief & Recovery

Protect businesses, workers, and communities from the economic impact of natural disasters. These priorities keeps Georgians employed and businesses operating in the wake of disasters, safeguarding local economies and tax bases.

- Create a Georgia Office of Resilience within GEMA/HS to coordinate climate, flood, and storm response with federal funding.
- Establish Business Interruption Microgrants for firms with fewer than 50 employees in declared disaster zones.
- Fund redundancy and protection for critical logistics infrastructure—ports, data centers, and food hubs.

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Small Business Competitiveness & Access to Capital

Ensure Georgia remains the best state to start, grow, and scale a business. These priorities reduce barriers to entry, increase access to capital, and support long-term business stability.

- Fully deploy State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI 2.0) funds to disadvantaged and small firms, with transparent performance reporting.
- Create a One-Stop Business Helpdesk or a Resource Hub through Georgia's Department of Labor (GDOL) to assist small businesses with compliance such as E-Verify, licensing, tax credits, workforce programs.

Tariffs & Global Trade

Protect Georgia's export-driven economy and strengthen global competitiveness.

- Establish a Trade Mitigation Fund for small manufacturers and exporters impacted by federal tariffs.
- Pass a Resolution on Federal Tariff Predictability urging Congress to provide stability and small-business exemptions.

Food Security & Workforce Stability

Ensure reliable food access and protect household stability during federal disruptions.

- Provide sales-tax holidays on staple foods during declared emergencies.
- Create a State SNAP Contingency Fund to fill gaps during federal delays.
- Launch a Pilot Program for seniors and individuals with disabilities who rely on SNAP.
- Expand employer-led SNAP and EBT programs to connect benefit recipients with job training and hiring opportunities, such as Georgia Quick Start.