

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510-1011

December 18, 2025

The Honorable Brooke Rollins
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Rollins:

I write to urge the U.S. Department of Agriculture (the Department) to reinstate the grant awards made to several organizations in Upson County, Georgia, and Dougherty County, Georgia, through the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission's Childcare Access and Nutrition Systems (CANS) Program.

The Childcare Access and Nutrition Systems (CANS) Grant Program aimed to advance regional food and childcare systems by supporting local organizations that work towards expanding access to childcare facilities and healthy foods.

CANS grants were made to several organizations in Dougherty and Upson Counties to invest in after-school educational programming, a food bank, a farmers market, a mobile kitchen, and a processing facility for small farmers. These projects would have demonstrably improved the quality of life for children, seniors, and families in south Georgia.

However, the Department terminated these critical projects in May after several of the projects had already begun, denying Georgians access to essential services.

The Department's decision not only hurts Georgians; it directly contradicts the Department's stated goals of helping rural America thrive, and promoting agricultural production that better nourishes Americans.

It is for these reasons that I urge you to immediately reinstate funding for these critical projects in Dougherty and Upson Counties to improve access to healthy foods and quality childcare services.

I request an update in writing within two weeks on the status of the reinstatement of funds.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jon Ossoff", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jon Ossoff
United States Senator