



State of Nevada
Governor's Council
on Food Security

2017

Annual Report

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	2
Background	3
Accomplishments in 2017	4
Future Focus	5
Council Members	6
Appendix	7

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Food insecurity is the limited or uncertain availability of adequate food.¹ While Nevada has been experiencing a significant decrease in food insecurity, one (1) in eight (8) Nevada households and one (1) in six (6) children still do not know from where their next meal will come.^{2,3} Food insecurity is associated with adverse health outcomes, including chronic diseases and mental health issues.^{4,5}

On February 12, 2014, Governor Brian Sandoval issued Executive Order 2014-03, establishing the Governor's Council on Food Security (GCFS). The GCFS is tasked with implementing the goals of *Food Security in Nevada: Nevada's Plan for Action* (i.e., The Food Security Plan) and effectively improving the quality of life and health of Nevadans by increasing food security throughout the State.

Since its development, substantial progress has been made on the Food Security Plan, due to the dedication of various state and local agencies committed to eliminating food insecurity in Nevada. The GCFS has made significant strides in this work, including championing Senate Bill (SB) 503 (Breakfast After the Bell) in Nevada's 78th Legislative Session, which led to the largest percent increase in breakfast participation in its first year. Nevada was nationally recognized by the Food Research Action Center (FRAC) for this achievement.⁶

To address the growing older population in Nevada, a programs gap analysis was commissioned. The final report, *Nutrition Programs Gap Analysis for Older Nevadans*, outlines the current landscape of Nevada's older population, the programs serving them, and recommendations to support the needs of this growing population.

In addition, the GCFS motioned the creation of three (3) subcommittees in 2017. Two (2) were tasked with reviewing and updating the Food Security Plan and making revisions and priority recommendations for the consideration of GCFS members, and a Policy Subcommittee was created to develop a menu of policies to address food insecurity and associated social determinants of health for Nevadans.

This report outlines the background of the GCFS and 2017 accomplishments.

¹ <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us/measurement.aspx>

² <https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/publications/84973/err-237.pdf?v=42979>

³ Office of Public Health Investigations and Epidemiology. Division of Public and Behavioral Health. Food Insecurity in Nevada 2013-2015: A Review of Youth Risk Behavioral Surveillance Survey (YRBS) and Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). Carson City, Nevada. August 2016. E 1.0.

⁴ <https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/publications/84467/err-235.pdf?v=42942>

⁵ <http://jn.nutrition.org/content/145/3/622.full>

⁶ <http://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/school-breakfast-scorecard-sy-2015-2016.pdf>

BACKGROUND

In 2012, a community needs assessment was conducted by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Office of Community Partnerships and Grants, formerly the Grants Management Unit. The assessment identified food insecurity as a priority public health issue for Nevada. At the time, one in six Nevadans were food insecure. In 2013, First Lady of Nevada Kathleen Sandoval hosted "A Place at the Table," a Food Summit which engaged stakeholders in a conversation about hunger issues in Nevada. This event resulted in significant input from 165 participants and representatives on food systems, food security, and healthy communities.

In 2013, the Office of Community Partnerships and Grants implemented a strategic planning process to address food insecurity in Nevada. Four workgroups were created to address specific components of food insecurity: LEAD, FEED, GROW, and REACH. Goals were developed under each, including:

LEAD

- Goal 1 – Establish the systems and positions necessary to implement a permanent, sustainable, accountable state leadership structure for food security to increase all Nevadans' understanding, value, and support of food security solutions.
- Goal 2 – Promote a policy agenda to increase food security in Nevada.

FEED

- Goal 1 – Maximize participation in each federal nutrition program available to the state.
- Goal 2 – Establish and integrate an actual or virtual "one-stop-shop" system to increase access to food and other support services for food insecure Nevadans.

GROW

- Goal 1 – Increase the number of servings of nutritious foods consumed by Nevadans with emphasis on foods produced in Nevada.

REACH

- Goal 1 – Change the current models of purchase (commodities) and distribution of nutritious foods to increase economies of scale, and link frequency of deliveries and availability of local food to the specific needs of communities throughout the state (rural, urban, and food deserts).
- Goal 2 – Develop the technology to connect and share data among multiple state agencies, regional food banks, community agencies, and faith-based organizations for efficient and effective targeting of services and populations.

Following the completion of the Food Security Plan, Governor Brian Sandoval issued Executive Order 2014-03 on February 12, 2014, establishing the GCFS to implement the goals of the Plan and effectively improve the quality of life and health of Nevadans by increasing food security throughout the state. The GCFS consists of 21 members including leaders from government agencies, non-profit organizations, and the private sector. First Lady Kathleen Sandoval was appointed as Chair by the Governor and provided the GCFS leadership and vision for the first four (4) years. In September 2017, Steve Fisher, Administrator of the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS), was appointed Chair. As the DWSS Administrator, Mr. Fisher oversees the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Child Support Enforcement Program, Child Care Assistance Program, Employment and Training Programs for TANF and SNAP recipients, the Energy Assistance Program, and eligibility for Nevada's Medicaid Program.

Since its establishment in 2014, measurable progress has been made on meeting the goals set within The Food Security Plan. Over the past three (3) years food insecurity in Nevada has decreased by 4% and the GCFS continues to act as a platform for collaboration within the food security network.² Notable achievements include the passing of three (3) bills related to addressing food insecurity in Nevada's 78th Legislative Session, championed by the GCFS: SB503, Breakfast After the Bell; Assembly Bill (AB) 107, Report of Accountability for Public Schools (includes breakfast and lunch eligibility and participation counts); and SB206, the Cottage Food Bill/Pickle Bill. In its first year of implementation, Breakfast After the Bell resulted in 3,606,566 more breakfasts served in the 2015-2016 school year as compared to the 2014-2015 school year, and Nevada received an additional eight million dollars in federal breakfast reimbursements.⁷

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2017

Throughout 2017, the GCFS focused on LEAD and FEED activities, specifically those regarding the evaluation of the Food Security Plan, good public policy development, and maximizing participation in federal nutrition programs.

LEAD

On the May 16, 2017, the GCFS motioned to create two (2) subcommittees tasked with reviewing and updating the Food Security Plan to make revisions and priority recommendations for the consideration of GCFS members. The subcommittees, LEAD/REACH and GROW/FEED, discussed historical context, goal/activity progress, and made revisions and priority recommendations under their assigned categories. Both subcommittees met twice between June and August 2017. The Office of Food Security used the information gathered to revise the Food Security Plan into an actionable work plan and developed [a Food Security Plan and Updates](#) document, a

⁷http://agri.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/agrinvgov/Content/Resources/Data_and_Reports/FND/sb503_report_1516_final.pdf

comprehensive overview of progress to date. Approval and implementation of the [revised Food Security Plan](#) will take place throughout 2018.

In preparation for the 80th Nevada Legislative Session in 2019, the GCFS also motioned the creation of a Policy Subcommittee and tasked members with developing a menu of policies to address food insecurity and associated social determinants of health for Nevadans. The first Policy Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for January 3, 2018.

FEED

In its second year of implementation, Breakfast After the Bell resulted in 1,601,821 more breakfasts served compared to the 2015-2016 school year. Additionally, 98 schools shared \$978,166 in funding, increasing access to breakfast for more than 101,566 students statewide. Nevada also received an additional five (5) million dollars in federal breakfast reimbursements.⁸ The Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) 2016-2017 Breakfast After the Bell School Year Final Report is included in the appendix. Nevada also received national recognition in 2017 for the success of Breakfast After the Bell. In FRAC's 2017 Breakfast Scorecard, Nevada was identified as having the largest percentage increase from 2014-2015 to 2015-2016 nationwide, with a 26.5% increase in participation among children who qualify for free and reduced meals.⁵ The report attributes Nevada's success to implementing the Breakfast After the Bell legislation.

While children continue to be a priority population for the GCFS, membership is also focused on food insecurity among older Nevadans. Older adults are the fastest growing food insecure population nationwide.⁹ To assess the food system and programs currently serving this population, a programs gap analysis was conducted between April and November 2017. The final report, Nutrition Programs Gap Analysis for Older Nevadans, identifies needs, barriers, and strategies to increase food security for this population. To help guide the study, a Stakeholder Study Group (SSG) convened, including members from food banks, state and local government, non-profit organizations, and local community coalitions. Recommendations were developed under three (3) broad categories: policy, operations, and funding. Recommendation implementation will be at the discretion of the GCFS. The report and recommendations will also be presented to the Governor's Commission on Aging.

FUTURE FOCUS

Throughout 2018, the GCFS will meet six (6) times to discuss issues around food insecurity and its associated social determinants. The GCFS will identify, support, and implement strategies related to the revised Food Security Plan, the Nutrition Programs Gap Analysis for Older Nevadans, and the policy options yet to be developed by the Subcommittee.

⁸ http://agri.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/agrinvgov/Content/Resources/Data_and_Reports/FND/sb503_report_1617_final.pdf

⁹ <http://www.feedingamerica.org/about-us/press-room/older-adult-food-insecurity-at-highest.html>

MEMBERS: THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON FOOD SECURITY

Steve Fisher, Chair

Administrator
Chair

Jim Barbee

Director
Nevada Department of Agriculture

Christy McGill, Vice Chair

Director of Safe and Respective Learning
Nevada Department of Education

Jodi Tyson

Director of Government Affairs
Three Square

Amy Hill

Senior Director, Public Affairs
Walmart Government Relations

Kenneth Osgood, MD, MPH

Public Health Advisory Board
Southern Nevada Health District

Amy Roukie

Administrator
Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health

Naomi Lewis

Administrator
Nevada Division of Welfare and Supportive
Services

Annmarie Feiler

Executive Director
Urban Seed Foundation

Robert Medeiros

CEO
Boomtown Casino Hotel and Reserve Casino Hotel

Aurora Buffington

Public Health Nutrition Specialist
University of Nevada Cooperative Extension

Sarah Adler

Healthy Communities Coalition of Lyon and Storey
Counties

Cherie Jamason

Director of Ending Hunger Initiatives
Food Bank of Northern Nevada

Yvanna Cancela

Executive Director
Immigrant Workers Citizenship Project

Chuck Duarte

Chief Executive Officer
Community Health Alliance

Sarah Adler

State Director
Nevada USDA Rural Development

Dana Serrata

Executive Director
Helping Hands of Vegas Valley

Vacant

Western Regional Director of the United States
Department of Agriculture or designee from
within the Department.

David Weaver

Vice President of Sales
Food Service Industry Consultants

Vacant

Director of the Nevada Governor's Office of
Economic Development or his or her designee
within the Office.

Homa Anoooshehpour

Administrator
Nevada Food and Nutrition Division

Vacant

One member representing non-food or business

APPENDIX

A. SB503: Breakfast After the Bell 2016-2017 School Year Final Report

Nevada Department of Agriculture SB503: Breakfast after the Bell 2016-2017 School Year Final Report

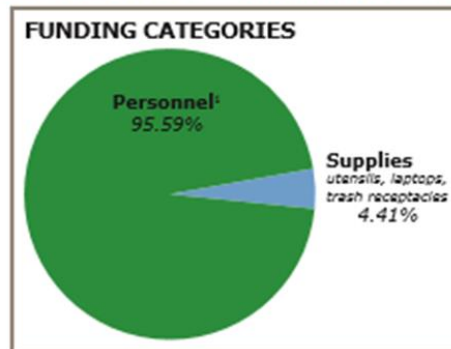


Signed into law by Governor Brian Sandoval on June 12, 2015, Senate Bill 503, also known as the Breakfast after the Bell bill, required all Nevada schools with 70 percent or greater free/reduced lunch eligibility to implement an option for students to have access to breakfast after the start of the school day. The bill set aside \$2 million in grant money to assist in implementation over two years. In 2016-2017, all schools meeting the above-listed criteria were eligible for grant funding. The following data shows grant distribution and breakfasts served during the 2016-2017 school year.

GRANT DISTRIBUTION

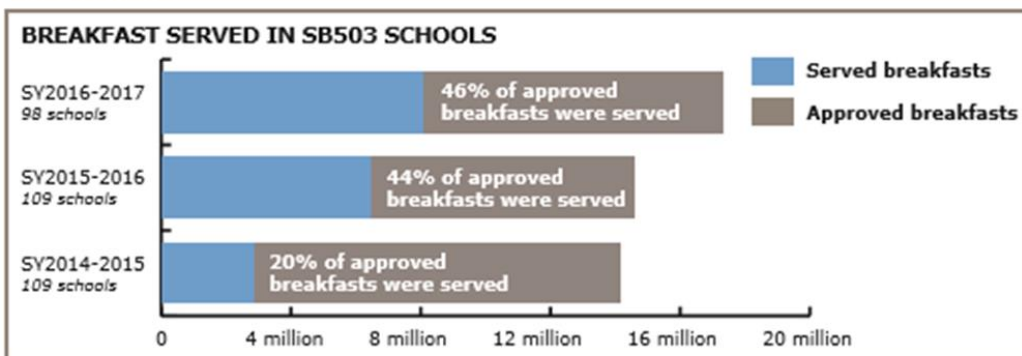
- + **98 schools** (of 243) received **\$978,165.92** in grant money, increasing access to breakfast for more than **101,566 students** in schools statewide receiving grant funding.
- + Nevada received an additional **\$5 million** in all federal breakfast reimbursements.
- + Increased access to breakfast in high-need schools is important because extensive research has shown that students who eat breakfast **succeed academically**, have **fewer behavioral issues** and **fewer visits to the school nurse**.

GRANT DISTRIBUTION	
✓	Clerk County - \$920,000
✓	Nye County - \$30,995
✓	Humboldt County - \$8,588.43
✓	Mater Academy - \$6,752 State-sponsored charter school
✓	Lyon County - \$5,486.40
✓	Mineral County - \$3,178
✓	Elko County - \$3,166.09



BREAKFAST IN SB503 SCHOOLS

- + **1,601,821 more breakfasts²** served in SY2016-2017 as compared to SY2015-2016¹.
- + **24.8% increase** year over year in breakfasts served from SY2015-2016 to SY2016-2017.



1: The large amount of personnel funding requested was due to the increased implementation of breakfast in the classroom and other labor-intensive means of serving breakfast after the bell.
 2: Breakfasts include all breakfasts served (free, reduced and paid) both before and after the start of the school day.
 3: School year is defined from September to May. The same schools were compared in SY2014-2015 and SY2015-2016.