

# State of Nevada



## Governor's Council on Food Security

# Annual Report

January – December 2015

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FROM THE CHAIR, FIRST LADY OF NEVADA KATHLEEN T. SANDOVAL

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As we continue our statewide effort to meaningfully address food insecurity, it is important to evaluate the incredible progress that has been made over the past twelve months toward achieving our objective for Nevada families. There can be no question that 2015 was a monumental year for Nevada in terms of alleviating hunger and mitigating the devastating impacts that food insecurity can and does have on far too many children and families across our state. While we clearly have more work before us, the Governor's Council on Food Security has tremendous momentum helping to propel us forward.

The legislative session represented a critical opportunity for Nevada's policymakers to take real action in the fight against hunger. One of the greatest successes of the session was the passage and approval of SB 503, which has become known as the "Breakfast after the Bell" legislation. As a result of this bill, the number of at-risk students in high-poverty areas who had access to a nutritious breakfast at the start of their school day increased by nearly 110% from the previous year. SB 503 allowed for more than 780,000 breakfasts to be served in Nevada's schools between September and October, and helped secure an additional \$1.55 million for this ongoing effort. This legislation is a true success story in Nevada's fight against hunger, and is one of many achievements resulting from the collaboration and cooperation of Nevada's stakeholders working to end food insecurity.

And while there is good cause to celebrate the successes of this past year, we are also acutely aware that much more work remains to be done. We are committed to building upon the progress we have made together, and to reaching even greater heights in order to promote a higher quality of life for all Nevada families by ending hunger. This effort is informed by a long-term strategy to increase food access, minimize barriers to nutrition, and promote success for young learners by ensuring they have quality meals when they are out of school, especially during the summer months. Moving forward into another year, we remain focused on our long-term strategy and on continuing to successfully reach these critical public health outcomes.

The Governor's Council on Food Security has done a phenomenal job and I am privileged to express my deepest thanks and appreciation to the members of the Council, as well as the many individuals and community agencies who have devoted their talent, time, and expertise to this noble cause. Armed with the successes and experiences of 2015, the new and expanded partnerships we have cultivated, and a renewed commitment to the families we serve, we now press onward with unrelenting optimism toward ending hunger in Nevada. I am grateful to all who support this important work, and look forward to meeting the new challenges that await us, exploring new opportunities to better serve Nevada families, and celebrating new victories we will achieve together.

With deepest thanks,

Kathleen T. Sandoval  
Chairperson, Governor's Council on Food Security  
First Lady of the State of Nevada

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The Governor's Council on Food Security was created by executive order on February 12, 2014, with the inaugural meeting held on March 27, 2014. The Council has spent 2015 supporting legislation, policies and programs that will ensure food security for Nevadans.

The Council agreed on top priorities based upon the goals and strategies identified in the Food Security Plan, Nevada's Plan of Action in spring of 2014. The group has continued to focus on those goals during their activities in 2015.

Highlights of this past year include the passage of three bills during the 78<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session that are related to food security. SB503, Breakfast after the Bell, mandates all schools with 70% or greater free and reduced meal eligible students must serve breakfast after the bell. AB107, Report of Accountability for Public Schools requires the inclusion of breakfast and lunch eligibility and participation numbers to be reported. The Acidified Foods (Pickle Bill) SB 441, is a craft food initiative that allows farmers and small scale operations to process acidified foods in a canning process and sell them at farmers markets and direct to consumer sales. This has created a value-added opportunity for small farmers to increase their income.

In addition to the legislative work, Nevada has had an increase in participation in federal feeding programs like School Breakfast and Summer Food Service Program, partly due to the strategies embraced by the Council. For example, the Governor's School Breakfast Challenge and the First Lady's Public Service Announcements educating Nevadans about food security have helped increased awareness and participation throughout Nevada.

This report provides information on the focus and successes of the Governor's Council on Food Security for 2015.

# HISTORIC TIMELINE OF FOOD SECURITY IN NEVADA

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October 2011: Southern Nevada Food Council (SNFC) and the Washoe County Food Policy Council were established, providing a forum for all members of our food system to collaborate, network, examine systems and provide recommendations for change.



April 2012: Results of the Nevada Office of Food Security Community Needs Assessment are published, showing 1 in 6 Nevadans to be food insecure. A Food Security Steering Committee was created to oversee a strategic planning process and address policy issues.



August 2013: First Lady of Nevada, Kathleen T. Sandoval, hosted *A Place at the Table*, an event which engaged stakeholders in a broad community conversation about hunger issues in Nevada. A Food Summit was hosted which resulted in significant input from 165 participants and representatives on food systems, food security, and healthy communities.



February 12, 2014: Governor Sandoval signs an Executive Order creating the Governor's Council on Food Security.



March 27, 2014: The first Governor's Council on Food Security met in Las Vegas, Nevada.



Spring 2015: The 78th Nevada Legislative Session heard and passed three bills that will have a positive impact on food security in Nevada. They are SB503, Breakfast After the Bell, AB107, Report of Accountability for Public Schools will include breakfast and lunch eligibility and participation counts, and the Cottage Food Bill/Pickle Bill.



January – December 2015: The Governor's Council on Food Security met five times for planning and actions regarding food security.

## FOCUS OF THE COUNCIL

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Council members were surveyed in the spring of 2014 to identify what they felt were the top priorities from the Food Security Plan, Nevada's Plan for Action under the areas of LEAD, FEED, GROW, and REACH. The results of the survey were compiled and the following goals were determined to be the priorities of the Council. Throughout 2015 the Council continued to work towards these goals.

### 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 services for food insecure Nevadans.

### GROW

- Goal 1 – Increase the number of servings of nutritious foods consumed by Nevadans – with emphasis on foods that are 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.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2015

### LEAD

- ❖ Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) developed and funded the Public Service Announcements that were released featuring the First Lady of Nevada, Kathleen T. Sandoval, discussing Nevada's hunger issues and the Governor's Council on Food Security.
- ❖ Researched and determined the Multiple Agency Resource Team will be the Nevada Nutrition Assistance Consortium as multiple State agencies are already part of that group. There is flexibility to add members as needed.

- ❖ Three bills were passed in the 2015 Legislative Session that support food security in Nevada. SB503, Breakfast After the Bell, AB107, Report of Accountability for Public Schools which will include breakfast and lunch eligibility and participation, and the Acidified Foods (Pickle) Bill which is a craft food initiative that allows farmers, and small scale operations to process acidified foods in a canning process and sell them at farmer's markets and direct to consumer sales. This has created a value-added opportunity for small farmers to increase their income. NDA developed a web-based grant application and as of December 2015, 61 schools have received \$476,883 in grant awards, increasing access to breakfast for more than 26,000 students statewide. More than 781,000 breakfast were served compared to the same time last year with a 20 percent increase in breakfast participation among qualifying schools and an additional \$1.5 million in Federal reimbursement into the state of Nevada. NDA held a workshop and public hearing to develop regulations for SB-441 Cottage Food Bill. Those regulations were approved at the January 2016 Nevada Department of Agriculture Board Meeting.
- ❖ The Council held five meetings in 2015 to discuss key priorities.
- ❖ Established the Office of Food Security in the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Section.
- ❖ The Council sponsored a letter and obtained the governor's signature of support that addresses the following federal legislation: Early Childhood Nutrition Improvement Act; Stop Child Summer Hunger Act; the Summer Meals Act SB1966 and SNAP Block Funding with in the Appropriations bill.

## FEED

- ❖ Governor's School Breakfast Challenge: NDA developed the Governor's School Breakfast Challenge including the web site, news releases, technical assistance, and award presentations. The purpose of the challenge was to increase the participation in the School Breakfast Program and recognize the three highest performing schools. Walmart donated \$5,000 in Walmart gift cards that were awarded to the top 3 schools. Lundy Elementary School in Clark County School District won first place with an 18% increase in participation and \$2,500 in gift cards. Second place went to McDermitt Elementary School in Humboldt County School District with a 15.9% increase and \$1,500 in gift cards. Schurz Elementary School in Mineral County School District took third place with an increase of 14.9% and \$1,000 in gift cards.
  - Impact: Statewide increase in breakfast participation of 1.9%, 10 districts saw an increase ranging from .5%-4.73% while 7 districts had a decrease.
- ❖ Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Summer Electronic Benefits Transaction (EBT) for Children Program, Nevada was awarded funding for this in 2015. This is one program in the Summer Feeding Program that aims to reduce summer time food insecurity among children.
- ❖ Sub-committees were formed to provide suggestions for increasing participation in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP); one focused on sponsors and sites and the other on outreach.
  - Robocalls were developed and implemented
  - NDA distributed posters and utilized social media to increase outreach in the state
  - Members suggested expanding the sites to low income apartment complexes in Clark and Washoe Counties

- Impact: the 2015 SFSP had a 5.5% increase over 2014. The goal was 7.5%. Sites increased 11% and total number of sponsors remained the same as 2014.
- ❖ SB503 effect: Three Square has a Social Innovation Fund (SIF) grant for which they are using to support CCSD implementation of SB503. They have engaged CCSD in four areas:
  - Share our Strength support in best practices
  - CCSD food service training
  - Marketing materials and incentives for schools for increasing participation
  - Supporting reclamation upon request of the schools
- The Clark County goal is 90,000 breakfasts by School Year (SY) 17-18. The current year goal of 71,000 for SY15-16 was met and surpassed by November 2015, currently at 73,000. Three Square believes that their success is a direct reflection of the passage of SB503.

## GROW

- ❖ NDA assembled a stakeholder group that drafted the Nevada School Wellness Policy to reflect current Federal School Wellness Policy Regulations that will enhance healthy eating in schools. NDA has been providing webinars and technical assistance for school districts to revise their local school wellness policy. NDA built a website that provides resources for the development and implementation of the local school wellness policy as well as a web based system for reporting comments on the school wellness policy.

## REACH

- ❖ NDA assembled a stakeholder group to conduct a comprehensive benefit analysis study of current state and nonprofit commodity/food delivery system that includes cost efficiency, frequency of delivery and recommendations. The 2014 Analysis of Nevada's Food Distribution System was completed and released in January 2015 and contains a comprehensive community food supply assessment to determine what organizations, agencies and groups are providing services as well as the frequency and schedule of deliveries to determine efficiencies and opportunities for streamlining food distribution processes.
- ❖ The Council voted to explore a central database to help direct service systems such as Women, Infants and Children (WIC), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), etc. to enhance collaboration.

## FUTURE FOCUS

### FEED

- ❖ Explore the possibility of merging the WIC and SNAP application to streamline the process for applicants
- ❖ Increase education to the public regarding direct food service programs in communities that are available to those that qualify to help increase food security and better nutrition
- ❖ Increase education to the public regarding healthy eating and wellness



- ❖ Continue the efforts and support for sustained high participation in the School Breakfast Program

## REACH

- ❖ Explore centralized data collection methods/systems. One example of statewide system connection: HMIS – Homeless Management Information System, “Clarity” which is required by the Federal Government for anyone who receives funding for the homeless population. The Health Information Exchange is being explored for data sharing and connections.

## ALL AREAS

- ❖ Continue work under the goals of the Food Security Plan and reassess priorities.
- ❖ Continue and building upon the work of the Multiple Agency Resource Team/Nevada Nutrition Assistance Consortium
- ❖ The Council will continue to examine opportunities to improve food security through public policy efforts.

## MEMBERS: THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON FOOD SECURITY

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**Kathleen Sandoval**

Nevada First Lady  
Chair

**Christy McGill**

Director  
Healthy Communities Coalition  
Vice Chair

**Steve Fisher**

Administrator  
Nevada Division of Welfare and Supportive  
Services

**Sarah Adler**

State Director  
Nevada USDA Rural Development

**Jim Barbee**

Director  
Nevada Department of Agriculture

**Matthew Tuma**

Industry Specialist – Natural Resources  
Governor's Office of Economic Development

**Richard Whitley**

Director  
Nevada Department of Health and Human  
Services

**Vacant**

**Superintendent of Public Instruction**

Nevada Department of Education

**Cherie Jamason**

President & CEO  
Food Bank of Northern Nevada

**Jodi Tyson**

Director of Government Affairs  
Three Square

**Mike Wurm**

Executive Director  
Boys and Girls Club of Truckee Meadows

**Vacant**

One of Three Members Representing  
Community-Based Services (Southern Nevada)

**Donnell Barton**

Administrator  
Nevada Food and Nutrition Division

**Mary Liveratti**

Nevada State President  
AARP

**Mark Walker**

Dean  
University of Nevada, Reno, Cooperative  
Extension

**Amy Hill**

**Senior Director, Public Affairs**

Walmart Government Relations

**Kenneth Osgood, MD, MPH**

Southern Nevada Health District

**Chuck Duarte**

**Chief Executive Officer**

Community Health Alliance

**Guy Hillyer**

Executive Vice President  
Cannery Casino Resorts

**Denise Peri**

Sales  
Nevada Fresh Pack

**David Weaver**

Vice President of Sales  
US Foods

## SPECIAL THANKS

We extend our special thanks to the following individuals:

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Ericka Sorensen, Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health

Jenelle Gimlin, Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health

Michelle Walker, Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health

Monica Morales, Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health