

Nevada Department of Health and Human Services

Division of Public and Behavioral Health
Office of Food Security

Senior Nutrition Programs Gap Analysis

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

On February 12, 2014, the Governor's Council on Food Security (herein referred to as "Council") was established per Executive Order 2014-03 by Governor Brian Sandoval. The Council was established within the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Food Security, and tasked with effectively improving the quality of life and health of Nevadans by increasing food security throughout the State. The Council's vehicle to accomplish this is through the implementation of the statewide strategic plan: *Food Security in Nevada: Nevada's Plan for Action*.

As hunger does not only affect children, the Council is now interested in expanding efforts to increase food security among Nevada's aging population. The Office of Food Security has requested the assistance of Social Entrepreneurs, Inc. (SEI) in conducting a study to inform the Council, the State, and partner agencies about the senior nutrition issues, obstacles, and opportunities.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

The objectives of the Senior Programs Gap Analysis are:

1. Characterize Nevada's senior population, including demographic and household characteristics, nutrition behaviors, and health status.
2. Examine trends in aging and food insecurity, disability, and independent living.
3. Forecast demand for food and meal programs for this population over the next ten years.
4. Identify barriers experienced by older, food insecure Nevadans and opportunities to improve food security through policy solutions, regulatory advocacy, coordination among state agencies and service providers, and additional outreach efforts.
5. Assess funding needs, gaps, and strategies to ensure sustainable implementation efforts.

BACKGROUND

In 2016, according to the American's Health Rankings Report, approximately 14% of senior citizens in Nevada, aged 60 years and older, struggled because they lacked the financial and social resources needed to secure an adequate supply of food to remain healthy and independent¹, otherwise known as food insecurity. Because food insecure seniors may be physically unable to prepare healthy daily meals, they have a higher risk of experiencing negative nutrition and health consequences, including malnutrition and an increased risk of chronic disease.²

¹<http://www.americashealthrankings.org/learn/reports/2016-senior-report>

²<http://www.nfesh.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Health-Consequences-of-Food-Insecurity-final.pdf>

Project Timing and Major Milestones

Phase 1. Preparation and Organization

- **April - May 2017**

- Major Deliverables or Activities:

- Internal project meeting conducted on April 6, 2017
- Establishment of research approach and report template
- Stakeholder Study Group (SSG) Kick-Off Meeting

Phase 2. Data Collection

- **May - July 2017**

- Major Deliverables or Activities:

- Development of all tools needed to conduct project
- Research and data collection
- Conduct 20 key informant interviews
- Package data for presentation
- SSG Meeting #2 (July 2017)

Phase 3. Data Analysis and Study Development

- **August - November 2017**

- Major Deliverables or Activities:

- Research innovative approaches to key issues
- SSG Meeting #3 (September 2017)
- Study development
- SSG Meeting #4 (October 2017)
- Presentation of Senior Program Gap Analysis results and recommendations to the Council