



State of Nevada
Governor's
Council on Food
Security

2018

Annual Report

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	2
Background.....	3
Accomplishments in 2018.....	4
LEAD	4
FEED.....	5
Future Focus.....	5
Members: The Governor’s Council on Food Security.....	6

DRAFT

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, about one (1) in eight (8) Nevada households and one (1) in six (6) children do not know from where or when they will get their next meal.^{2,3} Food insecurity is a significant public health concern associated with adverse health outcomes and a poor quality of life, including chronic diseases and mental health issues.^{4,5} In addition, food insecure individuals often lack access to nutrition-dense foods, limiting their ability to maintain healthy eating behaviors and manage their chronic disease(s).

To address food insecurity throughout Nevada, Governor Brian Sandoval issued Executive Order 2014-03 on February 12, 2014, 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.

Tremendous progress has been made on the Food Security Plan this year, due to the dedication of various state and local agencies committed to eliminating food insecurity in Nevada. Since its inception, the GCFS has focused efforts on promoting and supporting policies addressing food insecurity and its determinants and working to increase participation in federal nutrition programs. In 2018, the GCFS Policy Subcommittee supported the GCFS in this effort, proposing a menu of policies which will be supported in the 2019 Nevada Legislative Session, or carried out administratively throughout the upcoming year.

In addition, the GCFS continued to act as a platform for stakeholder engagement and collaboration. Per policy recommendations outlined in the *Nutrition Programs for Older Nevadans and Preliminary Recommendations*, and as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee, the GCFS is working with the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Office of Community Partnerships and Grants to increase priorities alignment regarding the food-security specific amounts of the Fund for a Healthy Nevada (FHN).

To close out the year, the Office of Food Security (OFS) coordinated a statewide Food Security Summit in November 2018 intended to increase collaboration and connectivity among cross-sectional stakeholders throughout the food security network. The Food Security Summit aimed to create a mechanism and an action plan to enhance communication and engagement and to leverage existing efforts to support GCFS priorities and the Food Security Plan.

This report outlines the background of the GCFS and 2018 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 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 Survey (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>

BACKGROUND

In 2012, a community needs assessment was conducted by the DHHS Office of Community Partnerships and Grants (OCPG). The assessment identified food insecurity as a priority public health issue for Nevada. At the time, one (1) in six (6) Nevada households were food insecure. In 2013, an initial food security summit, "A Place at the Table," was held which engaged statewide 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. Also in 2013, the OCPG implemented a strategic planning process to address food insecurity in Nevada. Four (4) workgroups were created to address specific components of food insecurity: LEAD, FEED, GROW, and REACH. Goals and activities were developed under each component, comprising the original Food Security Plan.

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 Food Security 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. Kathleen Sandoval was appointed as the first Chair and provided the GCFS leadership and vision the first four (4) years. In September 2017, Steve Fisher, Administrator of the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS), was appointed Chair.

In 2017, the GCFS worked to update and revise the Food Security Plan to ensure objectives and activities were measurable and actionable. These revisions were approved at the November 2017 GCFS meeting. The revised themes and objectives are:

LEAD

- Goal 1: Align and enhance collaboration efforts of state and non-state agencies to strengthen statewide food security strategies.
- Goal 2: Identify and support state and local policies that increase food security in Nevada.

FEED

- Goal 1: Support strategies that increase participation in state/federal nutrition programs.
- Goal 2: Support client-centered strategies that increase access to nutrition programs and resources that address determinants of hunger.

GROW

- Goal 1: Support initiatives to strengthen Nevada's food system and increase access to local foods.

DATA

- Goal 1: Establish evaluation and reporting processes to enhance data collection to drive future strategies and track progress in improving food security in Nevada.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2018

Throughout 2018, the GCFS focused on LEAD and FEED goals by developing Subcommittees to address specific food security issues; recommending policy development and changes at the State and administrative levels; and enhancing collaboration with the Grants Management Advisory Committee (GMAC).

LEAD

2018 Food Security Summit: In June 2018, the OFS received Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – Education (SNAP-Ed) funding to coordinate and host the 2018 Food Security Summit. The Summit convened a variety of stakeholders to enhance cross-sectional collaboration and connectivity among Nevada's food security network. The Summit took place on November 8, 2018 in Las Vegas. A summary report will be developed and presented to the GCFS in January 2019.

MORE INFORMATION WILL BE ADDED PENDING SUMMIT.

Policy Subcommittee: During the November 2017 GCFS meeting, in preparation for the 80th Nevada Legislative Session beginning February 2019, members motioned to create a Policy Subcommittee. The GCFS Policy Subcommittee was tasked with developing a menu of policy recommendations to address food insecurity and associated social determinants of health for Nevadans. The Policy Subcommittee met eight (8) times between January and September 2018. During this time, the Subcommittee engaged various community and State representatives to acquire information relating to food security needs in Nevada communities. In addition, the Subcommittee reviewed the recommendations of the National Commission on Hunger Report, *Freedom from Hunger: An Achievable Goal for the United States*, to assess Nevada's status in addressing these goals at the state level, and considered policy recommendations outlined in the 2017 report, *Nutrition Programs for Older Nevadans and Preliminary Recommendations*.

The [Policy Subcommittee Policy Recommendations](#) were presented for member consideration at the July 2018 GCFS meeting. Of the seven (7) policies proposed, three (3) would require action by the Nevada Legislature:

1. Establish the GCFS as a permanent advisory committee, board, or commission in Nevada;
2. Increase meal reimbursement rates to create parity between child and senior meal programs (including both congregate and home delivered meals); and
3. Establish a Food Rescue State Goal Bill.

The GCFS voted in support of these policies as effective strategies for addressing food insecurity in Nevada. To support these policies, a [2018 State Policy Recommendations Executive Summary](#) was developed. The Executive Summary provides an overview of the data and influencing factors considered while developing these policy recommendations and will be shared with stakeholders who participated in the Subcommittee and as appropriate.

Technology Subcommittee: At the September 2018 meeting, the Policy Subcommittee motioned to recommend Chair Fisher create a Technology Subcommittee to address FEED Goal 2.2 of the

Food Security Plan: *Support the use of a shared client database among community partners.* The Technology Subcommittee will work to identify existing data systems and technology, including client-tracking and outcome tracking systems. The Technology Subcommittee held an initial meeting in November 2018 and will continue to meet throughout 2019.

FEED

Technology Subcommittee: See summary above.

OCPG Collaboration: Throughout 2018, the GCFS, OFS, and OCPG worked to enhance collaboration among the GCFS and the GMAC, including alignment of the Funds for a Health Nevada (FHN) food security monies with GCFS priorities. At the September 2018 GMAC meeting, GCFS member Sarah Adler presented the Food Security Plan and GCFS priorities as identified by the GCFS Policy Subcommittee. GCFS priorities aligned with two (2) Food Security Plan activities, specifically LEAD Goal 2: *Identify and support state and local policies that increase food security in Nevada;* and FEED Goal one (1): *Support strategies that increase participation in state/federal nutrition programs.* In addition, the GCFS recommended dual representation between the GMAC and GCFS and the GMAC members agreed.

FUTURE FOCUS

Throughout 2019, the GCFS will meet at least six (6) times to discuss issues regarding food insecurity and associated social determinants. The GCFS and OFS will continue implementing strategies related to the revised Food Security Plan, as well as support food security-related policies throughout the 2019 Legislative Session.

MEMBERS: THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON FOOD SECURITY

Steve Fisher, Chair

Administrator

Nevada Division of Welfare and Supportive Services

Christy McGill, Vice Chair

Director of Safe and Respective Learning

Nevada Department of Education

Amy Hill

Senior Director, Public Affairs

Walmart Government Relations

Amber Bosket

Executive Director

State Renewable Energy

Annmarie Feiler

Executive Director

Urban Seed Foundation

Aurora Buffington, PhD, RDN, LD

Public Health Nutrition Specialist

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension

Cherie Jamason

Director of Ending Hunger Initiatives

Food Bank of Northern Nevada

Chuck Duarte

Chief Executive Officer

Community Health Alliance

Deacon Tom Roberts

President and Chief Executive Officer

Catholic Charities Southern Nevada

Gillian Barclay, PhD

Healthcare Industry Specialist

Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development

Homa Anoshehpour, PhD

Administrator

Food and Nutrition Division

Nevada Department of Agriculture

Jerri Williams-Conrad

Interim Director

Nevada Department of Agriculture

Jodi Tyson, MPH

Vice President of Strategic Initiatives
Three Square

Julie Kotchevar, PhD

Administrator
Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health

Kenneth Osgood, MD, MPH

Public Health Advisory Board
Southern Nevada Health District

Marcia Blake

Executive Director
James Seastrand Helping Hands of North Las Vegas

Robert Thompson

Deputy Administrator
Nevada Division of Welfare and Supportive Services

Robert Medeiros

CEO
Boomtown Casino Hotel and Reserve Casino Hotel

Sarah Adler

Healthy Communities Coalition of Lyon and Storey Counties

Vacant

Western Regional Director of the United States
Department of Agriculture or designee

Vacant

One member representing food processing or
distribution