

## Food Security in Nevada: Nevada's Plan for Action 2013 – 2017 Plan Progress and Recommendations

### 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.**

**1.1: Secure technical assistance to evaluate and identify optimal business processes for Nevada's food security system including state agencies, food banks, and regional and local nonprofits in order to determine the role each plays in closing the meal gap.**

**Status: On-going**

**Update:** Historically, this activity stemmed from the need for an updated Welfare data system. When the plan was created, there had been an increase in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) applicants and a hiring freeze within the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS). Since the creation of this activity, there has been a significant overhaul of the Welfare data system. The new data system, coupled with Implementing the Business Re-Engineering Process, has lowered error rates and increased efficiency. This activity also refers to the need for funding to implement the Clarity system statewide. While there has been an increase in community agencies using the Clarity system, the LEAD/REACH Subcommittee expressed gaps still exist in its use throughout the state. Implementing a single, statewide database to track client services remains a need.

Additionally, this activity refers to the need to acquire technical assistance to determine each state/non-state agencies' role (within the food security network) in closing the meal gap. This has not been accomplished. Finally, this activity aligns with the funding acquired in the 2017 legislative session to implement a Master Client Index database. This database will allow for data integration across all social programs. The implementation of this database will also allow for increased participation between SNAP and Woman, Infants, and Children (WIC), another focus of the original plan.

**1.2: Establish an Office of Food Security (OFS) in the Director's Office of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).**

**Status: Complete**

**Update:** The OFS was established in 2014 under DHHS. The OFS is currently situated with the Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (CDPHP) Section and the growing "Nutrition Unit." The Food Security and Wellness Manager (OFS), supports the Governor's Council on Food Security (GCFS) and the implementation of the *Food Security in Nevada: Nevada's Plan for Action* (i.e., the Food Security Plan). This manager oversees the School Health and Obesity Prevention and Control Programs within CDPHP. The OFS was placed with CDPHP to collaborate better with CDPHP programs including the Diabetes Prevention and Control and Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Programs, to address nutrition and food security-specific risk factors associated with chronic diseases.

In November 2016, the OFS, School Health, and the Obesity Prevention and Control Program collocated with WIC and SNAP-Education in the development of a Nutrition Unit. The Nutrition Unit is being created to align efforts and increase cross-agency collaboration.

The LEAD/REACH Subcommittee requested the OFS take the lead on evaluating the Food Security Plan, in collaboration with the CDPHP evaluation team.

### **1.3 Create a Statewide Food Policy Advisory Council that links and leverages regional and local community-based efforts.**

**Status: Complete**

**Update:** Governor Brian Sandoval issued an Executive Order on February 12, 2014 establishing the GCFS. Per the Executive Order, the primary role of the Governor's Council on Food Security is the implementation of the Food Security Plan which is intended to improve the quality of life and health of Nevadans by increasing food security throughout the state. The LEAD/REACH Subcommittee has recommended placing the GCFS in statute.

### **1.4 Support the consolidation of appropriate USDA programs under the Nevada Department of Agriculture to improve efficiency and effectiveness.**

**Status: Complete**

**Update:** The 2013 session of the Nevada Legislature passed three bills moving Child Nutrition Programs, Commodity Foods, and the Dairy Commission under the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA). During the 2017 legislative session, the Dairy Commission was dissolved and the regulatory authority for statutes previously held by the Dairy Commission were transferred to the NDA.

The LEAD/REACH Subcommittee recommended exploring joint policies or agreements for Nevada-administered United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs under DHHS to work more effectively together. The Nutrition Unit was provided as an example. Enhancing collaborations with the Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD) and the DHHS Native American Liaison was also recommended.

### **1.5 Fill staffing and technology capacity needs in state agencies to optimize and expedite access to resources.**

**Status: On-going**

**Update:** See LEAD 1.1 update regarding Welfare data system and the Master Client Index. The LEAD/REACH Subcommittee discussed the need for enhancing agencies' technology capacity. Not all USDA programs have the ability to provide data in a timely manner due to outdated IT systems. The Subcommittee recommended revising this activity to specifically address the need for updated IT systems.

### **1.6 Determine baseline status for all goals in the Food Security Plan.**

**Status: On-going**

**Update:** Baseline data was not collected when the original Food Security Plan was developed. Baseline data will be incorporated in the evaluation plan moving forward. The LEAD/REACH Subcommittee agreed evaluation activities in the original plan would be combined and the OFS will lead future evaluation efforts (see LEAD 1.2).

### **1.7 Promote a state policy encouraging outreach which draws down additional federal/grant dollars.**

**Status: On-going**

**Update:** In the 2017 Legislative Session, Senate Bill (SB) 323 was passed, which mandates the State apply for any SNAP waivers the USDA guidelines will allow. The LEAD/REACH Subcommittee suggested replicating this bill across all USDA programs to increase participation in nutrition programs among eligible populations.

Additionally, the Subcommittee recommended the revised activity encompass policies that break down barriers to accessing programs, as well as waivers and other mechanisms for enhancing participation and access to funding.

### **1.8 Create an evaluation plan to measure progress on increasing food security in Nevada.**

**Status: On-going**

**Update:** See LEAD 1.6 update. The LEAD/REACH committee recommended developing an evaluation timeline.

### **1.9 Coordinate and resolve issues with state and non-state agencies, measuring and reporting on progress in increasing food security for Nevadans on an annual basis.**

**Status: Not met**

**Update:** The LEAD/REACH Subcommittee emphasized the need for enhanced collaboration among state and non-state agencies through interfacing and aligning local and state nutrition program plans with the Food Security Plan, and by hosting a statewide Food Security Summit. This activity aligns with the creation of an evaluation plan per LEAD 1.8.

## **Goal #2: Promote a policy agenda to increase food security in Nevada.**

### **2.1. Adopt a policy to authorize CNP, SNAP, and WIC to utilize all of the available opportunities established by USDA.**

**Status: On-going**

**Update:** See LEAD 1.7 update. The LEAD/REACH Subcommittee discussed the need for collaboration among programs to leverage services, they used the WIC/SNAP collaboration as an example. They agreed this activity aims to direct state and non-state agencies to collaborate to increase access to food security resources using client-centered strategies.

### **2.2 Establish a multi-agency resource team to pursue innovative solutions, demonstration projects, and funding available through the federal government, foundations, or other sources to increase the number of people fed and close the meal gap.**

**Status: Not met**

**Update:** While the Nevada Nutrition Assistance Consortium (NNAC) had been previously identified as the “multi-agency resource team,” the LEAD/REACH Subcommittee agreed it did not satisfy the original intent of this activity. It was suggested another resource team be developed to implement the Food Security Plan, working parallel to the GCFS (see REACH 2.1). It was recommended the revised activity allow for opportunities to establish new groups when necessary. The LEAD/REACH Subcommittee also recommended the NNAC provide regular updates to the GCFS.

### **2.3 Research and develop a menu of model policies/regulation options to promote food security in Nevada.**

**Status: On-going**

**Update:** The 78th Nevada Legislative Session in 2015 saw three (3) bills passed relating to food security which were championed by the GCFS: SB503, Breakfast After the Bell; Assembly Bill (AB) 107, regarding an annual accountability report for schools; and SB206, the Cottage Food Bill/Pickle Bill. The LEAD/REACH Subcommittee suggested convening a policy workgroup to develop a food security legislative agenda. The Subcommittee agreed the workgroup’s first task would be to review the recommendations of the *2015 National Commission on Hunger Report* (see REACH 2.1).

### **2.4 Promote policies on a state and local level to encourage Nevada farm products to enter systems that serve Nevadans including institutions, schools, senior centers, and child care centers (develop a menu of model policies/regulations).**

**Status: On-going**

**Update:** In the 2017 Legislative Session, two (2) bills were passed relating to this activity. SB167 makes an appropriation for the creation of school gardens; this bill allocated \$610,000 for school gardens in Title I schools in the '17 - '18 and '18 - '19 school years. Additionally, SB429 was passed, which established provisions relating to urban agriculture. This bill authorizes a governing body of a city or county to establish an urban agriculture zone; providing that a master plan may include an urban agricultural element; authorizing a board of county commissioners or a governing body of a city to allow the use of vacant city- or county-owned land for community gardening.

**2.5 Develop and implement a campaign to increase the public's awareness of food and nutrition resources, remove the stigma associated with receiving food assistance, and ensure that Nevada policymakers are aware of benefits from available nutrition programs.**

**Status: On-going**

**Update:** In 2013, the First Lady of Nevada, Kathleen Sandoval was featured in Public Service Announcements (PSAs) in support of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). These PSAs were featured on television, radio, social media, and online ads.

In 2017, the CDPHP Section collaborated with NDA to conduct a marketing campaign promoting NSLP. This campaign was funded through SNAP-Ed. The WIC Section is involved with the National WIC Association outreach campaign targeting pregnant women in physicians' offices and are also working on an outreach campaign with Medicaid.

**2.6 Policy Council to review and update plan**

**Status: Not met**

**Update:** See LEAD 1.6 update.

## FEED

**Goal #1: Maximize participation in each federal nutrition program available to the state.**

**1.1 Feed more children through increased participation in in-school meal programs and establish accountability measures.**

**Status: On-going**

**Update:** In the 2015 Legislative Session, two (2) bills were passed related to this activity. SB503, providing for the creation and implementation of the Breakfast After the Bell Program, and AB107, revising provisions relating to reports of accountability for public schools. The SB503 mandate led Nevada to have the largest percent participation increase in the School Breakfast Program (SBP) from the 2014-2015 school year to 2015-2016.

Year	SBP NV Participation	SBP National Average	NSLP NV Participation	NSLP National Average
2013	21.8%	27.4%	47.7%	59.4%
2016	28.2%	30.2%	50.2%	59.1%

## 1.2 Expand partnerships between regional food banks and commodities programs to effectively utilize and deliver all USDA commodities programs along with fresh produce.

**Status: On-going**

**Update:** Effective October 1, 2017 The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) will move to a food pantry model in Nevada. One (1) Regional Distributing Agency will be selected to serve Northern Nevada and one (1) to serve Southern Nevada. Agreements will be in place with Local Distributing Agencies to distribute TEFAP food to those in need. Agencies will be able to track the pounds of produce distributed.

There are three (3) USDA-funded Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) programs operating in Nevada, collectively serving 27 locations. They currently do not track pounds of fresh produce issued.

The Commodity Supplemental Food Program's (CSFP) food package does not offer fresh produce. USDA is currently reviewing the food package for this program, but it may not include adding fresh produce to the package.

As of the August 23, 2017 GROW/FEED Subcommittee meeting, 1.5 million pounds of fresh produce had been distributed through TEFAP in the 2017 Federal Fiscal Year. The GROW/FEED Subcommittee recommended this activity continue as written.

**Pounds Fresh Produce Distributed Through Food Banks\***

Food Bank	2013	2016
Food Bank of Northern Nevada	6,032,553	6,064,768
Three Square Food Bank	30,000,000	40,000,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36,032,553</b>	<b>46,064,768</b>

*\*Does not reflect pounds distributed through commodity programs. This data is included at the request of the GROW/FEED Subcommittee.*

## 1.3 Create a strategic partnership between WIC and SNAP.

**Status: On-going**

**Update:** The implementation of the Master Client Index (LEAD activity 1.1) will allow for the integration of data across programs, as well as the collection of baseline data to establish the number of WIC-eligible SNAP clients not participating in the WIC program. Joint eligibility is not feasible right now due to differences in data collection processes between the two programs; the Master Client Index is the first step to achieving a better strategic partnership.

WIC and SNAP are also collaborating on a data analysis project through the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act Grant which will conclude with a targeted outreach campaign. Additionally, there will be cross-training between local WIC agencies and SNAP staff, including the creation of a referral script to streamline the referral process between both programs.

The Subcommittee recommended prioritizing increasing older Nevadans' participation in SNAP.

**1.4 Create partnerships and sponsorships to feed more children through out-of-school meal programs and daycare centers using Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).**

**Status: On-going**

**Update:** The NDA reported an increase in Early Childhood Education (ECE) center CACFP participation, including sites on tribal reservations. They are also working with sponsors to increase ECE participation in SFSP. There are a number of partnerships contributing to increased program participation, including the Food Bank of Northern Nevada (FBNN) and Children’s Advocacy Alliance.

Year	SFSP meals	SFSP Sponsors	SFSP Sites
2013	489,592	35	175
2016	644,522	30	314

Year	CACFP meals	CACFP Sponsors	CACFP Sites
2013	4,723,768	55	585
2016	5,322,117	48	572

**1.5 Replicate effective models to increase rural capacity for children's out-of-school meal programs.**

**Status: On-going**

**Update:** The GROW/FEED Subcommittee discussed lack of capacity in Rural Nevada and suggested enhanced collaboration with the rural school districts and community coalitions. The Subcommittee also suggested the NDA present on progress and barriers to CACFP and SFSP implementation in the rurals.

Year	SFSP sponsors w/rural sites	SFSP rural sites	CACFP sponsors w/rural sites	CACFP rural sites
2013	19	95	11	11
2016	22	213	35	31

**1.6 Assist school districts and charter schools with implementing the State's wellness policy and support the Office of Child Nutrition Programs' enforcement of the policy.**

**Progress: On-going**

**Update:** School districts and charter schools on the NSLP are required to have a School Wellness Policy (SWP); all 17 Nevada school districts have a SWP. Implementation is tracked through a NDA online school wellness implementation reporting tool. The GROW/FEED Subcommittee discussed how it is difficult to ensure implementation, because the SWP is not law.

The NDA and CDPHP School Health Program collaborate to support the implementation of state and local school wellness policies. NDA tracks implementation through wellness goals established by the schools. Schools input their data through an online portal. New goals are requested annually for nutrition, physical activity, and other student wellness initiatives. The [2015-2016](#) and [2016-2017](#) Nevada School Wellness Reports can be found on NDA’s website.

**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.**

**2.1 Increase the number of services, providers, and places within a community and neighborhood to increase access points to healthy food by food insecure people who may be ineligible for federal nutrition programs.**

**Progress: On-going**

**Update:** The GROW/FEED Subcommittee clarified this goal aimed to increase food and service access points throughout the state, not in a particular neighborhood. The Subcommittee agreed this language should be more inclusive and focus on identifying and increasing the number of food access points throughout Nevada. The Urban Seed Foundation is developing an interactive asset map to help with this endeavor. They are currently conducting a phased research project with Three Square Food Bank and the University of Nevada Las Vegas to begin collecting and analyzing data. Subcommittee members encouraged continuing the collaborations on the various asset mapping projects happening throughout the state. The Subcommittee discussed the One-Stop-Shop Grant’s purpose, which is to increase referrals to and enrollment in all programs for which a client is eligible.

The data below is included at the request of the GROW/FEED Subcommittee:

<b>Food Bank Partner Agencies</b>		
<b>Food Bank</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2016</b>
FBNN	131	144
Three Square	270	370
<b>Total</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>514</b>

**Farmers Market EBT Data**

*April, May, June 2017*

- **# Nevada farmers markets: 40**
- **# that accept EBT: 17**
- **Total EBT redemption: \$4,104.61**

**Senior Farmers Market Program 2016 Data**

- \$156,090 in coupons used
- 5,203 booklets issued to seniors
- \$106,228 redeemed
- 692 additional seniors served through bulk purchases

**2.2 Assess and implement a single, statewide database system that integrates with other information and service systems (e.g., 2-1-1, Federal Nutrition Programs, etc.).**

**Progress: On-going**

**Update:** See LEAD 1.1 update regarding the Clarity system and the Master Client Index. A single, integrated data system currently exists for SNAP, Medicaid, and TANF. Subcommittee members suggested this database eventually include all public assistance programs.

**2.3 Collaborate with the Consumer Assistance Committee of the Silver State Health Insurance Exchange on a single point entry/application process for multiple assistance programs across systems.**

**Progress: Not met**

**Update:** The Consumer Assistance Committee no longer exists. Food security is currently not within the scope of the Silver State Health Insurance Exchange; current applications are only for enrollment for qualified health plans (QHP), Medicaid, or the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP, aka Nevada Check-Up).

The Subcommittee discussed revising this activity to focus on the development of a single point entry/application process for multiple assistance programs. The implementation of No Wrong Door will enhance this process.\*

*\*Inclusion of this activity will depend on the Council's selected timeline for the revised plan.*

#### **2.4 Strengthen partnerships and increase efficiency to implement a "one-stop-shop" for all assistance programs.**

**Progress: On-going**

**Update:** This activity aligns with the No Wrong Door and Master Client Index of LEAD activity 1.1 and REACH activity 2.2.

#### **2.5 Expand partnerships linked to a "one-stop-shop" to address risk factors that increase food insecurity.**

**Progress: On-going**

**Update:** See FEED 2.4 update. The GROW/FEED Subcommittee discussed the importance of addressing the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) and their connection to food security, as well as collaborating with 9-1-1 Referral Programs.

### **GROW**

#### **Goal #1: Increase the number of servings of nutritious foods consumed by Nevadans - with emphasis on foods that are produced in Nevada.**

##### **1.1 Encourage local producers to establish aggregation centers to increase retail and wholesale sales. \***

**Progress: On-going**

**Update:** Since the creation of the Food Security Plan, there has been an increase in food hubs and co-ops throughout Nevada. In 2013, there was one (1) food hub and one (1) co-op, and now there are four (4) food hubs and five (5) co-ops. Subcommittee members recommended Great Basin Co-op (Reno) present on their "drop" program at a future GCFS meeting.

*\*Comprehensive data on number of aggregation centers is not available. The food hub/co-op data may not be comprehensive; the OFS was unable to independently confirm data validity.*

##### **1.2 Support and expand model programs and partnerships (e.g., school gardens, community gardens, and small food plots) to supplement a household's supply of fresh produce or encourage entrepreneurial efforts, with a focus on individuals utilizing the food security network.**

**Progress: On-going**

**Update:** SB167, which makes appropriations for the creation and maintenance of school gardens, passed in the 2017 Legislative Session. The appropriation will be used to issue \$410,000 in grants to Title I schools for state fiscal year 2017-18; schools can apply for up to \$10,000 for new or existing school gardens. Additional funds will be available in state fiscal year 2018-19.

While county-level school garden data is available for select counties, comprehensive statewide data is not available. The GROW/FEED Subcommittee recommended compiling model program curricula for school gardens and creating an activity focused on promoting/improving farm-to-school programs and initiatives.

##### **1.3 Develop a food system asset map (inventory) to catalog existing food resources and potential resources in the state that could be leveraged further.**

**Progress: On-going**

**Update:** The GROW/FEED Subcommittee recommended this remain an activity. A number of agencies throughout the state have developed, or are working on, asset maps. Subcommittee members recommended collecting and evaluating existing maps from state and non-state agencies. See FEED 2.1 activity update regarding Urban Seed Foundation’s work on an interactive asset map.

**1.4 Analyze the asset map, prioritize, and recommend investment and collaboration opportunities to increase food security and its economic impact.**

**Progress: Not met**

**Update:** This activity is a subset of GROW 1.3 and cannot be accomplished until a statewide asset map is developed.

**1.5 Use identified aggregation, processing, and distribution capacity to pilot the utilization of local foods into the food security networks and Nevada institutions (e.g., Farm to School, Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, etc.).**

**Progress: On-going**

**Update:** Washoe County Nutrition Services purchases as much as they can. Sufficient local product has been an issue. Clark County School District (CCSD) has experienced a similar problem. Most of the produce served in Clark County schools comes from California due to lack of local product availability. See the updates for activities GROW 1.6 and REACH 1.3 regarding assessing barriers to the utilization of local foods. Urban Seed, Inc. has the capacity to be a viable produce vendor to CCSD within 18 months.

**1.6 Work with producers and other stakeholders to identify and address barriers preventing the production, sale, and use or expansion of local foods.**

**Progress: On-going**

**Update:** The “Cottage Food Bill” (SB206) was passed during the 2015 Legislative Session; this bill allows for a limited amount of non-hazardous foods to be prepared in a person’s home. SB429, which establishes provisions relating to urban agriculture, was passed during the 2017 Legislative Session. The Subcommittee recommended this remain an activity. While some barriers were discussed, a comprehensive evaluation must still be conducted.

**1.7 Develop an education and marketing plan to encourage consumption of nutritious, local foods, focused on individuals who utilize the food security network.**

**Progress: N/A**

**Update:** The GROW/FEED Subcommittee agreed this should remain an activity, and recommended collaboration among agencies’ marketing plans. The Subcommittee also suggested promoting the senior farmer’s market coupon program. In addition, this activity aligns with the asset map mentioned in GROW activity 1.3. The Urban Seed Foundation will be developing a marketing plan to promote the interactive asset map upon completion.

## 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).**

**1.1 Conduct a comprehensive benefit analysis of the current state and nonprofit commodity/food delivery system that includes cost efficiency, frequency of delivery, and recommendations.**

**Progress: Complete**

**Update:** In January 2015, NDA issued the *2014 Food Distribution Survey*. The LEAD/REACH Subcommittee suggested adding an addendum to the report including an update to the report's recommendations and next steps, such as working more closely with the food banks. The Subcommittee requested regional reports and analyses from the food banks be included as an update, including the [Washoe County Health District Community Health Improvement Plan](#), [Southern Nevada Community Health Improvement Plan](#), [The Henderson Comprehensive Plan](#), and the [Southern Nevada Strong Regional Plan](#).

Moving forward, the LEAD/REACH Subcommittee recommended developing a work group to review state commodity program plans, specifically the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, and the Nutrition Services Incentive Program, to determine if opportunities exist to increase efficiency. Additionally, the LEAD/REACH Subcommittee discussed the need for additional CSFP caseloads. This data may be discovered in the Nutrition Programs Gap Analysis for Older Nevadans. The Subcommittee agreed an activity regarding increased CSFP caseloads would be included under FEED, and would also fall under LEAD as a policy recommendation.

**1.2 Develop a comprehensive client/community food supply assessment to determine which 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.**

**Progress: Not met**

**Update:** In the LEAD/REACH Subcommittee worksheet, the *2014 Food Distribution Survey* was included as an update. The Subcommittee agreed the survey did not align with the original intent of the activity. This activity is related to the food banks and should be revised to be more specific. The LEAD/REACH Subcommittee recommended a comprehensive statewide food security assessment which would still assess state program distribution efficiencies. Ultimately, the Subcommittee suggested two (2) reports, a comprehensive assessment of the food insecure population in Nevada and a Nevada-specific report on the SDOH.

Additional recommendations include:

- Including links to the food banks' agency and program lists on the GCFS website
- A multi-agency workgroup to work parallel to the GCFS
- Adding questions to the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) regarding the experiences of hunger

**1.3 Use food asset maps to develop a coordinated distribution delivery process, establish a network to enable a truck to reach several areas in a single trip, and ultimately provide more food to communities.**

**Progress: Complete**

**Update:** In July 2016, the NDA issued the [Nevada Farm to School Producer Survey Report](#) to assess what produce is grown, where, and how much. The survey was also used to assess producers' interest in Farm-to-School initiatives. Subcommittee members suggested the GCFS assess barriers associated with using local foods and discontinue this activity as this assessment has already been conducted by the NDA.

**1.4 Establish a "one-stop-shop" for agencies to acquire produce and other foods from regional food banks and expand nutritious food options beyond what is available for free through commodities programs.**

**Progress: Complete**

**Update:** Per the LEAD/REACH Subcommittee, this activity intended to increase the amount of fresh produce and nutritious foods distributed through the food banks. Per the FEED activity 1.2 data update, the food banks have substantially increased the pounds of fresh produce distributed. Moving forward, the Subcommittee suggested an activity on diversifying healthy food options distributed through food banks, including animal protein and dairy products, while continuing the focus on fresh produce. The Subcommittee agreed this activity is complete as originally written and a new activity on increasing food diversity through Food Banks was suggested to be placed under FEED.

**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.**

**2.1 Use data and information from the shared software system to track client services, program utilization, and target new distribution points based on needs.**

**Progress: Not met**

**Update:** See LEAD activities 1.1 and 1.5 updates. A client tracking database has not been implemented statewide. This activity is pending the implementation of the database. While the Clarity system was discussed, the LEAD/REACH Subcommittee agreed to not mention this database specifically in the revised plan.

Other recommendations include:

- The establishment of a policy subcommittee (LEAD 2.1), and the group's first task should be to review the *National Commission on Hunger Report*;
- The establishment of a multi-agency work group to work parallel to the GCFS (LEAD 2.2); and
- Development of a visual to show the other local and state plans that impact the Food Security Plan.