

National Commission on Hunger Recommendations: Nevada Status Report

Last Updated 8/27/2018

I. Make Improvements to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
<p>1. Encourage a greater focus on job placement, job training, and career development among SNAP recipients, and ensure necessary supports and infrastructure to facilitate finding work.</p> <p>UPDATE(S):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS)/SNAP Education and Training (E&T) is represented on the Governor’s Workforce Development Board and the Workforce Development Governance workgroup.• DWSS/SNAP E&T is included in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) State Plan.• SNAP E&T is piloting a partnership with Western Nevada College (WNC). Currently, 22 SNAP recipients are enrolled in WNC’s Manufacturing Certification Program. This pilot may expand to include Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC) and Southern Nevada community colleges in the future.• SNAP E&T is partnering with Three Square Food Bank’s Workfare Program and planning for the Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) waiver expiration in December 2018.• Per Assembly Bill 354, the Director of the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation must provide a report on Nevada unemployment rates. This report will help target specific high unemployment populations. DWSS is assisting with baseline data collection.
<p>2. Ensure SNAP Eligibility incentives work by improving responsiveness to earned-income fluctuation.</p> <p>UPDATE(S):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SNAP recertification process was restructured in July 2017. New “One and Done” DWSS processes help expedite SNAP reapplication.• DWSS administrative processes have been updated to streamline reapplication for assistance programs. Notice of Expiration (NOE) is now sent 60 days prior to expiration. Previously, notices were sent 40 days prior. A prepopulated recertification application is now sent along with the NOE.
<p>3. Encourage the use of financial incentives to SNAP recipients to facilitate the purchase of healthy fruits, vegetables, high-quality proteins, whole grains, and other healthy foods.</p> <p>UPDATE(S):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In 2017, Together We Can (Las Vegas) was awarded Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive (FINI) program funding for two (2) years to incentivize healthier SNAP purchases.
<p>4. Exclude a carefully defined class of sugar-sweetened beverages from the list of allowable purchases with SNAP benefits.</p> <p>NO UPDATES AT THIS TIME.</p>

<p>5. Use evidence-based product placement strategies that encourage purchase of healthy products with SNAP benefits and tie it to SNAP eligibility for stores. NO UPDATES AT THIS TIME.</p>
<p>6. Reform SNAP Nutrition Education (SNAP-Ed) to ensure that efforts are likely to lead to measurable improvements in the health of SNAP recipients. UPDATE(S):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Nevada SNAP-ED Program has been integrated into the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Nutrition Unit, which works to improve communication, leverage funding across nutrition programs, and improve health outcomes among Nevadans. • SNAP-Ed Programs are required to collaborate with all nutrition education programs. • Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) has a national SNAP- Ed Evaluation Framework, which all states are required to use.
<p>7. Continue to promote and facilitate greater coordination of means-tested programs across federal and state agencies and provide state incentives for establishing a “no wrong door” approach between SNAP and non-nutrition family support programs. UPDATE(S):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “No Wrong Door” is a Nevada DWSS initiative to establish a system that electronically guides clientele to the DHHS program(s) for which they qualify. The long-term goal is to expand beyond DHHS programs. • DWSS is currently implementing “Customer Service Beyond the Case,” which trains DWSS front-line staff to provide additional assistance beyond DWSS services, including WIC, WIOA, 211, and financial coaching.
<p>8. The USDA should use its current flexibility to the greatest extent possible to support state innovations that would help clients to become more food secure and more self-sufficient and should approve or disapprove these requests within 90 days of submission. UPDATE(S):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In a letter received on November 30, 2017, Brandon Lipps, FNS Consumer Services Administrator, said he will allow greater State flexibility in areas that do not increase costs to taxpayers or DWSS partnering agencies.
<p>9. Create mechanisms for improved training for front-line SNAP caseworkers to maintain a customer service perspective that facilitates best practices of case management. UPDATE(S):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates to SNAP business processes have improved customer service among SNAP front line staff. DWSS continues to improve SNAP business processes. • DWSS is currently implementing “Customer Service Beyond the Case,” which trains DWSS front-line staff to provide additional assistance beyond DWSS services, including WIC, WIOA, 211, and financial coaching.
<p>10. Support the wellbeing of families that have members who serve or have served in the U.S. Military. NO UPDATES AT THIS TIME</p>
<p>II. Make Targeted Improvements to Child Nutrition Programs</p>

11. Improve access to summer feeding programs and congregate meals by reconsidering requirements for rural areas.
UPDATE(S):
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For at least 18 years, the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) has attempted to change eligibility for reimbursement to 40% for both the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).
12. Change area eligibility for reimbursement of summer feeding from 50% of children eligible for free or reduced-price school meals to 40% to help reach children in rural and suburban areas.
UPDATE(S):
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) allows State agencies and sponsors to use any month in the Federal year to qualify sites if the October percentages for all schools does not reach 50%. While this helps some facilities qualify, changing to 40% would be more effective. • For at least 18 years, the NDA has attempted to change eligibility for reimbursement to 40% for both the SFSP and the CACFP.
13. Make the summer electronic benefit transfer (EBT) option available by creating a mechanism that allows communities to apply for it if they can clearly demonstrate a barrier to congregate feeding related to remoteness, climate, or safety.
UPDATE(S):
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congregate feeding barriers such as severe weather and poor air quality are addressed by the USDA through demonstration project approval. NDA has approval for excessive heat warnings and is on track to be approved for poor air quality. Children attending outdoor sites on high-risk days are not required to comply with congregate feeding regulations and can take the meals home/off-site. • Issues such as site safety concerns may also be addressed through demonstration projects instead of the longer, new waiver process. • Since 2012, the Summer EBT for Children Program has expanded into all rural Nevada counties and in select eligible schools within urban counties. In 2018, Nevada was awarded the opportunity to serve seven (7) additional at-risk schools in Washoe County.
14. Streamline and simplify administrative processes among the child nutrition programs.
UPDATE(S):
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DWSS has made changes to the eligibility system to send Medicaid-eligible children to the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) to be enrolled in either the free or reduced lunch program. These changes are currently being piloted and will move into production once the pilot is complete. • The USDA has streamlined application and program requirements to allow school food authorities to minimize SFSP and CACFP processes. States' online systems must now be updated to allow for one application across Child Nutrition Programs.
III. Improve Nutrition Assistance Options for People Who Are Disabled or Medically at Risk
15. Expand Medicare managed care plans to include coverage for meal delivery for seniors with a physician recommendation.
UPDATE(S):

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently, home-delivered meals are not included in the Frail and Elderly Waiver but are included in the Physical Disability Waiver. DWSS and the Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD) are working to align the waiver services. • DHHS is considering a budget proposal to the Governor aligning the Medicaid services between the Physical Disability waiver and the Frail and Elderly waiver.
<p>16. Expand Medicaid managed care plans to include coverage, with a physician recommendation, for meal delivery for individuals who are too young for Medicare, but who are at serious medical risk or have a disability. NO UPDATES AT THIS TIME.</p>
<p>IV. Fund Pilot Programs to Test the Effectiveness of Strategic Interventions to Reduce and Eliminate Hunger</p>
<p>17. Congress should allot funds to the USDA to implement, evaluate, and disseminate results of multiple pilot programs to assess their effectiveness on reducing hunger. NO UPDATES AT THIS TIME.</p>
<p>V. Incentivize and Expand Corporate, Nonprofit, and Public Partnerships to Address Hunger in Civil Society</p>
<p>18. Incentivize and expand civic engagement efforts on reducing and eliminating hunger. UPDATE(S):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Governor’s Council on Food Security (GCFS) motioned to support a Food Rescue State Bill in the 2019 Nevada Legislative Session which aims to unite Nevada around a common goal to increase meals distributed through meal recovery. This effort will help enhance and create new collaborative relationships throughout Nevada.
<p>VI. Create a White House Leadership Council to End Hunger that Includes Participation by a Broad Group of Government and Nongovernment Stakeholders</p>
<p>19. Establish a mechanism for cross-agency collaboration to facilitate improved public assistance programming and evaluation through enhanced technology, data sharing, and coordinated funding streams that protect effective programs and encourage coordinated efforts to address larger issues of poverty. UPDATE(S):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The GCFS provides a platform for stakeholders and subject-matter experts to make recommendations to State agencies on addressing food insecurity in Nevada and enhances connectivity among food security initiatives throughout Nevada. In addition, the GCFS is tasked with implementing the strategies of <i>Food Security in Nevada: Nevada’s Plan for Action</i>. • The GCFS motioned to support a bill establishing the GCFS as a permanent advisory committee, board, or commission in the 2019 Nevada Legislative Session.
<p>20. The White House Leadership Council to End Hunger and its members should monitor hunger at the federal and state level, with a specific emphasis on the following at-risk populations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) seniors, (b) single parent households with young children, (c) people with disabilities,

- (d) veterans and active duty military,
- (e) American Indians,
- (f) those reentering society from prison,
- (g) survivors of violence, abuse, and neglect, and
- (h) immigrants (including documented and undocumented, asylum seekers and refugees).

NO UPDATES AT THIS TIME.