

**Governor's Council on Food Security (GCFS)  
Research and Analysis Interim Report  
5/14/2019**

**Introduction**

The US Department of Agriculture defines food security for a household as access by all members at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life. Food security includes at a minimum the ready availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods and assured ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways (that is, without resorting to emergency food supplies, scavenging, stealing, or other coping strategies).

Food insecurity is the limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways.

In order to be food secure all of the social determinants listed below must be met. The lack of any one can result in food insecurity.

1. Enough financial resources to purchase healthy foods.
2. Available transportation to obtain food.
3. Knowledge about which foods are healthy and which foods are unhealthy.
4. Available food preparation and storage facilities.
5. Assistance in obtaining food and/or preparing meals when one has a physical and/or mental disability (caretaker services).
6. Access to healthy food; having community food resources, not living in a "food desert".
7. A safe physical and/or mental living environment with adequate activities of daily living support services.
8. Regular eating patterns (available time).
9. Accurate and appropriate implementation of Information Technology.

Today, the Governor's Council on Food Security estimates that about 560,000 Nevada residents are 60 years old or older and that 80,000 of these residents are food insecure. It is projected that by 2020 the number of food insecure residents 60 years old or older will increase to about 88,000.

**Project Responsibilities:**

The GCFS Research and Analysis Project is responsible for collecting and reviewing available data that identifies (1) what public and private services are currently available to seniors and how many seniors currently receive those services; and (2) how many Nevada seniors are still in need of additional financial or service support to enable them to become food secure.

Specifically, the project will attempt to identify the following:

1. What specific support services are being offered in each Nevada ZIP code (or Zip Code tabulated area or Census Tract), how many are currently served, and how many are still in need of services.
2. The number of seniors in each Nevada ZIP code (or Zip Code tabulated area or Census Tract) who may not have the financial resources to purchase healthy foods.
3. The number of seniors in each Nevada ZIP code (or Zip Code tabulated area or Census Tract) who don't currently have available transportation to obtain food.
4. The number of seniors in each Nevada ZIP code (or Zip Code tabulated area or Census Tract) whose access is compromised because they don't currently have knowledge about healthy food.
5. The number of seniors in each Nevada ZIP code (or Zip Code tabulated area or Census Tract) who don't have access to proper food preparation and/or in-home storage facilities.
6. The number of seniors in each Nevada ZIP code (or Zip Code tabulated area or Census Tract) who have compromised food access because they need caretaker services.
7. The number of seniors in each Nevada ZIP code (or Zip Code tabulated area or Census Tract) who have limited access because they live in a "food desert".
8. The number of seniors in each Nevada ZIP code (or Zip Code tabulated area or Census Tract) whose access is compromised because they live in an unsafe environment without adequate activities of daily living support services.
9. The number of seniors in each Nevada ZIP code (or Zip Code tabulated area or Census Tract) who are currently diverting food financial support services and resources to pay for other life support needs such as health, housing or safety.
10. The number of seniors in each Nevada ZIP code (or Zip Code tabulated area or Census Tract) whose access is compromised because they need, but don't have, information technology access; or the available information technology systems are not functioning effectively.

**Databases, if available to be reviewed include, but are not limited to the following:**

1. Federal Programs: SNAP, WIC, Medicaid, SSI, Dept. of Agriculture programs, Veterans Administration Programs, other.
2. Nevada State Programs.
3. Nevada County Programs.
4. Nevada City Programs.
5. Health District Programs.
6. Non-Government Secular Programs.
7. Non-Government Church Programs.
8. Nevada Educational Institution Programs.

### **Databases and/or Data Received for Review to Date:**

1. Nevada Department of Welfare and Social Services “Welfare Eligibility System Data Dictionary”
2. Catholic Charities Mapping Tables
3. Nevada 2-1-1 “Count of Caller Needs Food Resources Referrals 1/1/18 through 4/30/19 and referral list.
4. Support Programs for Seniors with Food Insecurity –Improving Diabetes and Obesity Outcomes (iDo) 2016
5. Clark County Royal Pages Pages (<http://www.clarkcountynv.gov/social-service/services/Documents/Royal%20Pages%202017%20072117.pdf>)
6. The Southern Nevada Health District SNAP APP monthly reports.
7. University of Nevada, Cooperative Extension Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) partners list  
(<http://www.unce.unr.edu/programs/health/index.asp?ID=38>)
8. Southern Nevada Health District “Healthysouthernnevada.org” website.  
([www.healthysouthernnevada.org](http://www.healthysouthernnevada.org)).
9. University of Nevada, Cooperative Extension SNAP-ED Needs Assessment.