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Office of Food Security
**2018 FOOD SECURITY
SUMMIT REPORT**



CARSONKITCHEN



Executive Summary

On November 8, 2018, five (5) years after the first Nevada Food Security Summit, the Office of Food Security hosted the second Nevada Food Security Summit in Las Vegas. The 2018 Nevada Food Security Summit entitled, *Improving Connections and Collaborations*, brought together more than 50 food security stakeholders to develop an action plan to enhance collaboration and connectivity throughout Nevada’s food security network. Cross-sector stakeholders, including representatives from the Governor’s Council on Food Security, State agencies, local health authorities, the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, Food Banks, non-profits, and community advocates, came together to provide unique perspectives and ideas about how to improve coordination among food security partners and initiatives in Nevada. The 2018 Nevada Food Security Summit was made possible through the contributions of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – Education (SNAP-Ed), Urban Seed Foundation, Carson Kitchen, and the support of various key partners.

Introduction

The guiding principles of the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Office of Food Security (OFS) include using a comprehensive, coordinated approach to ending hunger and promoting health and nutrition and focusing on strategic partnerships between all levels of government, communities, and nonprofit organizations. To address these principles, as well as activities outlined in the Nevada Governor’s Council on Food Security (GCFS) guiding plan, *Food Security in Nevada: Nevada’s Plan for Action* (i.e. the Food Security Plan), the OFS coordinated the second Nevada Food Security Summit entitled, *Improving Connections and Collaborations*, on November 8, 2018. The Summit brought together more than 50 cross-sector food security stakeholders at Las Vegas’s Historic 5th Street School to develop an action plan to enhance collaboration and connectivity throughout Nevada’s food security network. Participating stakeholders included representatives from the GCFS, various State agencies, local health authorities, the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension (UNCE), Food Banks, non-profits, and community advocates. Partners participated in a facilitated action-planning session and provided unique perspectives and ideas about improving coordination among food security partners and initiatives and advancing progress on food security efforts statewide.

A Steering Committee was formed to oversee the 2018 Nevada Food Security Summit planning process. The Steering Committee was comprised of eleven members, representing both the private and public sectors, who provided guidance on survey development, identified key informants to assess Summit priorities, and assisted with the conception of the Summit’s structure, including the identification of keynote and panel speakers.



Identifying Priorities

To determine the 2018 Nevada Food Security Summit priorities and focus, a survey was designed and distributed to approximately 50 food security stakeholders. Additionally, ten (10) key informant interviews were conducted. The survey and key informant interview questions assessed the respondent's perception on the following topics: 1) current coordination of Nevada's food security network; 2) outcomes of the Food Security Plan; 3) gaps in food security programs/services; 4) assets to leverage at the organizational, state, and/or system-level; 5) trends in need and/or priority populations to address; 6) current partnerships at local, state, and federal levels; 6) current/potential funding sources; 7) existing coalitions/food security-related committees; and 7) local/state food security leaders.

Ultimately, the following priorities were identified:

Service Focus

Identify population trends and needs

Engagement and Coordination

Enhance communication, engagement, and coordination of existing initiatives

Data Systems and Sharing

Identify strategies to enhance data collection/sharing

Funding

Increase funding to support/sustain food security initiatives

Innovation

Improve food security initiatives through innovation



Survey and interview results revealed partners prioritize creating cohesiveness around existing plans and initiatives, in addition to leveraging current efforts to improve outcomes. As such, collaboration and communication among stakeholders was prioritized as an essential objective for the 2018 Nevada Food Security Summit.

Summit Summary

The 2018 Nevada Food Security Summit was a full, one-day conference designed to maximize participant engagement, garner diverse ideas from the field, and enhance opportunities for collaboration. The goal was to have an active, engaging, and participatory process where participants could share ideas and contribute to a plan for moving forward. As a result, the group

generated an incredible amount of ideas to be shared, processed, and where possible, implemented.

Steve Fisher, Administrator of the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services and GCFS Chair, provided a warm welcome to attendees and encouraged open communication, idea-sharing, and collaboration. Mr. Fisher introduced keynote speakers Dorian Stonebarger, Program Director for Three Square Food Bank and Aurora Buffington, Public Health Nutrition Specialist with the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension.

Ms. Stonebarger shared valuable information and data about food insecurity in Nevada. During her presentation, Ms. Stonebarger discussed contributing factors of poverty, the impact of food insecurity on health outcomes for children and adults and emphasized the importance of working together toward common goals to enhance food security efforts. She challenged the group to learn about and review research on evidence-based programs and initiatives related to food insecurity.

Ms. Buffington began her presentation by defining community food security as, “A condition in which all community residents obtain a safe, culturally acceptable, nutritionally adequate diet through a sustainable food system that maximizes community self-reliance, social justice, and democratic decision-making.” She went on to share information on food systems, community food resources, and peer-reviewed interventions and promising strategies for addressing food insecurity. Additionally, she summarized existing Nevada food security/food system-related plans, including: 1) *Generations to Come: Nevada’s Strategic Planning Framework*; 2) *Food Security in Nevada: Nevada’s Plan for Action*; 3) *Southern Nevada Strong: Regional Plan*; and 3) the *Pittman Neighborhood Revitalization Plan* (Henderson, NV).

Following the keynote presentations, participants were asked to choose one (1) of five (5) work groups to participate in, based on interest and/or expertise. Work groups aligned with the priorities identified through key informant interviews and survey results including: 1) Service Focus; 2) Engagement and Coordination; 3) Data Systems and Sharing; 4) Funding; and 5) Innovation. Participants returned to these groups throughout the day and played a critical role in developing a plan for enhanced collaboration and communication related to their specific topic.

After the initial strategic planning session, a delicious lunch was served, kindly donated by Urban Seed Foundation and Carson Kitchen of Las Vegas. During lunch, attendees listened to an informative panel discussion titled, *Innovative Strategies for Addressing Food Insecurity*.

Topics and panelists included:

Prescription Pantry Program

Cherie Jamason, Director of Ending Hunger Initiatives
Food Bank of Northern Nevada

Food Rescue Program

Amanda Jerzak, Manager of Food Recovery
Three Square Food Bank

Hydroponics and Increasing Access to Healthy Food

Annmarie Feiler, Executive Director
Urban Seed Foundation

Client-Choice, Home-Delivered Grocery Program for Seniors

Marcia Blake, Executive Director
James Seastrand Helping Hands of North Las Vegas



Action Planning

During the first breakout session, each small group considered scenarios and questions unique to their theme. Throughout this process, participants developed lists of issues, critical success factors, and barriers, and then created a conceptual plan. Each small group presented their conceptual plan to the larger group who offered additional thoughts, ideas, and questions for each work group to consider and incorporate to further develop and enhance the group's plan. The work

groups reconvened one last time to finalize their plans.

The work groups were tasked with developing final action plans. Once drafted, each work group presented their action plan to the larger group, who offered feedback which each small group could incorporate into their respective plan. Although each group provided important information and detail to their individual action plans, the plans were designed to be living documents to be used for ongoing input and planning.

The drafted action plans are outlined below, by topic:

Service Focus

Goal: Enhance communication and education opportunities throughout Nevada’s food security network regarding population trends, needs, and priorities relating to food security.

<i>Objective(s)</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Lead(s)</i>
1. Coordinate an annual gathering which includes a focus on data and initiatives regarding priority populations.	Ongoing; to take place annually	OFS, Food Bank of Northern Nevada, Three Square Food Bank
2. Coordinate quarterly food service provider meetings, including food bank representatives and federal nutrition program implementing agencies.	Ongoing; to take place quarterly	OFS
3. Offer “Food is Medicine” classes to food security partners.	By December 31, 2019	Higher Education/University of Nevada Cooperative Extension

Engagement and Coordination

Goal: Develop a mechanism to enhance engagement and communication among food security partners and stakeholders statewide.

<i>Objective(s)</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Lead(s)</i>
1. Create a Nevada food security network directory, including a listing of organizations, services offered, and contact information.	Begin in Feb 2019; ongoing	OFS*
2. Develop and distribute a self-subscribing Nevada food security listserv monthly, including GCFS/local food policy meeting dates, funding opportunities, resources, data, and partner spotlights.	Begin in Feb 2019; ongoing	OFS

3. Develop a Google group to share resources and information.	Begin in Feb 2019; ongoing	OFS
4. Invite local agencies to present to the GCFS.	Ongoing	OFS

**OFS, with assistance from various agencies and organizations, including the Nevada Department of Agriculture, Food Bank of Northern Nevada, Three Square Food Bank, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – Education (SNAP-Ed).*

Data Systems and Sharing

Goal: Create a comprehensive data system to inform statewide food security and service efforts.

<i>Objective</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Lead(s)</i>
1. Identify key indicators (questions) for measuring and assessing food insecurity in Nevada.	July-August 2019	Data Workgroup
2. Develop an inventory of existing data/databases, users, and who collects what data.	End of 2019	Data Workgroup, OFS
3. Identify evidence-based best practices and resources for both indicators and data system development.	Summer 2020	UNCE, OFS
4. Identify data gaps.	Summer 2020	Researchers, Data Workgroup, OFS
5. Outline steps for collecting data and identifying missing data.	End of 2020	Researchers
6. Create a centralized food security data system.	End of 2021	OFS, GCFS (to make recommendations)
7. Coordinate with Engagement Group for dissemination.	Ongoing	OFS, GCFS (to make recommendations)

Funding

Goal: Develop a statewide, intersectional food security network enhancing collaborative opportunities and resource/data sharing to increase the State of Nevada's and local agencies' competitiveness for food security funding opportunities.

<i>Objective</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Lead(s)</i>
1. Increase food insecurity partner representation within the Nevada Nutrition Assistance Consortium (NNAC).	2019-2021	GCFS, OFS, SNAP-Ed

2. Establish addressing food insecurity as a NNAC priority.	2019-2021	GCFS, OFS, SNAP-Ed
3. Enhance Nevada’s infrastructure and capacity to apply for grants, including implementing data systems to fill data gaps.	2019-2021	GCFS, OFS, food security stakeholders*
4. Encourage a streamlined, flexible State process for identifying and distributing funding/grants related to food security.	2019-2021	Budget Director, Legislative Council Bureau Fiscal, State agency Chief Financial Officers

**To be determined when specific activities are developed.*

Innovation:

Goal: Identify, support, and promote innovative strategies to addressing food insecurity in Nevada.

<i>Objective</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Lead(s)</i>
1. Develop a report outlining recommended innovative strategies for increasing food access. *	2019-2021	Food security stakeholders**
2. Develop a plan outlining a marketing strategy to promote innovative programs/initiatives addressing food insecurity.	2019-2021	Food security stakeholders**

**Group ideas/recommendations included: diner buses with live cooking demonstrations, and transit food hub programs.*

*** To be determined when specific activities are developed.*

Feedback

Following the Summit, a post-event survey was issued to participants to assess overall satisfaction regarding the Summit, the action steps developed, and the level of engagement between participants. A summary of the responses is provided below.

Q1: How satisfied were you with the 2018 Food Security Summit overall? - **3.8**

Q2: How satisfied are you with the action steps/next steps develops? - **4.0**

Q3: How satisfied were you with the engagement between participants? - **4.5**

Based on a five-point Likert Scale.

Respondents were also asked how they would like to be engaged moving forward, regarding food-security-related summits, meetings, and funding opportunities. Responses included:

- Additional meetings/summits
- Regular (possibly quarterly) communications
- Ongoing interagency, interdisciplinary work groups
- A newsletter or quarterly conference call to engage stakeholders
- Coordination of events with specific agencies/individuals on specific issues
- Bi-annual meetings via video-conference

When asked how the OFS could best facilitate engagement between the respondent's organization, other food security stakeholders, and the GCFS, responses included:

- Create interagency work groups and provide supporting logistics
- Send alerts when GCFS agenda items intersect with SNAP-Ed topics of interest
- Disseminate funding opportunity announcements
- Engage with representatives of diverse racial and ethnic communities
- Keep agencies informed of activities and meetings
- Create a virtual space for connection

Conclusion and Next Steps

The 2018 Nevada Food Security Summit offered statewide stakeholders the opportunity to connect, network, and develop action plans for enhancing statewide collaborative efforts. Moving forward, the OFS will work with the GCFS and stakeholders to consolidate and finalize the action steps developed to enhance communication, collaboration, and cohesiveness among statewide food security partners and efforts. Once finalized, action items will be used by the OFS and GCFS to facilitate collaboration among food security programs and initiatives, leverage existing effective strategies, encourage interagency coordination on innovative programs, and keep Nevada's food security network connected regarding state agency/partners' progress, successes, barriers, and resources to enhance programmatic efforts and improve food security for all Nevadans.