

**Governor's Council on Food Security**  
**Project Update**  
**11/13/2019**

At the November 13, 2018 meeting of the Governor's Council on Food Security (GCFS) the "Nutrition Programs for Older Nevadans and Preliminary Recommendations" report was released. The report contained a compilation of primary and secondary data collected by Social Entrepreneurs, Inc. (SEI) relating to food insecurity among older Nevadans. The research was guided by questions approved by the Stakeholder Study Group (SSG), an advising group consisting of members from food banks, state and local government, nonprofit organizations, and local coalitions. The research questions included the following:

1. What financial resources are available to support food programs for older Nevadans?
2. What is the projected need for food services for older Nevadans?
3. What are the variances by county?
4. What trends have been forecasted for older Nevadans?
5. What are the non-food social determinants of health for older Nevadans?
6. Are programs accessible to meet the needs of older Nevadans? (Where are we opening doors to food services for older Nevadans?)
7. What gaps exist?
8. What are innovative approaches to serving older adults in other states?

Working with the SSG, recommendations were made based on SEI's research and key informant interviews in three broad categories including policy, operations, and funding. Since then, progress has been made in addressing various recommendations including, but not limited to:

1. Establishing the Council on Food Security as a permanent body with the passage of SB178 in the 80<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session.
2. The GCFS advocated to increase meal reimbursement rates to create parity between child and senior meals programs during the 80<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session.
3. Increased funding for senior meal programs was included in the 2019 – 2021 Executive Budget.

Despite these efforts, the answer to the question, "*What gaps exist?*" remains unclear. The researchers note that there is a lack of information about available resources for older Nevadans. They specifically note the following:

1. There needs to be conducted a statewide needs assessment to determine where additional meal programs are needed.
2. Community partnerships with organizations fighting hunger among older adults need to be developed.
3. The GCFS should support partnerships and capacity building to create greater efficiencies in programs that would allow for a greater number of older Nevadans to be served.
4. There is a lack of transportation options for older Nevadans in rural and urban areas.
5. Non-profit senior centers can't apply for food security grants.
6. Many older Nevadans have a stigma against receiving assistance; more education is needed. They may also distrust the "system".
7. Many older Nevadans, including those with disabilities do not live near services, such as food pantries or senior centers.
8. Service providers may have a large client base they are unable to reach with the limited number of delivery vehicles they own.
9. Costs for fuel and maintenance for both older Nevadans' vehicles and service delivery trucks can be prohibitive.
10. There are a limited number of public transportation options for the disabled and older Nevadans.

In order to better clarify current available services and unmet needs, the GCFS distributed a survey to 175 private and public agencies in Nevada that were identified as providing services related to both food and non-food social determinants of health for older Nevadans. The survey was sent out in August 2019 through various channels including e-mail, telephone, and US mail. To date, 76 surveys have been returned yielding a 43% response rate. The preliminary findings, proposed next steps, survey and proposed survey of seniors unable to be served are as follows:

**Summary of Senior Support Service Surveys**  
**(76 Surveys)**

Total Seniors Served last year (2018): 62,239 (excludes 8 agencies that may have reported services, not unique number of seniors)

Total Seniors Served this year (2019): 40,537 (5 agencies noted that they don't yet have 2019 data; excludes 8 agencies that may have reported services, not unique number of seniors)

Total Seniors Unable to serve last year: 952 (note: 1 agency stated "turned away many"; 13 agencies stated "none not served", and 48 agencies stated "don't track" or didn't answer question)

Total Seniors unable to serve this year: 341 (note: 51 agencies stated "don't track" or didn't answer question); 13 agencies stated "none not served")

In response to the question 9: "What services do you provide?", the number who responded "yes" are as follows:

- a. Direct Financial Support: 8
- b. Financial resources to support needs other than food-related (check all that apply):  
Medicare: 6; Medicaid: 7; Veteran's Services: 4; Case Management: 17; Other: 6
- c. Transportation to purchase foods: 27
- d. Nutrition education: 32
- e. Food assistance (check all that apply): Pantry services: 47; Home-delivered groceries: 8; Home-delivered meals; 20; Congregate meals: 24; In-home meal preparation: 2
- f. Telecommunication or technology assistance: 15
- g. Shelter services, violence/abuse protection: 11
- h. Social engagement: 34
- i. Adult day care: 6
- j. Other: Homemaker-1; Personal Emergency Response-2; Respite Care-2; Chore-1; Clothing/Blankets/Hygiene Products-1, Bus Passes-1; Transportation to site for meals-1; Transportation of medical care-1; Telehealth Services-1; Gas Cards-1; In-home health screening examinations-2; Mental Health Referrals-1; Home Repair services-1; Pet food delivery-1; Recreation Center with age adjusted programs-2; Community Garden-1.

In response to question 11: “Do you track the number of seniors you were unable to serve?”, some agencies responded noting specific reasons why they can’t serve some potential clients. The reasons include the following:

1. Limited staffing (i.e. case managers).
2. Limited number of volunteer staff or volunteer drivers.
3. Lack of funding to deliver services to all potential clients, or only for certain services (ie homemaker, home meals, case management).
4. Lack of available housing or shelter facility when requested to assist client.
5. Agency policy limitations which restricts agency to only serve clients who have enrolled for a minimum of six months.
6. Lack of certified staff - a requirement to deliver certain services.
7. Lack of appropriate located congregate meals facility.
8. Limited resources other than above.

## **Project Next Steps:**

1. Distribute survey spreadsheet to 2-1-1, survey respondents who requested copies, Three Square, Dignity Health and other hospital systems, Medicaid and other insurers, and others.
2. Contact agencies that responded they could not determine how many older adults they were unable to serve, and share “Survey of Seniors Unable to be Served” tool.
3. Sponsor a networking conference for agencies and organizations that deliver older adult services to encourage greater integration and efficiency.
4. Create a statewide, county specific, Geographic Information System (GIS) map identifying service agencies and organizations to assist in determining available resources.
5. Conduct another analysis (survey) to better clarify service needs and barriers.
6. Other...

## **Project Members:**

Kenneth Osgood, MD, MPH  
GCFS Member, Project Coordinator

Aurora Buffington, Ph.D.  
GCFS Member, Project Assistant Coordinator

Donna J. Gould, BS  
Dietetic Nutrition Intern, Survey Coordinator

Natalie Mazzullo, M.Ed.  
Assistant Director/Nevada Geriatric Education Center, Project Analyst

## Food Security Survey

### **Agencies to survey: Royal Pages Senior Service Agencies, 2-1-1, Referral Agencies, and Support Programs**

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.

We are conducting a survey to identify what services are currently available to seniors, how many seniors currently receive those services, and how many seniors are still in need of those services.

1. Agency Name: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Contact Info (Name & Title of person providing information):  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. If referred to another person for information, name:  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Time and Date of Contact:  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Service area – Counties:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Service area – Zip codes:  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. How do you enroll and track your clients?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What information do you require from your clients to receive services? If you use a specific form, such as an intake form, please attach/email.  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What services do you provide?
  - a. Direct Financial Support \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Financial resources to support needs other than food-related (check all that apply):     Medicare  
 Medicaid     Veteran's Services     Case Management     Other \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Transportation to purchase foods \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Nutrition education \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. Food assistance (check all that apply):     Pantry services     Home-delivered groceries  
 Home-delivered meals     Congregate meals     In-home meal preparation
  - f. Telecommunication or technology assistance \_\_\_\_\_
  - g. Shelter services, violence/abuse protection \_\_\_\_\_
  - h. Social engagement \_\_\_\_\_
  - i. Adult day care \_\_\_\_\_
  - j. Other \_\_\_\_\_

9. How many seniors did you serve last year? \_\_\_\_\_ How many have you served this year? \_\_\_\_\_

10. How many seniors were you unable to serve (check all that apply):

a. Lacked resources or capacity?  last year  this year

b. Other  last year  this year, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

11. Do you track the number of seniors you were unable to serve? If yes, how many seniors were you unable to serve last year? \_\_\_\_\_ How many this year? \_\_\_\_\_

12. Is there anything that we didn't ask that you would like us to know? \_\_\_\_\_

---

13. Would you like to receive a copy of the survey results? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

*Please attach any additional forms or information you wish to include with this survey.*

## Survey of Seniors Unable to be Served-Proposed

Number of seniors we were unable to serve. \_\_\_\_\_

Why we are unable to serve them:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Limited staffing (volunteer or paid)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Limited number of volunteers
- \_\_\_\_\_ Limited number of drivers (volunteer or paid)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Lack of funding (if yes, identify what the funding would be used for)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Transportation
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Case management
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Home health
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Other, please be specific
- \_\_\_\_\_ Policy limitation (e.g., agency restricts services to a certain group, or those who have enrolled in services) List policy: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Lack of certified or licensed staff
- \_\_\_\_\_ Lack of services in the area (e.g., congregate meal site, meals delivery service)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Do not offer the service(s) needed or requested. Please identify the service: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Limited resources other than above, please be specific  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_