

2020 NEVADA FOOD SECURITY REPORT

SEPT-NOV 2020 ADDENDUM



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Special thank you to all the dedicated food security partners who work tirelessly to meet every day food needs of Nevadans, amid the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic and beyond.

About the Cover

Picture was provided by the Food Bank of Northern Nevada. Picture is of a volunteer assisting with a Mobile Pantry distribution site in Northern Nevada.

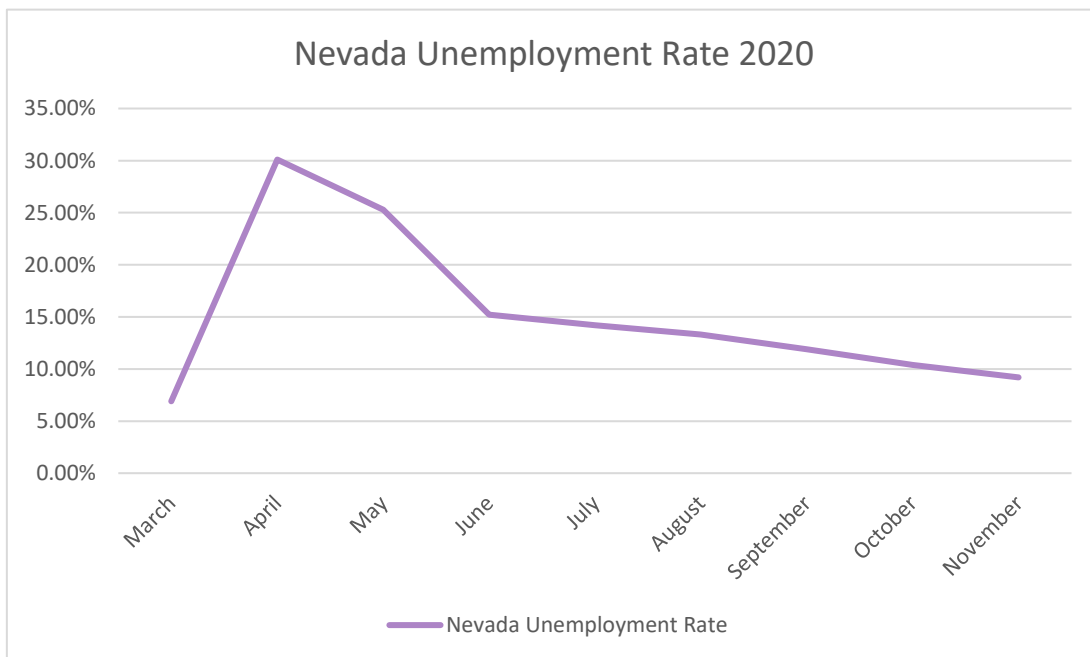
INTRODUCTION

As the pandemic persists, Nevada's food security network continues to work to meet the increased need for nutrition services and programs. Between September and November 2020, Nevada food security partners continue to pivot as the COVID-19 pandemic persisted.

This report is the second of three (3) addendums to the 2020 Food Insecurity Report: *Combating the Statewide Hunger Crisis*, released in September 2020. This report covers updates and data on select state and community organizations providing nutrition programming from September to November 2020. *The data and information provided in this report is meant to provide a highlight of the significant efforts taking place statewide. This report is not representative of the collective efforts of Nevada's food insecurity network. The Nutrition Unit and Office of Food Security are committed to developing and streamlining data collection processes for all statewide nutrition efforts.*

Unemployment

Food insecurity is a multi-faceted issue with various contributing factors, including unemployment. High unemployment rates among low-income populations make it more difficult to meet basic household food needs.¹ In addition, children with unemployed parents have higher rates of food insecurity than children with employed parents.¹ It is projected Nevada's food insecurity will be more adversely impacted by COVID-19 compared to other states, due to Nevada's consistently high unemployment rates. While Nevada's unemployment rate continues to decrease, rates remain higher than pre-pandemic. Nevada has also maintained the highest rates of unemployment between September and November 2020 throughout the country, ranking 50th in the nation behind Hawaii.³



¹ Nord M. Characteristics of low-income households with very low food security: An analysis of the USDA GPR food security indicator. USDA-ERS Economic Information Bulletin No. 25. 2007.

² Nord M. Food insecurity in households with children: Prevalence, severity, and household characteristics [Internet]. Washington: USDA Economic Research Service; 2009 [cited 2017 Nov 27]. Report No.: EIB-56. Available from: https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/publications/44419/9360_eib56_1_.pdf?v=41055 [PDF – 1.4 MB]

³ <https://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2020/unemployment-rates-down-in-41-states-july-2020-to-august-2020.html>

Food Insecurity

There are various partners throughout Nevada's food security network that distribute food, provide nutrition education/programming, and other social services to support self-sustainability among vulnerable, at-risk Nevadans during these unprecedented times. The data and information following represents just a highlight of the significant efforts taking place statewide.

State Nutrition Assistance Programs: Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Update

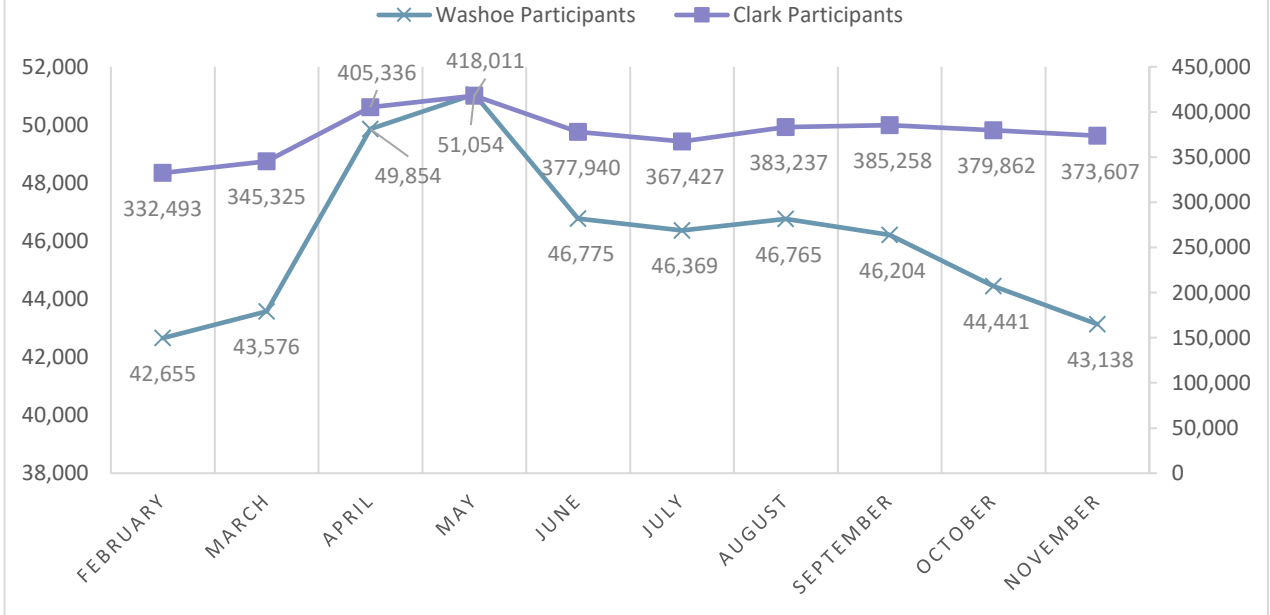
The DHHS Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Woman, Infants and Children (WIC) program continued to operate remotely and/or with restrictions in place to reduce interaction with the public and adhere to social distancing guidelines. Both programs continued to implement United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) waivers to streamline administrative processes and reduce barriers related to COVID-19.

SNAP

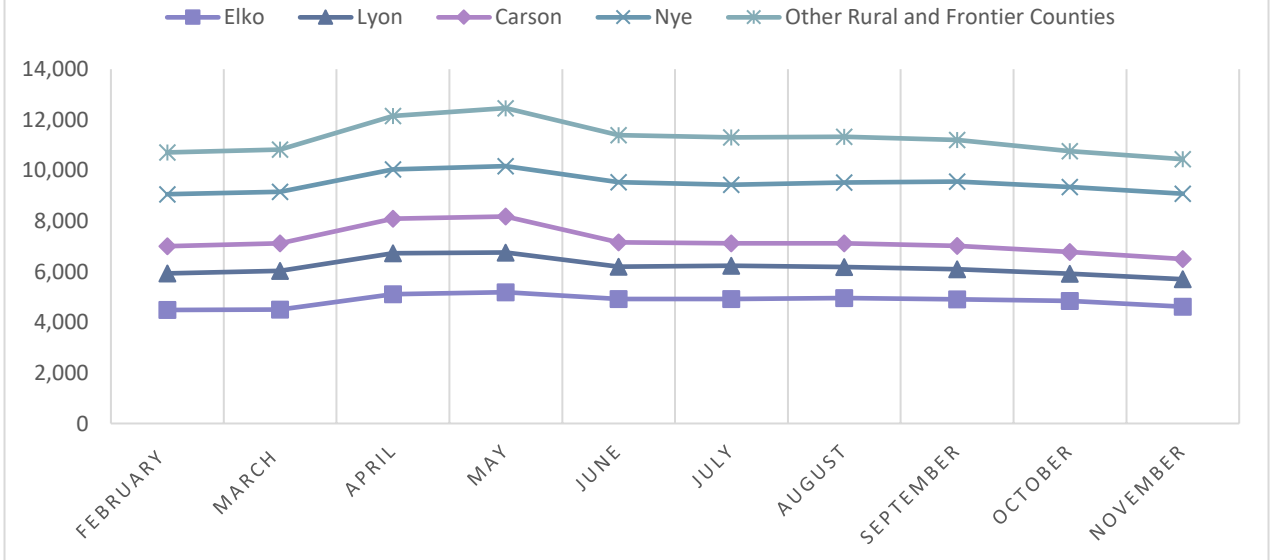
In September 2020, a USDA Continuing Resolution was passed, which provided the option to continue Pandemic-Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT), which will go into effect September 2020 through September 2021. P-EBT provides additional SNAP benefits to SNAP and non-SNAP households with children who temporarily lost access to free or reduced-price school meals due to pandemic-related school closures. In both Washoe and Clark County, SNAP participation peaked in May 2020. Since then, participation has declined by 16% in Washoe County and about 11% in Clark County.

Effective June 2020, Nevada EBT holders were able to use their SNAP and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits at any retailer who accepts online EBT for personal pick-up, with delivery available from Amazon and Walmart in certain residential zip codes. Between September and November 2020, there were 110,936 SNAP transactions through Walmart for \$9,058,003. During the same time, there were 37,102 SNAP transactions via Amazon for \$2,154,198.

CLARK AND WASHOE COUNTY SNAP PARTICIPANTS FEBRUARY-NOVEMBER 2020



RURAL AND FRONTIER COUNTY SNAP PARTICIPANTS FEBRUARY-NOVEMBER 2020

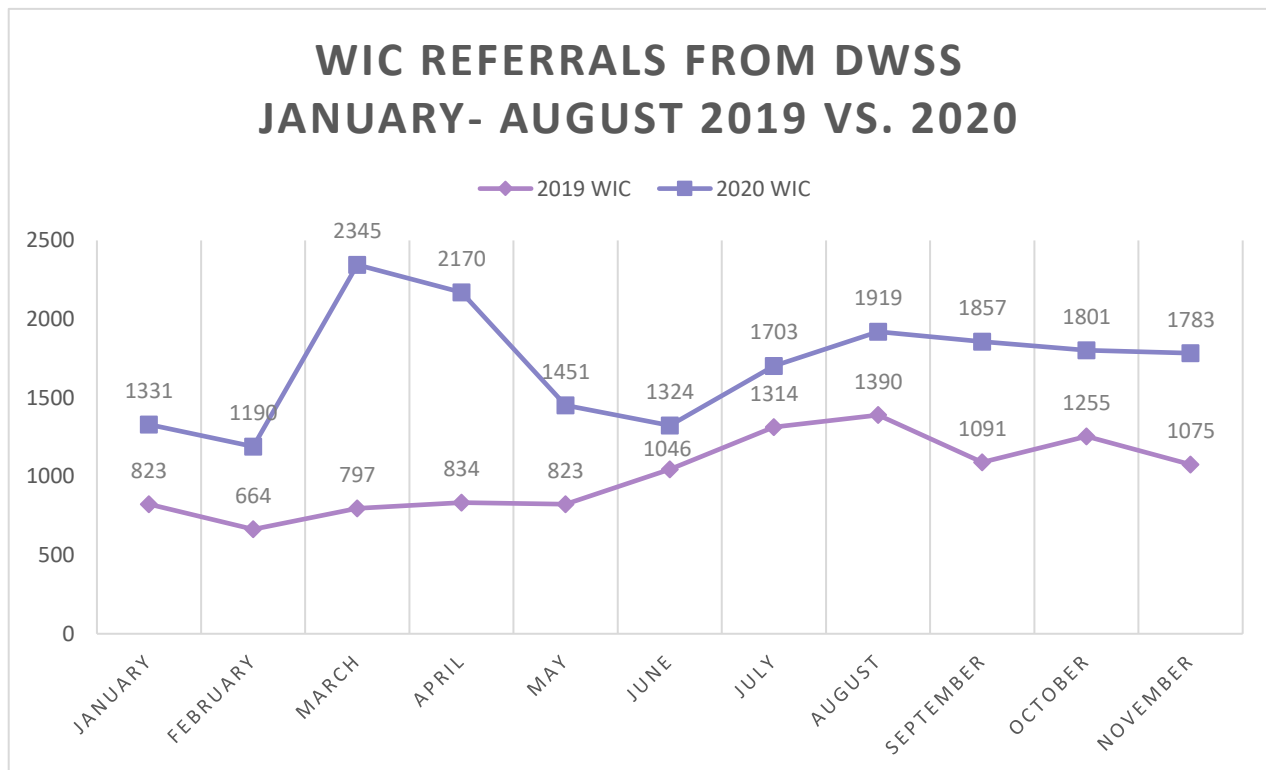


SNAP: Waivers and Rule Flexibilities Update

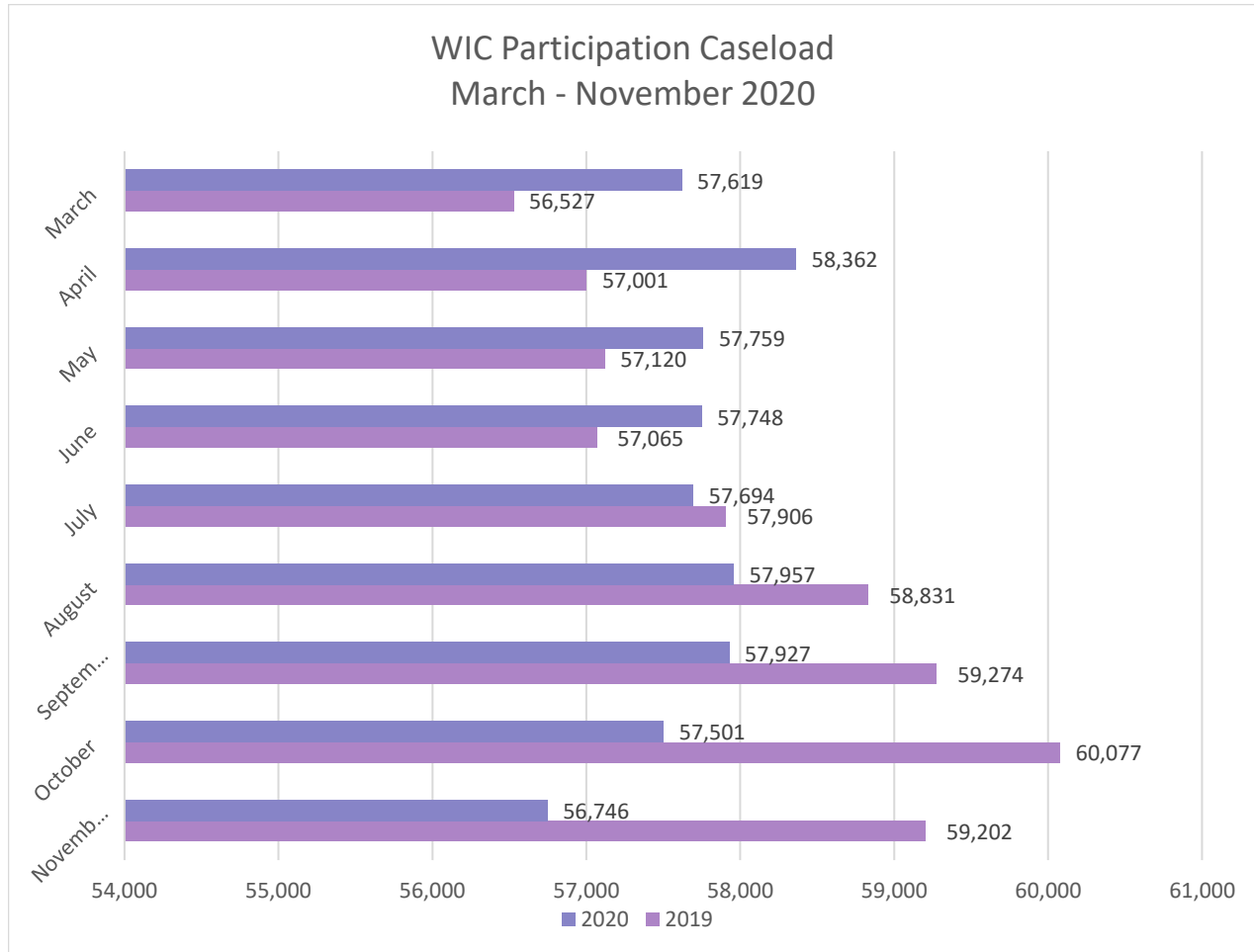
In response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, waivers and rule flexibilities/suspensions for federal nutrition programs were enacted to streamline program administration and break down barriers for hungry individuals and families. All SNAP-related waivers and flexibilities were extended or are still active.

WIC

Nevada WIC clinics continued to operate remotely to provide participant certification and nutrition education. Throughout September to November 2020, WIC continued to experience an overall increase in referrals compared to the same months in 2019.



Despite the increase in referrals, Nevada WIC caseloads remain low compared to the same months in 2019 and decreased by 2% between September and November 2020.



In August 2020, Nevada WIC received Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) funds to assist WIC families with shopping needs during the COVID-19 pandemic through a temporary WIC grocery delivery program. Nevada WIC has worked with various stakeholder to establish the program, including grocers, providers, EBT processors, and food security partners. This innovative model is the first of its kind throughout the country and was implemented September to December 2020. A summary of the program, including participation data, can be found in the appendix.

WIC: Waivers and Rule Flexibilities Update

There are no waivers/rule flexibilities for this time period.

State Nutrition Programs: NDA Update

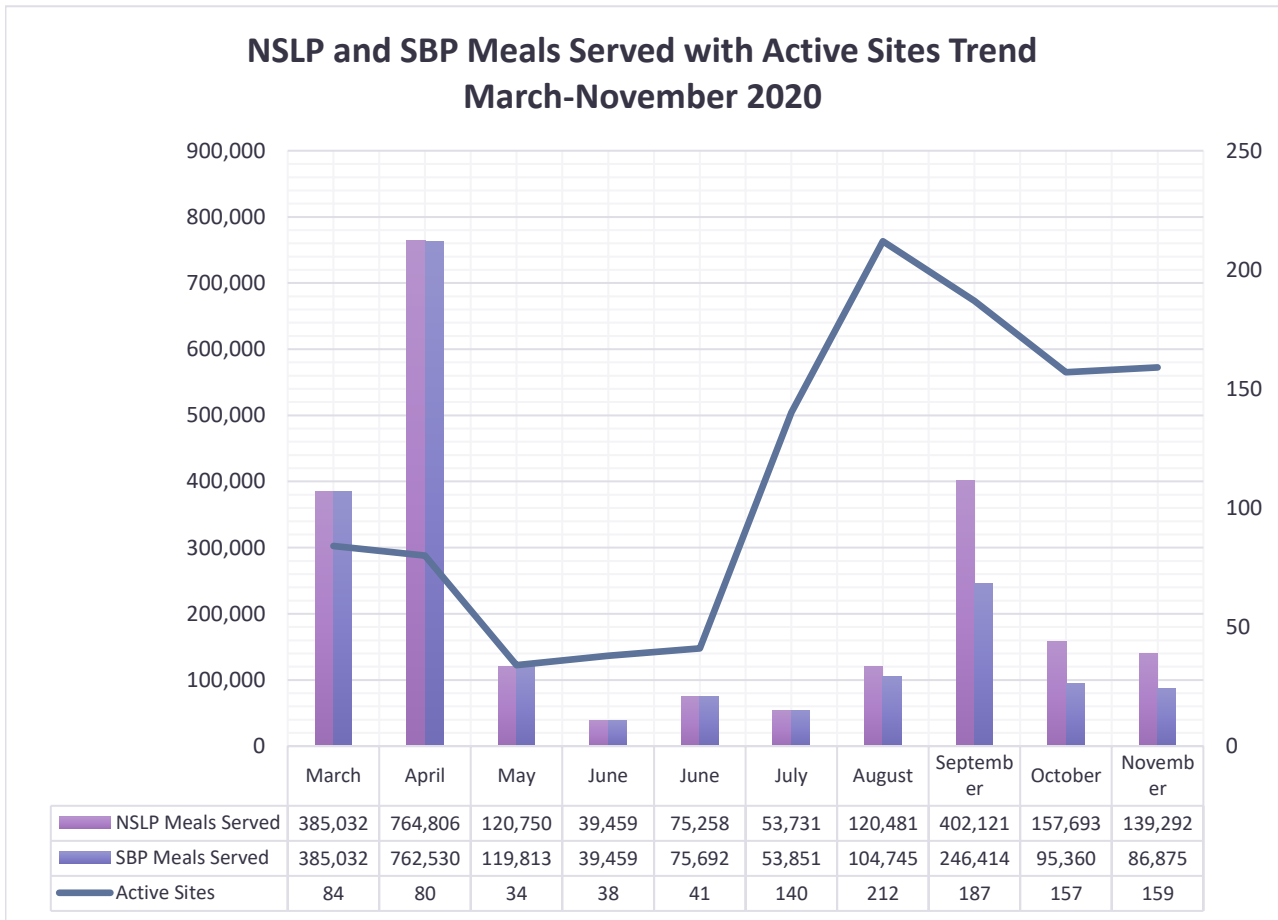
The NDA has continued to operate during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure a safe and continuous food supply for all Nevadans, including administering new funding to producers and community nutrition partners through programs made available by the CARES Act and helping sponsors implement USDA state and national waivers for school and child nutrition programs.

School Breakfast Program (SBP) and National School Lunch Program (NSLP)

For School Year (SY) 2020-21, most Nevada school district, charter, or tribal school NSLP sponsors have elected to utilize USDA nationwide waiver extensions released in late August 2020, then again in October 2020, to operate either the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) or Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). The largest Nevada school districts, including Clark, Churchill, Douglas, and Washoe County have elected the SFSP for state fiscal year (SFY) 2020-21, which has a higher federal per meal reimbursement rate. Twenty-eight other Nevada districts, charter and tribal schools in the state elected to operate SSO during SFY2020-21. Only three school nutrition sponsors have elected to continue to operate the NSLP using their approved 2020-21 Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) status to feed all their students at no cost.

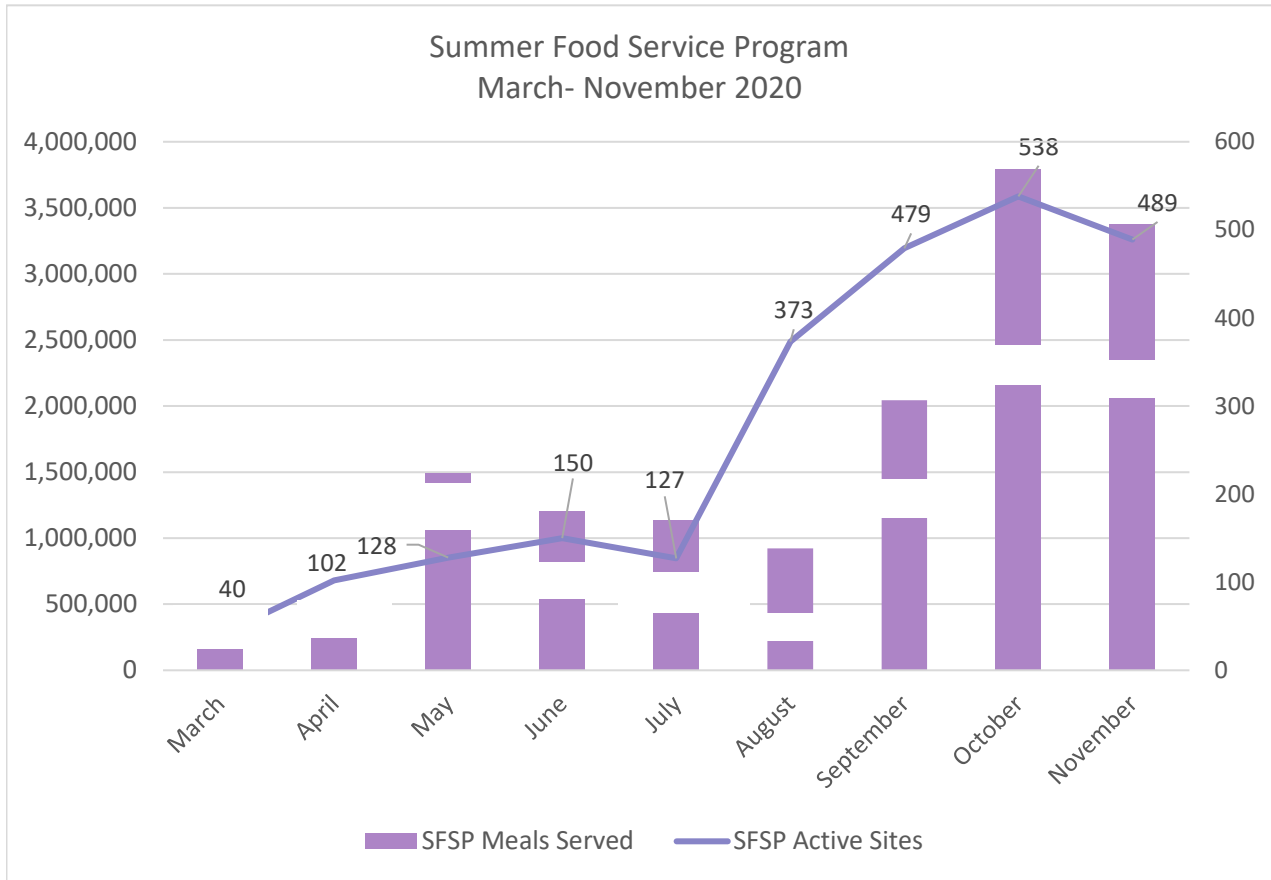
The NDA facilitated school and district election of the ongoing COVID-19 Nationwide Waivers and extensions. Guidance was released to transition from the NSLP to SSO operations during the school year. NDA also provided ongoing necessary technical assistance and training. Until the extensions, program operators continued to express to be able to allow families to receive free universal school meals for the entire school year, given the uncertainty and instability of school operations and personal safety.

**NSLP and SBP Meals Served with Active Sites Trend
March-November 2020**



Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

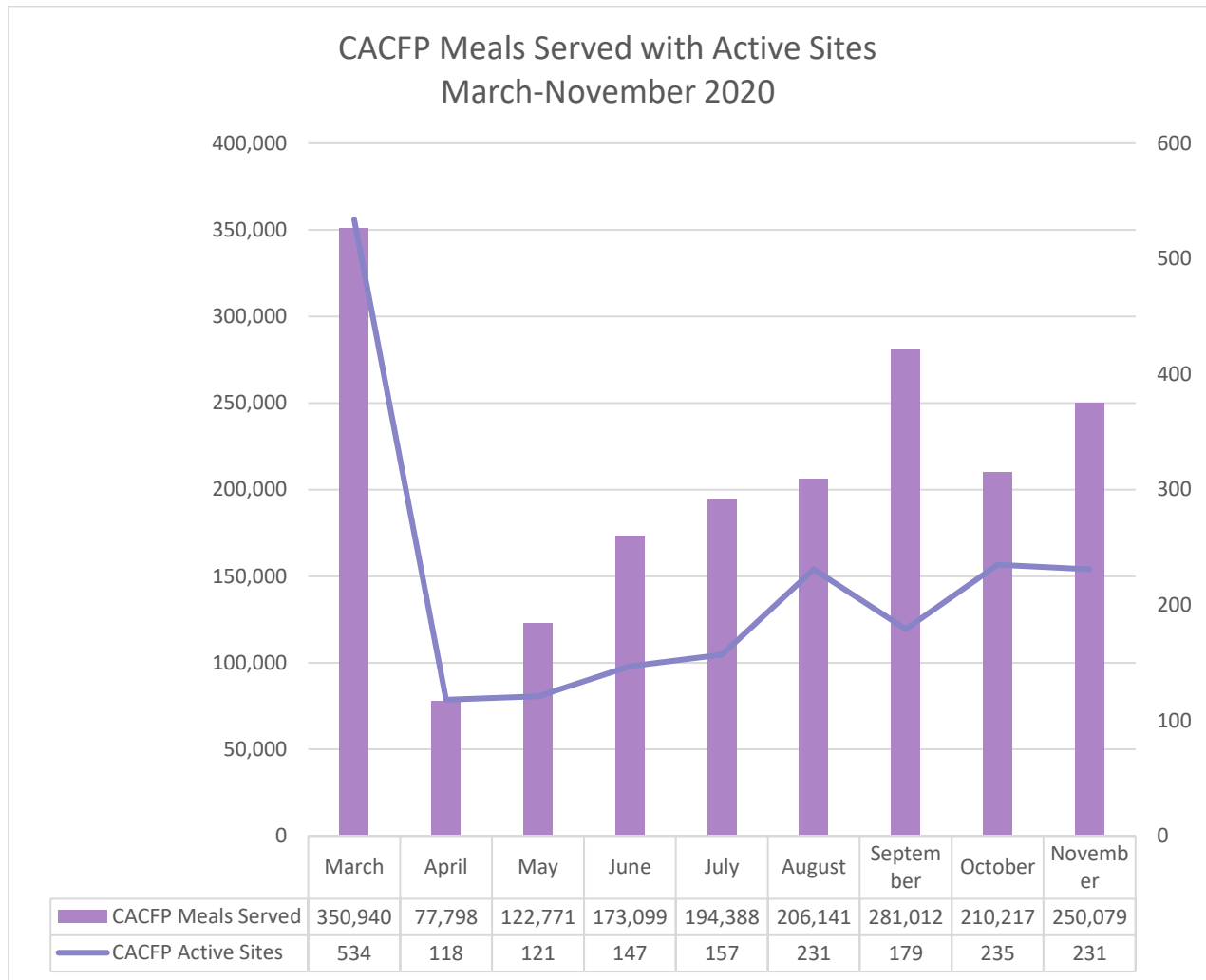
Due to the release of Child Nutrition Response (CNR) #59, which extended SFSP through SFY21, there was a significant increase in the number of sponsors and sites from September to October 2020. A larger sponsoring site had to close their production kitchen temporarily in the beginning of November 2020, contributing to a decrease in sites and meals served from October to November 2020.



Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

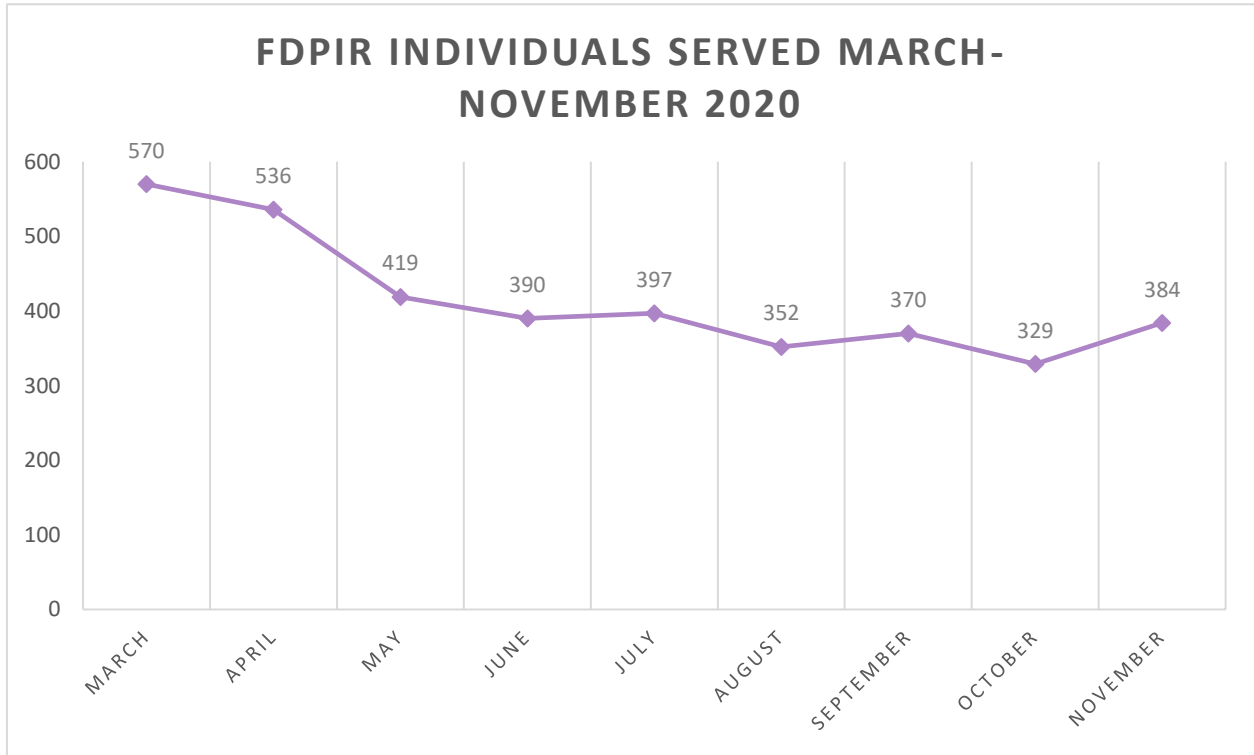
Due to the implementation of CNR #59, which extended the SFSP through July 2021, most sponsors who operate both CACFP and SFSP chose to operate SFSP for SFY21, leading to a decrease in site and meals served from September to October 2020. Additionally, there are still Head Start locations closed due to the pandemic, and some Early Care and Education Centers (ECEs) are operating at a decreased capacity. There are also ECEs which closed for brief periods of time due to COVID-19 exposure or positive cases.

Between September and November 2020, there were 645 active CACFP sites providing 741, 308 meals.



Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

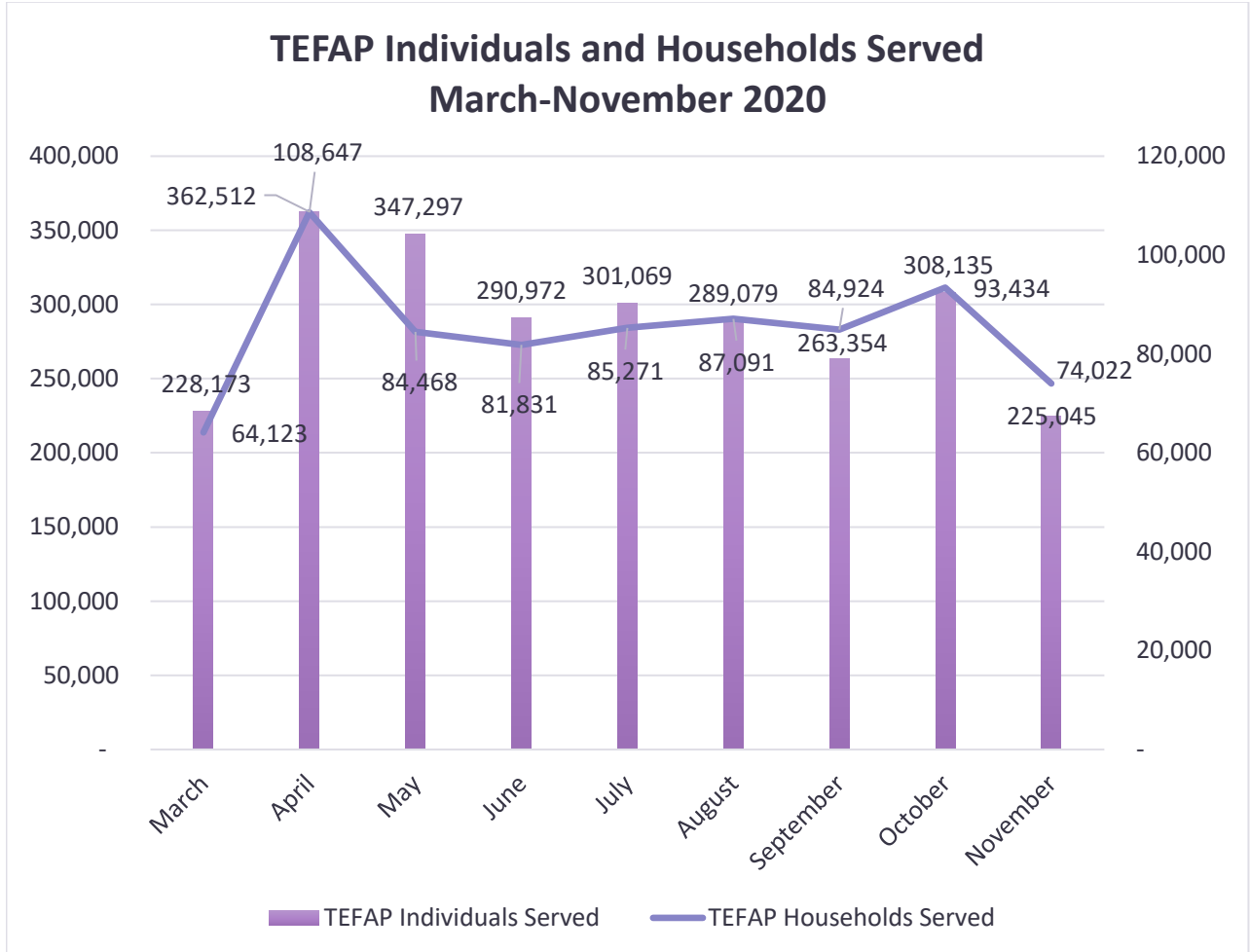
While participation in the FDPIR has decreased from its peak in March and April 2020, there was an increase in number of individuals served between September and November 2020. The program continues to provide needed food and nutrition assistance to eligible households in 11 Tribal communities. NDA is providing FDPIR food benefits through a reduced-contact drive-thru model to maximize safety during food distributions.



Beginning in January 2021, the FDPIR food package will be expanded to provide additional fruits, vegetables, proteins, and dairy to all participating households. This food package enhancement is part of a national initiative funded by the CARES Act.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

TEFAP remains a critical source of food for the Food Bank of Northern Nevada (FBNN), Three Square Food Bank, and their partner agency network. Between September and November 2020, 7,520,035 pounds of food was distributed to 796,534 individuals representing 252,380 households. Trade mitigation, which has been a significant source of TEFAP food, is not expected to continue into calendar year 2021. Between January and November 2020, approximately 55% of the food in the state’s TEFAP inventory came from trade mitigation.



TEFAP Pounds of Food Distributed 2020

Month	Pounds Distributed
April	1,688,961
May	2,306,026
June	1,779,942
July	1,656,897
August	1,650,229
September	2,135,974
October	2,164,285
November	3,219,776

Charitable Food Assistance: Nevada Food Banks Update

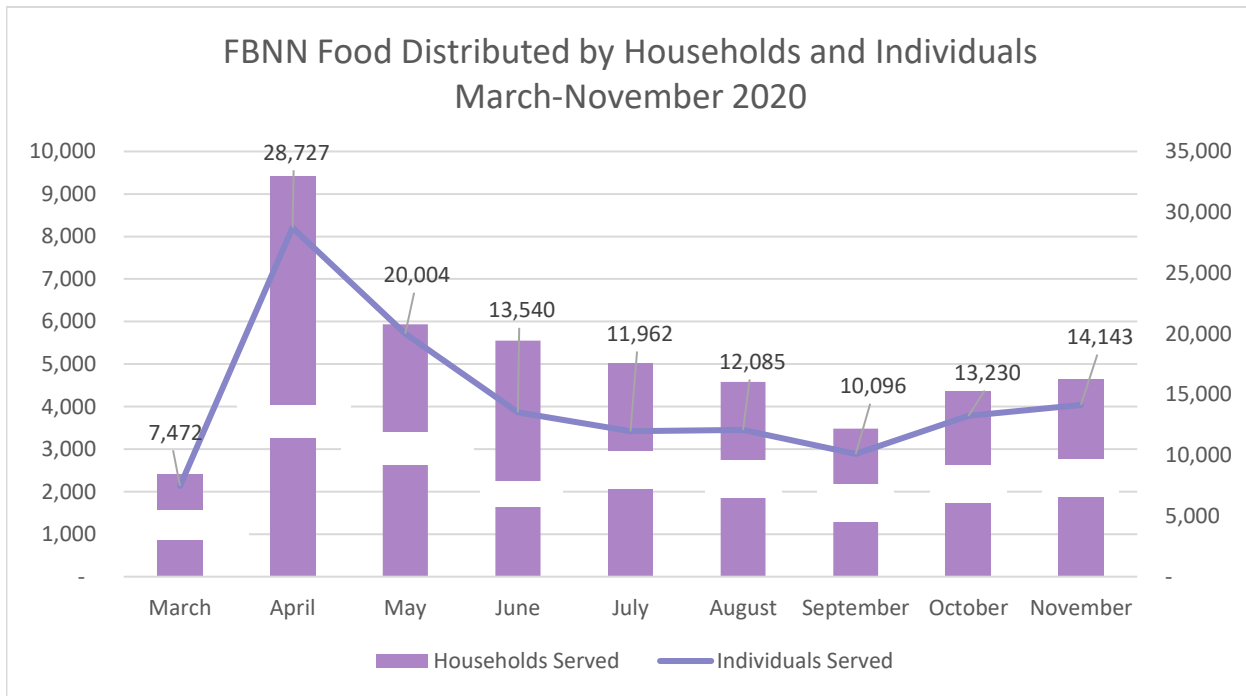
NDA: Program Waivers Update

A number of existing USDA COVID-19 Nationwide waivers were extended; only one new waiver was released during this time:

- *Q&A Relating to the Nationwide Waiver to Allow SFSP and SSO Operations:* Released September 11, 2020. Clarified SN operators could retroactively serve and claim all meals for free back to the beginning of the SY when electing SSO or SFSP

FBNN

The FBNN and their partner agency network have continued their distribution, outreach, and education programs. Both their Mobile Pantry Program and partnering pantries continue to implement drive-through, or grab-and-go boxes, to ensure client and volunteer safety through social distancing. Between September and November 2020, FBNN’s Mobile Harvest Program served 37,469 households and 12,492 duplicated households.



FBNN partner agencies remain open, with protocols in-place to ensure social distancing and client safety. Between September and November 2020, FBNN partners received 4,147,071 pounds of food from FBNN, equal to 3,455,892 meals, and served 291,842 individuals representing 69,430 households.

The FBNN continues to collaborate with the Nevada NDA on a number of USDA programs, including child nutrition programs. Through a USDA waiver, the FBNN is able to send afterschool dinners home with children who are not in the afterschool program. Between September and November 2020, FBNN served 87,340 afterschool meals to 2,759 children through the CACFP, and 9,830 SPFP meals to 381 children. The FBNN continues to offer the Backpack Program, while encouraging schools to transition to a school pantry program to serve more children and families.

Between September and November 2020, the FBNN maintained seven backpack sites, which distributed 228 backpacks. Alternatively, there were 37 school pantry sites, which received 74,331 pounds of food from FBNN, equal to 61,942 meals. During this time, 2,802 children and 5,557 total individuals were served through FBNN-affiliated school pantries, representing 1,185 households. To increase access to meals among children, FBNN is partnering with Washoe County School District on delivering meals to distance learners that would normally be receiving free meals at school. *The FBNN added two additional sites in November 2020.*

The FBNN SNAP Outreach Team continued to assist with SNAP and Medicaid Applications in-person and over the phone. Between September and November 2020, the FBNN SNAP outreach team assisted with 354 SNAP applications, equal to an estimated \$506,781 in SNAP benefits and 166,158 meals.

Three Square Food Bank

Throughout September to November 2020, Three Square Food Bank continued distributing food through 20 monthly Mobile Pantries. Three Square continued to prioritize the health and safety of their volunteers and clients and ensured all distribution sites continued aligned with safety guidelines. Between June and August, Three Square served 5,123,248 pounds of food, equally 4,269,373 meals, to 116,803 individuals representing 28,167 households. Additionally, Three Square's 101 partner agencies served 356,577 individuals throughout Southern Nevada.

Throughout this timeframe, Three Square Food Bank continued to receive and distribute food through the USDA Farm to Families Program. Through this initiative, Three Square Food Bank distributed 143,486 boxes (4,249,875 pounds) of food. These free, pre-packaged boxes alleviated many obstacles Three Square faced with supply chain and volunteer labor disruptions due to the pandemic. The boxes included assorted fresh produce, pre-cooked proteins, dairy, and fluid milk options.

CONCLUSION

The impact COVID-19 on Nevada households has been significant, and food insecurity will persist in Nevada throughout and post pandemic. The pandemic and resulting closures, precautionary measures, and procurement/grocery shortages continues to exacerbate existing food insecurity, as well as accessibility barriers. Nevada food security partners are resilient, strategic, and flexible but are still vulnerable to various barriers – forcing them to continuously pivot, adjust, and enhance programming to meet the growing need.

The Nevada Nutrition Unit will continue to work with diverse state programs and community partners to monitor data on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. DPBH is committed to further exploring disparities in food insecurity in Nevada with plans for future food security reports to follow the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, including a third and final addendum to the Food Insecurity Report Series: *Combatting the Statewide Hunger Crisis*, which will cover data and updates for December 2020 to February 2021.

APPENDIX

Acronym Glossary

Acronym	Definition
ABAWDS	Abled-Bodied Adults Without Dependents
BFCFCW	Bureau of Child, Family, and Community Wellness
CACFP	Child and Adult Food Program
CARES	Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security
CDPHP	Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
CNP	Child Nutrition Program
CSFP	Commodity Supplemental Food Program
DHHS	Department of Health and Human Services
DPBH	Division of Public and Behavioral Health
DWSS	Division of Welfare and Social Services
EBT	Electronic Benefit Transfer
FBNN	Food Bank of Northern Nevada
FDIPR	Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservation
FNS	Food and Nutrition Services
FPUC	Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation
NDA	Nevada Department of Agriculture
NSLP	National School Lunch Program
P-SNAP	Pandemic Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
SBP	School Breakfast Program
SFSP	Summer Food Service Program
SNAP	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
TFAP	The Emergency Food Assistance Program
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
WIC	Women, Infants, and Children

Resources

For more information regarding local and federal food security programs and COVID-19 relief efforts, visit the following websites:



References

- ¹ Nord M. Characteristics of low-income households with very low food security: An analysis of the USDA GPRA food security indicator. USDA-ERS Economic Information Bulletin No. 25. 2007.
- ¹ Nord M. Food insecurity in households with children: Prevalence, severity, and household characteristics [Internet]. Washington: USDA Economic Research Service; 2009 [cited 2017 Nov 27]. Report No.: EIB-56. Available from: https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/publications/44419/9360_eib56_1_.pdf?v=41055 [PDF – 1.4 MB]
- ¹ <https://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2020/unemployment-rates-down-in-41-states-july-2020-to-august-2020.html>