



Nevada Council on Food Security Policy Recommendation/Justification

*Recommended by: Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada
Policy will be carried by: Deacon Thomas Roberts*

Policy Description

The policy recommendation is to increase the level of the State of Nevada's reimbursement for the Home Delivered Meals (HDM) programs across the state by an additional \$0.50 per MoW meal to bring the total amount of reimbursement per meal to \$1.50. The MoW program provides nutritious meals to homebound senior citizens across Nevada. Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada's HDM program is referred to as the Meals on Wheels (MoW) program.

Policy Justification

The MoW program delivers nutritious meals to the doorsteps of homebound senior citizens who are unable to prepare their own meals or purchase their own groceries. As the need for services increases due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is paramount that Nevada's MoW program providers maintain continuity of services to alleviate food insecurity and to provide essential services to community members who are most in need. In order to maintain the current level of services, MoW program providers in the state of Nevada must decrease their funding deficits.

In 2020, Meals on Wheels America reported that 22% (658,461) of Nevada's population were classified as senior citizens. 17% (113,255) of the senior population reported that they were marginally food insecure; 11% (70,455) of the senior population reported that they were food insecure; and 5% (34,898) of the senior population reported that they were very low food insecure.¹

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have stated that older adults are among the populations with the highest risk factors from contracting a severe illness from COVID-19. The CDC has recommended that older adults limit their interactions with others as much as possible. In order to preserve the health of older adults, it is anticipated that there will be an increased number of senior citizens in Nevada who can be classified as homebound and therefore, will be eligible for the MoW program.

¹ https://www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org/docs/default-source/fact-sheets/2020/2020-state/nevada-2020.pdf?sfvrsn=68a9b53b_2



CFS Goal Alignment

The recommended policy proposal of increasing the amount of the State of Nevada's reimbursement for the MoW programs aligns with the goals of the Council on Food Security Policy Subcommittee's goals. This includes increasing access to improved food resource programs, increasing participating in federal nutrition programs by eligible programs, and increasing the capacity to produce, process, and distribute food in affordable and sustainable manner.

The MoW programs across the state of Nevada offers homebound senior citizens access to improved food resource programs and provides food security to community members who need it the most. Increased state funding for the MoW program providers will also increase participation in federal nutrition programs by eligible programs. Reductions in funding deficits will allow eligible programs to implement additional collaborations and enrollment with partner programs. If MoW program providers can reduce funding deficits, the providers may also develop the capacity to increase distribution and purchasing of food in an affordable and sustainable manner.

Based on FY20 projected meals for fixed-fee partners, it I estimated that 1.6 million meals will be delivered via partners. With a \$0.50 increase, the total reimbursement will be about \$838,509.00.

Policy Goals and Objectives

The goals and the objectives of the policy recommendation is to decrease the funding deficit for MoW program providers across Nevada by requesting an additional \$0.50 per meal from the State of Nevada for MoW meals for the next year. The reimbursement increase will allow MoW program providers in the state of Nevada to maintain the continuity of services and to continue serving one of the populations that are most at-risk from complications of COVID-19.