



## Nevada Council on Food Security Policy Recommendation/Justification

*Date recommended:*

*Recommended by: Three Square Food Bank and the Food Bank of Northern Nevada*

*Supported by:*

*Policy will be carried by: Possibly NDA?*

### Policy Description

Create a restricted fund for the purpose of purchasing food for Feeding America affiliated food banks operating in Nevada. Food banks will then make this food available at no cost to agencies providing charitable food distribution to those in need. This fund would be reinvested in Nevada's economy through purchases of agricultural commodities grown in Nevada, food products that were manufactured in Nevada, or food vended by private entities registered for business in Nevada. All three of these types of businesses employ Nevada workers. This initiative will be especially relevant in rural and frontier Nevada where most of the state's agricultural production takes place.

### Policy Justification

Nevada's food banks are not seeking a full replacement of crisis-relief commodities, but this policy request is well-timed. Food banks across the country know that by FY2021, volume and variety in TEFAP will be greatly reduced as the immediacy of the trade war in Asia (which precipitated Trade Mitigation TEFAP in 2018-2020) and COVID (which precipitated the Families First Act and CARES Act in 2020). Yet the long-term impacts of a recovering economy will linger on, long after the crisis funding expires.

### CFS Goal Alignment

Nevada's legislature and governor are champions of food security and have been early adopters of progressive policies such as the Governor's Council on Food Security and the Food for People, Not Landfills Program (2019, SB178). Nevada's food banks and the Nevada Council on Food Security are working from multiple angles to do their part to shore up volume losses with local and regional acquisitions of food. Food banks and the Nevada Council on Food Security are committed to increasing all sources of donated food product, through retail rescue, hot food rescue, relationships with food bank colleagues across the western states and our national affiliate, Feeding America. In recognizing that the solution to ending hunger starts with closing the meal gap, it is imperative that Nevada's comprehensive plan to improve food security include a state funded commodity purchase program.



## Policy Goals and Objectives

- Across the country, for many years, governors and legislatures have approved funding in state budgets to purchase agricultural commodities from farmers and food manufacturers residing in that state (and therefore providing jobs in those states) for distribution through food banks.
- The Nevada budget should reflect our shared commitment to ending hunger while benefiting farmers, producers, and manufacturers in the state.
- A partnership between local food growers and manufacturers and charitable entities strengthen the state's safety net, bridges connections that can also lead to other mutually beneficial private/public partnerships, and helps increase the volume and variety of high-demand food that food banks are able to offer their agencies and clients in need.