

# 2018 Food Security in Nevada: Nevada’s Plan for Action

Update Summary Draft: October 2021

## LEAD

### Goal 1: Align and enhance collaboration efforts of state and non-state agencies to strengthen statewide food security strategies.

#### Objectives

1.1: Identify and outline state and non-state agency roles in supporting the reduction of the meal gap.

1.2: Develop a Collaboration Recommendations Report by conducting a statewide evaluation of local and state plans addressing food security and determinants of hunger.

**Update(s):** *While an analysis of state/non-state agency roles have not been identified/reported, steps have been taken to enhance collaboration between the Council on Food Security (CFS) and other state/local programs and initiatives.*

*- In 2017, the Nevada Department of Health and Human Service (DHHS) created the Nutrition Unit within the Division of Public and Behavioral Health, which is comprised of the Office of Food Security (OFS), the Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (CDPHP) Section, Women, Infants and Children (WIC), and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – Education (SNAP-Ed). The Nutrition Unit was created to enhance statewide nutrition services, including education, and work collectively to improve health outcomes for all Nevadans. The Nutrition Unit Deputy Chief, Sarah Rogers, was appointed as a CFS member in September 2021.*

*- In Fall 2018, the Nevada Commission on Aging (CoA) developed a workgroup comprised of two (2) CoA members and two (2) CFS members to enhance collaboration and align efforts around CoA and CFS initiatives addressing hunger and nutrition among older Nevadans. This workgroup dissolved in 2021, as the Administrator of the Division of Aging and Disability Services or his/her designee was added as a CFS member in the 2019 Nevada Legislative Session.*

*- To increase engagement between the CFS and local food system/security efforts, the CFS invited a representative from two (2) local food policy councils, the Southern Nevada Food Policy Council and the Washoe County Food Policy Council, to share an overview of their council’s history, partners, accomplishments, and barriers. The Washoe County Food Policy Council is no longer active. Aurora Buffington presents an update regarding activities of the Southern Nevada Food Policy Council at each CFS meeting. While updates were provided, no collaboration efforts were identified/discussed.*

*- Following the issuance of the 2017 OFS Nutrition Programs for Older Nevadans and Preliminary Recommendations Report, the CFS motioned the creation of a Research and Analysis Project in 2018 to further assess current available services and unmet needs among Nevada’s senior population. To gain a better understanding of the gaps in nutrition and supportive services, the project team developed and issued a survey to 175 private and public agencies statewide serving Nevada’s senior population. The survey was issued in August 2019 through various channels include e-mail, telephone, and US mail. A total of 76 surveys were returned, yielding a 43% response rate. After reviewing the survey results, the project team proposed next steps to the CFS, including hosting a summit to provide networking opportunities for food security partners serving older adult. Despite challenges related to COVID-19, including social distancing guidelines and restrictions on large group gatherings, the project team successfully planned and implemented the Nevada Senior Services Summit virtually on September 29, 2020. The purpose of the Summit was to share information with Nevada Senior Service providers in order to improve service efficiency, networking, and capacity. The Summit included presentations on data tracking systems and geographic information systems (GIS) mapping; principles of collaboration and engagement; hospice discharge planning support, needs, and current gaps; State of Nevada funding opportunities; food insecurity in Northern Nevada; and client choice food distribution models.*

*- Throughout 2018, the CFS, Office of OFS, and Office of Community Partnerships and Grants (OCPG) worked to enhance collaboration between CFS and GMAC, including alignment of the Funds for a Healthy Nevada (FHN) food security awards with GCFS priorities. In 2019, the FHN food security monies was*

## 2018 Food Security in Nevada: Nevada’s Plan for Action

Update Summary Draft: October 2021

*transferred under the OFS.*

1.3: Develop an implementation plan for coordinating an annual Nevada Food Security Summit.

*Update(s): A small-scale summit was coordinated in 2018. An implementation plan for an annual summit has not been developed. Funding is a barrier.*

1.4: Establish subcommittees targeting specific food security implementation goals as needed as determined by the Governor’s CFS.

*Update(s): Since 2018, there have been three (3) subcommittees created, including Policy, Technology, and Food for People, Not Landfills.*

*Collectively, between 2018 and October 2021, there have been 42 public CFS and/or subcommittee meetings. This does not include the CoA/CFS Workgroup meetings or the workgroup meetings conducted for the Research and Analysis Project (see Goal 1, Objective 1.2).*

1.5 Evaluate how to increase efficiencies and collaboration among commodity food program agencies.

*Update(s): The NDA presented on commodity food programs and trade mitigation for the CFS Policy Subcommittee in 2020. This presentation helped inform the recommendation to support a state food purchasing program (Senate Bill 370) in the 2021 Legislative Session.*

1.6 Develop a Promotional Messaging Plan that will align and coordinate food security promotion and messaging statewide.

### Goal 2: Identify and support state and local policies that increase food security in Nevada.

#### Objectives

2.1: Identify, track, and support legislative policies related to food security.

*Update(s): The CFS Policy Subcommittee was developed tasked with identifying promising food security-related polices and presenting a policy agenda for the CFS’s consideration in preparation for each Nevada Legislative Session. The CFS Policy Subcommittee meets throughout non-legislative years to develop recommendations. Historically, a brief has been developed to demonstrate support (See Objective 2.2). Previous CFS legislative briefs can be found [here](#) and [here](#). Current policy support strategies are being re-evaluated, now that the CFS is in statute.*

2.2: Support State policies encouraging use of mechanisms such as outreach, waivers, barrier reduction, and pilot programs related to increasing food security in Nevada.

*Update(s): In the 2019 Nevada Legislative Session, the CFS demonstrated support to increase meal reimbursement rates to create parity between child and senior meal programs. In the 2019 Nevada Legislative Session, the CFS demonstrated support to remove requirements restricting individuals committed of a drug felony within the past 20 years from receiving the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and to increase home-delivered meal (HDM) program reimbursement.*

*In 2017, the CFS developed and sent letters to Nevada’s Congressional delegation requesting access to state-specific SNAP transactional data. This updated was not include in the 2017 update of the 2013 Food Security Plan.*

*While no CFS action was taken, it is important to note that, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, several federal waivers and innovative outreach strategies and pilot programs were implemented to overcome barriers and increase access to resources. A summary of state program and select community-based efforts implemented are outlined in the OFS report series, *Combatting the Statewide Hunger Crisis*, which can be found [here](#).*

2.3: Support State and local policies encouraging the use of Nevada farm products in Nevada institutions, including schools, senior centers, and childcare centers.

2.4: Develop and implement an education campaign to promote the benefits of state and local nutrition programs to policymakers.

### FEED

### Goal 1: Support strategies that increase participation in state/federal nutrition programs.

## 2018 Food Security in Nevada: Nevada's Plan for Action

Update Summary Draft: October 2021

**Update(s):** Per SB178, the FFPNL Program was established within DHHS to increase food security through decreasing food waste by redirecting excess consumable food to vulnerable, food insecure communities. To guide the creation of the FFPNL Program, including the development of the program's goals and objectives, the FFPNL Subcommittee was established at the July 2019 CFS meeting. The FFPNL Subcommittee was dissolved in 2021; FFPNL work will continue to be led by the DHHS/the OFS, consulting with the CFS and appropriate partners.

### Objectives

1.1: Identify and support strategies to increase participation in the School Breakfast Program (SBP) and National School Lunch Program (NSLP) among the eligible population(s).

**Update(s):** The Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) presented on the SBP and NSLP in 2018.

2.1: Identify and support strategies to increase participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) among the eligible population(s).

**Update(s):** The Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) presented on the CACFP and SFSP in 2018.

The OFS finalized the Early Care and Education CACFP Gap Analysis in 2019, in collaboration with the NDA and other key partners. Efforts to increase CACFP participation among Nevada ECEs is on-going.

3.1: Identify and support strategies to increase rural capacity for administering CACFP and SFSP.

**Update(s):** The Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) presented on the CACFP and SFSP in 2018.

3.2: Identify and support strategies to increase participation across the Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC) and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), focusing on recipients who may be eligible for both programs.

3.3: Support strategies to increase food banks' capacity for offering a variety of nutritious foods, including fresh produce, animal protein, and dairy products.

**Update(s):** The CFS supported Senate Bill 370, which was passed in the 2021 Nevada Legislative Session, to create a food purchasing program. The new program, Home Feeds Nevada Agriculture Food Purchase program requires the Director of the NDA to develop a procedure to purchase nutritious foods that are grown, produced, and/or processed in Nevada, for distribution through the food banks.

## 2018 Food Security in Nevada: Nevada’s Plan for Action

Update Summary Draft: October 2021

1.6: Support the implementation and enforcement of the Nevada School Wellness Policy (NSWP).

**Update(s):** *The Southern Nevada Health District and Nevada Extension presented on the NSWP to the CFS Policy Subcommittee in 2020. The presentation can be found [here](#). Recommendations included:*

- *Make the Nevada State School Wellness Policy a state law – no fiscal note*
- *State-wide recognition program for schools with high achievement in school wellness –would likely be either NDA or NDE so they would be more qualified to give an estimated budget for this recommendation, perhaps based on the School Health Program that used to exist*
- *Allocate dedicated funding for school wellness activities – NDE would be the implementing agency here and could better give an estimate of how much dedicated wellness coordinators would cost.*
- *Mandate adequate time for meals and physical activity in schools – no fiscal note*
- *State-wide program to reduce and recover school food waste – NDA would likely be the implementing agency so could give an estimate of cost.*
- *Commission a state-wide health impact assessment on school wellness – either NDE or NDA*

*Ultimately, the CFS Policy Subcommittee agreed to not include recommendations without consultation of the Nevada Department of Education.*

1.7: Support the development and implementation of a statewide food resource asset map.

1.8: Develop and implement a statewide media outreach campaign targeting low-income Nevadans to promote state and local food resources (e.g., federal nutrition programs, food bank programs, etc.).

1.9: Identify and support strategies to increase participation in nutrition programs and services intended to support self-sufficiency among older Nevadans.

**Goal 2:** Support client-centered strategies that increase access to nutrition programs and resources that address determinants of hunger.

### Objectives

2.1: Support the development and implementation of a single, statewide client tracking database.

**Update(s):** *In September 2018, the CFS Technology Subcommittee was created to assess existing client-tracking databases used in Nevada and nationally. The Subcommittee was comprised of seven (7) members, including representation from Three Square Food Bank, FBNN, HHOVV, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, and the Nevada DHHS GMU. Between November 2018 and June 2019, the CFS Technology Subcommittee met five (5) times to establish goals, learn about systems and discuss national resources and best practices, and make recommendations for the CFS’s consideration regarding technology use among food security stakeholders statewide.*

*To assess systems, the Technology Subcommittee developed a set of standards identified as critical system features and capabilities. Each system was outlined in a comprehensive matrix according to the identified standards. Standards included, but were not limited to, cost, programs supported, Application Program Interface capabilities (APIs) to bridge systems and share data, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) compliance, and the system’s ability to track outcomes. Ultimately, the Technology Subcommittee received additional information after their final meeting in June 2019 that impacted their findings and recommendations. The CFS was unable to make a recommendation per Deputy Attorney General (DAG) guidance.*

2.2: Support the use of a shared client database among community partners.

## 2018 Food Security in Nevada: Nevada’s Plan for Action

Update Summary Draft: October 2021

*Update(s): See Feed Objective 1.1 update.*

2.3: Support state agency efforts to implement a ‘one-stop-shop’ system for assistance programs.

*Update(s): In 2019, the Funds for a Healthy Nevada (FHN) Wellness/Food Security funds were transferred from the DHHS Grants Management Unit to the Office of Food Security. These funds are distributed to address short-term and long-term solutions to food insecurity, including food distribution and program referrals.*

### GROW

**Goal 1:** Support initiatives to strengthen Nevada’s food system and increase access to local foods.

#### Objectives

1.1: Conduct an evaluation of Nevada’s food system to identify facilitators and barriers to the production and expansion of local foods, including the use of local foods within the food security network and Nevada institutions.

1.2: Enhance collaboration among state and non-state agencies supporting school gardens and farm-to-school initiatives.

1.3: Develop and implement a statewide media outreach campaign targeting low-income Nevadans promoting Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) and farmers market coupons programs.

Update(s):

### DATA

**Goal 1:** Establish evaluation and reporting processes to enhance data collection to drive future strategies and track progress in improving food security in Nevada.

#### Objectives

1.1: Develop a reporting protocol for the CFS Annual Report.

*Update(s): In preparation for report development, the OFS requests CFS suggestions regarding updates to be included in the CFS Annual Report. The OFS drafts the report, then presents the draft to the CFS for their consideration/feedback. Once CFS feedback/edits is provided, the OFS submits the CFS Annual Report to the Director of Health and Human Services and the Legislative Counsel Bureau before January 31<sup>st</sup> of each year.*

1.2: Research and establish a methodology for conducting a statewide, comprehensive assessment of the food banks’ service network areas, including an analysis of Nevada’s food insecure population.

1.3: Develop a Nevada-specific report regarding Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) related to food security.

1.4: Support information technology upgrades making it easier for state and local nutrition programs to streamline data collection processes.

*Update(s): See Feed Objective 1.1 update.*