

**Council on Food Security Presentation to Nevada  
Legislative Committee  
(First Draft)**

## **Council on Food Security**

**On February 12, 2014, Governor Brian Sandoval established the Governor's Council on Food Security (GCFS) per Executive Order.**

**In 2019 the Nevada Legislature made the Council permanent within the Department of Health and Human Services.**

**The primary role of the Council on Food Security is the creation and implementation of a Plan intended to improve the quality of life and health of Nevadans by increasing food security throughout the state.<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> See Council On Food Security Annual Reports For Plan Details.

# **DEFINITION OF FOOD SECURITY**

**The broad conceptual definitions of food security and insecurity developed by the expert panel convened in 1989 by the Life Sciences Research Office (LSRO) have served as the basis for the standardized operational definitions used for estimating food security in the United States.**

## DEFINITION OF FOOD SECURITY

**Food security** according to the Life Sciences Research Office (LSRO) definition, means access to enough food for an active, healthy life. It includes at a minimum (a) the ready availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods and (b) an assured ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways (e.g., without resorting to emergency food supplies, scavenging, stealing, or other coping strategies).

# DEFINITION OF FOOD INSECURITY

**Food insecurity exists whenever the availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or the ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways is limited or uncertain.**

## **DEFINITION OF FOOD DESERTS**

**Food Deserts are identified as Census tracts with low income and low access to nutritious food within one mile (Urban) or ten miles (Rural). Although food deserts are not included as a social determinant of health, they are presented as they are a known barrier for food insecure older Nevadans.**

**The term “food desert” describes areas that lack adequate access to healthy food, typically in the form of a supermarket. The USDA identified food deserts in 40 of 687 census tracts in Nevada. Those living in a food desert may have inadequate options to obtain fruits and vegetables and, consequently, may have difficulty meeting dietary guidelines.**

**Source: 1. “Nutrition Programs for Older Nevadans & Preliminary Recommendations”**

**Nevada Council on Food Security (2018)**

**2. USDA - 2015**

**Food insecurity has been linked to:**

- **Poorer self-reported health**
- **Lower quality of life**
- **Cardiovascular disease**
- **Diabetes**
- **Anemia**
- **Obesity**
- **Functional impairment**
- **Anxiety and depression**
- **Cognitive function impairment**
- **Shorter life expectancy**

**Source: “Nutrition Programs for Older Nevadans & Preliminary Recommendations”  
Nevada Council on Food Security (2018)**

**In order to be food secure all of these social determinates must be met. The lack of any one can result in food insecurity:**

- **Enough financial resources to purchase healthy foods.**
- **Available transportation to obtain food.**
- **Knowledge about which foods are healthy and which foods are unhealthy.**
- **Available food preparation and storage facilities.**
- **Assistance in obtaining food and/or preparing meals when have a physical and/or mental disability (caretaker services).**
- **Access to healthy food (not living in a “food desert”).**
- **A safe physical and/or mental living environment with adequate activities of daily living support services.**
- **Regular eating patterns (available time).**
- **Accurate and appropriate implementation of Information Technology.**

## Food Insecure Households

<u>Year</u>	<u>Low or Very Low</u>		<u>Very Low</u>	
	<u>United States</u>	<u>Nevada</u>	<u>United States</u>	<u>Nevada</u>
2004-06	13%	12.1%	3.9%	3.2%
2011-13	14.6%	16.2%	5.7%	6.9%
2014-16	13%	12.1%	5.2%	4.7%
2016-18	11.7%	12.9%	4.6%	5.4%
2018-20	10.7%	11.9%	4.1%	4.8%

## Average Number of Households

	<u>United States</u>	<u>Nevada</u>
2018-20	129,775,000	1,192,000

# **Legislative Actions Taken To Reduce Food Insecurity (2015 – 2019)**

## **Session**

## **Food Security Legislation**

- 2015**      **SB503 -"Breakfast after the Bell"; and increased school meal funding**  
**SB206 - Cottage Food-Enabled small farmers to process and sell food at Farmers Markets**  
**AB107 - Created public school food service reporting requirements**
- 2017**      **SB429 - Created Urban Agricultural Zones**  
**SB323 - Expanded Supplement Food Assistance Illegibility**  
**SB167 - Increased funds for School Gardens**
- 2019**      **SB178 - Creates the Council on Food Security**  
**SB443 - Increased funding for certain senior meals**  
**SB458 - Creates school garden education programs**  
**SB326 - Increased state funding of healthy food stores in "Food Deserts"**

# Council on Food Security Public Seminars

<u>Year</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Number of Organization Participants</u>
2013	<b>“A Place At The Table” (note: The participants created a “Food Security in Nevada: Nevada’s Plan for Action” that called for the creation of a Governor’s Council on Food Security. The Council was created by executive order on February 12, 2014).</b>	<b>165</b>
2018	<b>“Food Security Summit - Improving Connections &amp; Collaboration”</b>	<b>50</b>
2020	<b>“Virtual Nevada Senior Services Summit” (note: 175 Public &amp; Private Agencies and Organizations were surveyed to determine available services)</b>	<b>111</b>

# Impact of Council on Food Security and Legislation

## Age Group

## Impact

- School Age:** In 2014, it was estimated that more than 250,000 children in Nevada entered their first class at school without having eaten breakfast.  
In 2016, it was determined that no child entered their first class at school without having eaten breakfast.
- Seniors (60+years):** In 2016, survey findings indicated that about 80,000 senior Nevadans were food insecure in need of services, projected to increase to 100,000 by 2020.  
In 2020, survey findings indicated that at least 70,000 food insecure seniors were receiving services. Note: 45% of service organizations and agencies responded to the survey.

## Current Needed Legislative Actions

1. Funding for the maintenance of the “Nevada County Internet Map of Senior Nutrition Providers”: Landing Page: <https://arcg.is/1zirLq0> (click “View Application” to launch webmap)
2. Other
3. Other