

NEVADA COUNCIL ON FOOD SECURITY 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Governor's Council on Food Security (CFS) aims to fight hunger among Nevadans, including children and older adults, who are at an increased risk of food insecurity. The inception of the Council on Food Security began in 2014 with an executive order codified into state law during the 80th Legislative Session in 2019 ([Nevada Revised Statute \(NRS\) 232.4968](#)). Tasks of the CFS include but are not limited to, reviewing legislation and protocols affecting food policy infrastructure. In addition, the CFS holds special session meetings as needed and standard quarterly meetings. Board members discuss various topics (e.g., funding streams, food-security emergency response plans, quality of service and meals to Nevadans, and food security policy), providing feedback and recommendations, which includes an annual report to the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB). This report also includes information on community gardens and urban farms per the Nevada Revised Statute ([NRS](#)) 232.4968.

The CFS recognizes the need for collaboration between all partners to reduce hunger and improve wellness outcomes. According to the [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#), in Fiscal Year 2023, 455,200 Nevada residents received the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, with 62% of the participants being families with children. Of concern is participation, which continues to rise, with rural areas and small towns still falling behind the national average. ^(OBJ)

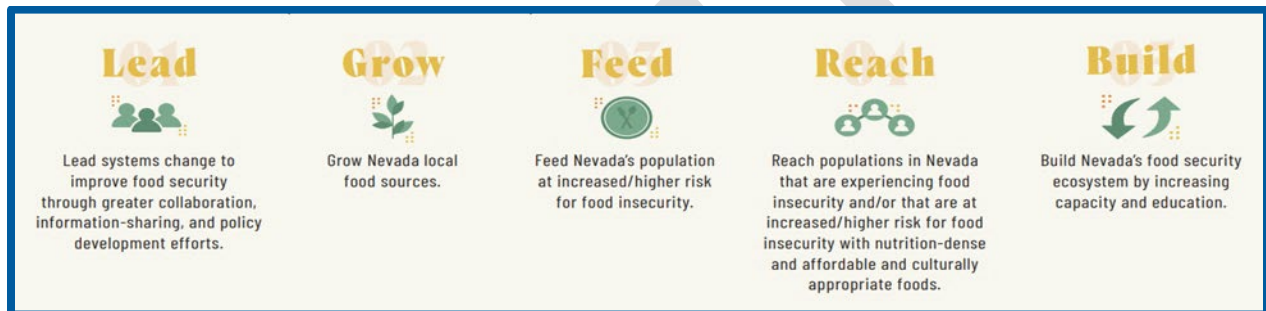
The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has completely changed the food landscape and stunted Nevada's progress in addressing food insecurity. At the height of the pandemic, food security partners saw an unprecedented increase in the need for food and nutrition services statewide due to high unemployment rates, limited access to resources, and social distancing guidelines. Assisting Nevadans through the navigation of food-related resources has been a significant activity in the state. Nevada continues to make significant strides in addressing food insecurity and assists in maintaining the [211](#) public database, which allows residents to search for food banks and pantries in their area.

INTRODUCTION

Nevada's Governor created CFS to reshape food security and help residents living in food-insecure households by implementing the goals of the 2013 Food Strategic Plan called [Food Security in Nevada: Nevada's Plan for Action](#). A work plan was established in 2018,

incorporating revisions to the state strategic plan. A Food Security Work Group conducted a comprehensive needs assessment from July 2021 to November 2022. This assessment encompassed various methods, including surveys, strategic planning sessions, focus groups, and interviews. Based on these efforts, the Food Strategic Plan was updated again and published on the [Department of Health and Human Services \(DHHS\) Office of Food Security \(OFS\) website](#) as the [2023 Food Security Strategic Plan](#). The Pillars identified in the Strategic Plan address the root causes of hunger and work to generate a healthier food security ecosystem throughout Nevada (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Five pillars of Nevada's food security



The Office of Food Security (OFS) within DHHS provides administrative support to assist the Council in aligning the latest strategic plan with the food focus of the [2023-2028 State Health Improvement Plan \(SHIP\)](#). The state released the SHIP in February 2024, making it the main focus for the year for the OFS. Additionally, the OFS partnered with the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) Public Health AmeriCorps to hire two ongoing part-time workers for 2023-2024 to support the Council's involvement with [the SHIP](#) food initiatives and the [2023 Food Security Strategic Plan](#). These positions are intended to provide the following support:

- Planning, implementing, monitoring, and reporting of projects that align with three (3) of the five (5) foundational themes, otherwise known as the "pillars" (LEAD, FEED, and BUILD) of the [2023 Food Security Strategic Plan](#) and the specific actions steps in the SHIP related to Food Security;
- Reviewing processes to evaluate the effectiveness of the activities.
- Designing and developing data collection and program evaluation tools.
- Conducting routine analysis of program processes.
- Providing outcome data to the program and stakeholders.

- Monitoring and evaluating measures on program activities.
- Providing technical assistance to Food Security stakeholders

Food Insecurity in Nevada

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) defines food insecurity as "the limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or limited/uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways."² The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations states that a person is food insecure when "they lack regular access to enough safe and nutritious food for normal growth and development and an active and healthy life."¹ When looking at food insecurity goes beyond empty refrigerators, pantries and needing food to survive. Many factors, including social, political, and economic factors, may influence it. The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has exacerbated the existing issue of food insecurity in Nevada. These factors may impact an individual's culture, well-being, and overall health, including chronic disease and mental health.^{2,3} For example, Feeding America showed the food insecurity rate in Nevada as 14.4% (456,700) in 2022 and the total health care cost associated with food insecurity at \$518,266,000.⁴ To assuage food insecurity's health and economic effects, the Funds for Healthy Nevada (FHN) agencies allow for more options and availability to meet better dietary and medical needs, preferences, and restrictions. Feeding America also indicated that the rate of food insecurity among children in Nevada was 20.9% (144,290) in 2022.⁵

Three of Nevada's largest Charitable Food Systems are [Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada](#) (CCNN), [Three-Square Food Bank](#), and [Food Bank of Northern Nevada](#) (FBNN). Between October and November 2020, Three Square and CCNN conducted environmental scans of Northern and Southern Nevada rural communities to assess additional food rescue/donation efforts and opportunities. The Food Bank of Northern Nevada (FBNN) contracted with the Nevada Center for Surveys, Evaluation and Statistics (CSES) at the

¹ <https://unric.org/en/unric-library-background-food-insecurity/#:~:text=A%20person%20is%20food%20insecure.of%20resources%20to%20obtain%20food>.

² <https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/publications/84467/err-235.pdf?v=42942>

³ <https://academic.oup.com/in/article/145/3/622/4743717>

⁴ <https://map.feedingamerica.org/county/2021/overall/nevada>

⁵ [Child Hunger & Poverty in Nevada | Map the Meal Gap \(feedingamerica.org\)](#)

University of Nevada, Reno, and conducted a yearlong [\(2021-2022\) surveillance survey](#) consisting of two parts: 1) a needs assessment, and 2) a neighbor satisfaction survey. This work analyzed the entire FBNN service area (13 Northern Nevada counties and parts of eight (8) counties in California). Based on the FBNN survey results, those who responded to the survey were primarily female (53.97%), white (57.02%), and aged 19-59 (55.93%). It was most common for respondents to have a high school degree (34.10%), no military history (83.40%), and an annual income between \$10,000-\$19,999 (27.40%). Over one in five responders (20.80%) said they run out of food and lack money to get more food almost every month.

Similarly, 15.90% of participants cut the size of their meals or skipped meals entirely almost every month in the last year due to a lack of money for food. Nearly half of the participants also responded to the statement, "I buy unhealthy foods more often than healthy foods because they are more affordable," with agree or strongly agree (48.00%). When asked how frequently they visit pantry programs, 33.10% of participants responded, "Often, this is my primary food source." Another 54.10% of participants responded that they come sometimes to supplement their food budget. Nearly two-thirds of respondents (65.70%) stated they could "always" meet their household's food needs for the month after visiting a pantry program. Those who received SNAP were 39.36% of participants, 11.55% received CSFP/Senior Boxes, and 11.02% received free or reduced-price school meals, leading to the assumption that many assistance and benefit programs may be underutilized. Fewer than 5% of respondents indicated usage of each of the other benefit programs listed.

The [State of Obesity 2022 report](#) indicates, "For children and adolescents, food insecurity is associated with a lower quality diet and a range of poor physical and mental health outcomes—including higher odds of having asthma, anemia, and fair or poor health and a higher risk of cognitive issues, aggression, anxiety, depression, behavior problems, suicide ideation, and hospitalization." Children experiencing food insecurity are also more likely to repeat a grade in elementary school, face developmental impairments in areas such as language and motor skills, and encounter more social and behavioral problems compared to food-secure children. The 2021 Universal School Meals Program Act is established to address these risks and concerns. This act permanently provides free breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snacks to all school children regardless of income, eliminates school meal debt,

and strengthens local economies by incentivizing local food procurement.⁶ The USDA extended these free services through the 2022 school year from the 2021 Universal School Meals Program Act. The Nevada Interim Finance Committee approved \$28 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds to continue offering these free meals. This funding allowed Nevada students to continue receiving universal free meals at school for the 2023-2024 school year.⁷

According to the [2023 Nevada Food Security Strategic Plan](#), about 80,000 Nevadans aged 60 years and older identified as food insecure. Data projections suggest Nevada will witness a 36% increase in the older adult population over the next ten years. The older adult population encounters significant food security challenges, resulting in an elevated risk of hunger. Factors contributing to this vulnerability include adverse health conditions, the necessity of remaining homebound, limited fixed incomes, and various constraints that hinder their capacity to obtain or prepare nutritious food. Moreover, seniors with low incomes are frequently compelled to prioritize expenditures on housing, utilities, and medications, which leads them to purchase inexpensive and less nutritious food options. Poor health is not only a risk factor for food insecurity among older adults, but it also can be a consequence of food insecurity for this population. Older adults who are food insecure often experience adverse mental and physical health conditions and outcomes, such as diabetes, fair or poor health status, depression, lower cognitive function, limitations in activities of daily living, hypertension, congestive heart failure, peripheral arterial disease, history of a heart attack, osteoporosis, periodontal disease, and asthma.⁹

As of June 2024, the USDA reports 262,890 Nevada households and 498,558 Nevadans have accepted the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, historically known as food stamps.^{8,9} The SNAP program assisted low-income families in purchasing nutritious foods from approved stores. At the beginning of 2024, participants continued receiving the Supplemental Emergency Allotments (SEA) established throughout the

⁶ [H.R.3115 - 117th Congress \(2021-2022\): Universal School Meals Program Act of 2021 | Congress.gov | Library of Congress](#)

⁷ <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/InterimCommittee/REL/Document/27744>

⁹ Food Insecurity: A Key Social Determinant of Health for Older Adults - PMC ([nih.gov](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/))

¹⁰ [SNAP: NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS PARTICIPATING \(azureedge.us\)](#)

¹¹ <https://fns-prod.azureedge.us/sites/default/files/resource-files/snap-persons-9.pdf>

COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, following the Public Health Emergency declaration (PHE). The SEA allowed SNAP participants to receive a second monthly payment to address food insecurity throughout the pandemic. However, SEA ceased on March 14, 2023, following the end of PHE (February 2023), with the Nevada Division of Welfare and Support Services (DWSS) issuing over \$1 billion to Nevada households during the PHE. This funding was in addition to the USDA Food and Nutrition Services bolstering budgets for food banks nationwide following the pandemic to help further public and private funding sources used to tackle food insecurity. Public funds come from federal, state, and local agencies and governmental units. Private funds are sourced from charitable foundations, direct giving programs, voluntary agencies, and various community groups. Since the SEA ended, Nevada food banks and food pantries have reported increasing clients receiving food-related services.

To help further reduce food insecurity, the State of Nevada expanded the Nevada Community Food Access (NCFA) grant through the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA). On April 1, 2022, these funds were released to help increase food access in underserved communities with an emphasis on food distribution, infrastructure enhancement, and the provision of food to households in need. To help Nevada become food secure, the NDA purchases food grown and produced in Nevada, which is then directly distributed to food banks.¹¹⁻¹² Throughout 2022-2023, NDA awarded \$500,000 to six (6) partners. In 2023, NDA released the second round of grant funding to fourteen (14) organizations totaling \$6 million that focused on food distribution and food storage infrastructure enhancement for households in rural, tribal, and underserved communities.¹⁰ Four (4) of the eleven (11) FHN partners benefited from the NDA expansion: Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada (CCNN), Northern Nevada Dream Center, Food Bank of Northern Nevada, and the Keystone Enrichment Foundation. NDA analyzed current meal sites and has filled identified gaps. However, due to the 2023 release of the rural non-congregate meal service, some sponsors may have new meal service sites in eastern Nevada, whose population has not been reached in previous years. An assessment has been completed to target other community organizations and food authorities that could help fill these gaps in rural Nevada.

¹²[https://agri.nv.gov/News/2022/\\$6_million_awarded_to_community_organizations_to_fight_food_insecurity_and_improve_food_access/](https://agri.nv.gov/News/2022/$6_million_awarded_to_community_organizations_to_fight_food_insecurity_and_improve_food_access/)

NEVADA CFS 2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2024, the CFS continued to focus on the execution of pillars and the food focus area of the [SHIP](#). By the end of 2024, the Council met five (5) times (January 16, February 2, July 16, September 30, and October 15), with one (1) of those meetings being in person to enhance collaboration, cohesiveness, and to increase efforts in reducing council vacancies. The Council has discussed the subcommittee member list and recommended agencies (Table 1). The OFS will provide administrative support in contacting these agencies. The "Food for People Not Landfills" (FFPNL) is an ongoing CFS agenda item.

Table 1. FFPNL Subcommittee Recommended Agencies

FFPNL Subcommittee CFS Recommended Agencies
United States of Department of Agriculture (USDA) or Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA)
Three Square
University of Reno, Extension
Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada, Includes Food Rescue
Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada,
Food Bank of Northern Nevada, includes Food Rescue
North Gaming Industry
South Gaming Industry
Retail or Grocery
Reno Gleaning Project
A representative from an organization that does farmers market buy back and/or food rescue from agricultural producers
Helping Hands of Vegas Valley
A representative from food service

CFS ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES



The Council has two (2) goals and three (3) objectives under the LEAD pillar and was identified as a supportive partner for OFS under the BUILD pillar regarding two (2) strategies.

CFS Goals

- LEAD Goal 1: Enhance cooperation, communication, and representation to support policy development and resource utilization.
 - Local and/or regional councils and/ or working groups will meet jointly and quarterly to share information and/or address issues (e.g., innovative solutions, funding, workforce challenges, eligibility barriers, data sharing).
 - The OFS meets quarterly with the Partners for a Healthy Nevada (PHN) to provide updates regarding CFS and the Southern Nevada Food Council. The OFS also attended on August 22, 2024, at a joint meeting with PHN and the Southern Nevada Food Council.
- LEAD Goal 2: reduce food insecurity through funding and policy efforts.
 - The Council of Food Security has been supporting legislation, policies, and programs to ensure Nevadan's food security since 2015. CFS provided a platform for community members, tribes, implementing partners, interested parties/groups, and subject-matter experts to make recommendations to state agencies on addressing food insecurity in Nevada and has enhanced connectivity among food insecurity in Nevada and has enhanced connectivity among food security initiatives and partners.

CFS Objectives

- LEAD Objective 1: This goal is to convene local food ecosystem partners, community members, policymakers, and keynote food security speakers.
- In 2024, the Council established a Northern Nevada workgroup to plan and hold a 2025 Food Security Conference statewide to convene the local food ecosystem. The workgroup developed and distributed a survey for further planning and guidance.

- LEAD Objective 2: This goal is to increase the representation of partners from the transportation and housing sectors, tribal communities, and those who have lived experience with food insecurity in decision-making processes related to food security.
- The DHHS's Nutrition Unit Deputy Chief and the CFS Chair, Allison Genco, connected with the Joint Interim Standing Committee (JHHS) on 04/08/2024 through food security presentations and requested to add up to three (3) seats on the CFS. One seat for an individual who has lived with food insecurity and/or homelessness and two (2) members of the tribe. The request was not approved, and the board to consider relief under [NRS 232.4966 1\(1\)](#) to seek the appointment of these members as designated by the Governor.
- LEAD Objective 3: The objective is to fund efforts to assist programs and initiatives to reduce food insecurity, expand the availability and accessibility of food, and improve food affordability.
 - To help guide the Council in making informed decisions within this objective, the Council discussed statewide food security data and reviewed several programs. More specifically, the presentations were of the following programs:
 - The Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) on the Community Food Access Project, gaps analysis on food security
 - Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP)
 - Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA)
 - The Summer Food Program (SFP).
 - Southwest Regional Food System Project
 - Home Delivered Meals Program
 - Home Feeds Nevada Program.
 - Data discussed included food insecurity statistics (pounds of food distributed, people served, etc.), food distribution, general food access, awareness of food insecurity programs, and existing food databases to access food-related resources statewide. CFS also discussed the state's nutrition statistics to determine potential barriers to increasing food insecurity, how food insecurity is being addressed in hard-to-reach areas and/or food deserts in Nevada, and where the Council can advocate for change. Additionally, the Council supports the Food for People Not for Landfill (FFPNL) Program, which

is designed to increase food security by decreasing food waste and redirecting excess consumable food to vulnerable communities throughout the state. CFS will monitor the program as a standing agenda item. FFPNL remains an unfunded mandate through NRS 232.4969. DHHS continues to look for funding sources to address food waste in Nevada. DHHS continues to look for funding sources to address food waste in Nevada.

- DHHS Grants Management Unit (GMU) also administers the Fund for a Healthy Nevada (FHN) Grant, which utilizes 60% of tobacco settlements received/recovered by the State of Nevada. The funds support the 2019 Statewide Community Needs Assessment and align with the recent needs assessment identified in the 2023 Food Strategic Plan (NRS 439.630). DHHS GMU can allocate \$4,000,000 in collaboration with the Grants Management Advisory Committee (GMAC) and the OFS. Funds are allocated for a two-year grant period (SFY24 and SFY25) per the Wellness and Disability Services categories of the FHN statute. SFY24 is Year 1 of the grant period, with \$1,999,999 allocated to 11 agencies to promote food security programs in Nevada. A total of \$1,994,358.96 remains unspent, which unused funds do not roll over to the next fiscal year and revert to the General Fund (Table 2).
- The OFS prepares the Fund for a Healthy Nevada Report each year. This annual report covers year 1 of the grant for the State Fiscal Year and includes Fund for a Healthy Nevada Overview, FHN survey results, statistical data interpretation, partner successes, partner barriers, grant summary, and FHN updates for upcoming grant periods. The data that supported the annual report was derived from the partners' quarterly reports, where they submitted a data report and narrative report. The data report addressed the pounds of food distributed and the client food security survey. The narrative report provides information on the successes, barriers, and outstanding items the partner experienced.

Table 2 and 3: 2024 FHN FUNDS

Table 2. The amount of FHN funds award and spent by partners

Partners	Award Amount	Amount Spent	Balance
University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) - Extension	\$77,830.00	\$77,172.42	\$657.58
Three Square Food Bank	\$432,962.00	\$432,962.00	\$0.00
Food Bank of Northern Nevada	\$405,373.00	\$402,362.42	\$3,010.58
Desert Springs Community Resource Center	\$41,869.00	\$41,814.78	\$54.22
Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada	\$300,837.00	\$300,817.55	\$19.45
Washoe County Human Services Agency	\$231,274.00	\$231,274.00	\$0.00
Northern Nevada Dream Center	\$93,530.00	\$93,529.34	\$0.66
Nye Communities Coalition	\$127,573.00	\$127,565.38	\$7.62
Communities in Schools - Elko	\$137,627.00	\$137,627.00	\$0.00
Keystone Enrichment Foundation	\$37,098.00	\$36,911.84	\$186.16
Dignity Health - St. Rose Dominican	\$114,026.00	\$112,321.96	\$1,704.04
Totals	\$1,999,999.00	\$1,994,358.69	\$5,639.65

Table 3. The number of individuals served, and the pounds of food distributed

Partners	Individuals Served (Duplicated)	Individuals Served (Unduplicated)	Pounds of Food Distributed	Overall Agency Pounds ^a
University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) - Extension	5,409	31	83,333	93,425
Three Square Food Bank	248,605	67,715	574,246	49,307,584
Food Bank of Northern Nevada	308,114	180,837	292,791	34,483,045
Desert Springs Community Resource Center	37,289	4,507	33,407	396,337
Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada ^b	334,576	12,888	143,462	3,428,198
Washoe County Human Services Agency ^c
Northern Nevada Dream Center ^d	22,909	5,074	36,204	534,790
Nye Communities Coalition	43,077	7,936	43,747	113,301
Communities in Schools - Elko	12,031	2,882	63,688	585,311
Keystone Enrichment Foundation ^e	22,501	5,925	24,000	331,310
Dignity Health - St. Rose Dominican	1,900	175	13,826	13,826
Totals	1,031,002	287,970	1,308,704	89,287,127

^aAll funds including FHN.

^bIndividuals served is based on the total individuals served and not just by FHN funds. Uses a formula to estimate the number of unduplicated individuals.

^cData not provided at the time of publication.

^dIndividuals served is based on the total funds and not just FHN funds.

^eIndividuals served is based on the total individuals served and not just by FHN funds. Pounds of food distributed by FHN funds is based on an estimate.

OFS Strategies

- BUILD Strategy 1: This strategy is about analyzing public funding streams and models of best practices in other states, identifying policy gaps and opportunities in Nevada, and identifying ways to increase public funding for programs to reduce food insecurity, expand the availability of and accessibility to food, and improve the affordability of food.
 - The [2023 Food Security Strategic Plan](#) is a systemic plan that is intended to be used by all partners to promote food security efforts across Nevada. In 2024, CFS continued to assure progress and guidance of the plan, and OFS provided administrative support to carry out the plan with its partners as both partners continued to seek to increase access to nutrition-dense and affordable food for populations at increased/higher risk for food insecurity.
- BUILD Strategy 2: Identify and coordinate with designated state Tribal Liaisons, community partners established within tribal communities, and points of contact at the Nevada Indian Commission. CFS members to attend Intertribal Council of Nevada (ITCN) meetings.
 - In 2024, CFS worked to address food insecurity across the state, including tribal communities. CFS established a workgroup to include tribal partners in planning the 2025 Food Security Conference. CFS is also seeking a seat for tribal members on the Council.

FOOD BANKS AND PANTRIES ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES



"The Nevada Food Security Strategic Plan is a systemic plan that is intended to be used by all partners to promote food security efforts across Nevada. The Council on Food Security (CFS) assures progress and guidance of the plan, and the OFS will carry out the plan with its partners as it seeks to increase access to nutrition-dense and affordable food for populations at increased/higher risk for food insecurity". OFS oversees the FHN funds aligning with the FEED and BUILD pillars. It is common for agencies to leverage other funding sources and have other Scopes of Work that go beyond what is listed in this report. Food Banks and Pantries have two (2) FEED goals with three (3) objectives and one (1) BUILD goal with two (2) objectives.

FEED Goals

- FEED Goal 1: Assist Nevada with efficient logistics, distribution, transportation, and storage systems to address food insecurity.
 - All 11 FHN partners provide food distribution to address food insecurity. A few FHN partners partnered with NDA to improve their storage systems to address food insecurity and provide mobile food distribution.
 - In 2024, CFS discussed baseline data in measuring food insecurity in Nevada, how to improve measurement of outcomes (e.g., food insecurity, unmet need), encouraged data-sharing agreements, and discussed the need to improve available data among partners to identify better gaps, unmet need, and at-risk areas that are not being served of which can inform federal and private grant applications.
 - CFS also reviews the latest SFY FHN Annual Report presented by OFS yearly. The report includes the Fund for a Healthy Nevada Overview, FHN survey results, statistical data interpretation, partner successes, partner barriers, grant summary, FHN updates for upcoming grant periods, etc.
- FEED Goal 2: Assist with Nevada's food recovery efforts to reduce food waste.
 - Food insecurity and food waste are critical issues that are closely linked. In Nevada, hundreds of thousands of people struggle to access nutritious food,

while a significant amount of perfectly good food ends up in landfills. Food waste is a significant issue in Nevada, and according to the 2024 FHN survey, four (4) of the eleven (11) FHN partners reported addressing food waste by collaboration with local senior centers, gleaning programs, local farms, Olsen Farms, Begonia Farms, Green Life Produce and other businesses (i.e., Smiths, Albertsons, Starbucks, KFC, Walmart, and Raleys).

- See FEED Objective 3 for more information regarding food waste.

FEED Objectives

- FEED Objective 1: To help advance improvements in the food logistics, distribution, transportation, and storage systems and funding for those systems to bring food to people to address food insecurity while creating a sustainable food ecosystem that values workers, consumers, and the land.
 - As stated above, all 11 FHN agencies distribute food to the community, and a few have partnered with NDA to expand food storage. Each FHN Scope of Works is individualized by the FHN agency to meet the needs of their community and outlined in the SFY24 FHN Annual Report.
- FEED Objective 2: To support new strategic partnerships that can assist with transportation needs and efforts to distribute food to people, particularly individuals at increased/higher risk for food insecurity.
 - Since the pandemic, each FHN partner has recognized the importance of transportation needs and efforts to distribute food to the targeted population identified in this objective. Although food banks have been serving their local communities, it is not always possible for families to access a food pantry due to transportation gaps and other reasons. Mobile distribution is dependent on but not limited to funding, location, and the population being served. Mobile distribution includes but is not limited to community apartment food trucks, [Ride Unite-United Our Impact](#) resources, drive-thru parking lot pantries, and delivery drivers with agency refrigerated trucks. Additionally, grocery delivery services like Amazon, DoorDash, and Instacart partner with cities and food banks to help with food deliveries and logistics.
 - Food banks and pantries strive to serve all clients in need and adjust future food distribution to compensate for any lack of funds or supplies when the

number of clients they serve increases depending on funding and food supplies.

- Dignity Health is a prescription pantry that served 175 clients in SFY24 with chronic disease and underlying health conditions. In August 2024, Dignity Health reported 25 clients on a waiting list to enroll in the prescription program. Dignity Health also started its [Meals on Wheels program](#) to provide services to enrich, enhance, maintain, sustain, and help make more productive the lives of seniors, adults with disabilities, and other adults in need.
- In SFY24, Northern Nevada Dream Center (NNDC) holds multiple community events, has an open food pantry weekly, and started a Home Delivery Program for clients who are homebound, families with lower income, and individuals residing in the rural quad country region of Northern Nevada-Douglas, Storey, and Lyon Counties. Currently, ten (10) clients are waiting to join their Home Delivery Program.
- In SFY24, UNR maintained the Veggies for Seniors Program and the Veggies for Kids Program, which provides fresh fruits and vegetables delivered at the schools for students to take home. As of August 2024, UNR reports five (5) seniors waiting to participate in the Veggies for Seniors Program.
- FEED Objective 3: Strengthen producer, processor, and market networks to support food recovery.
 - The OFS does not monitor each FHN agency to see how they strengthen producer, processor, or market networks to support food recovery. Based on the SFY24 FHN survey, four (4) FHN agencies collaborate with other partners regarding food waste. Food supply chain management (retailer-to-consumer operations) was the major barrier identified by eight (8) of the FHN agencies as the significant barrier to reducing food waste in Nevada.
 - During FBNN Impact Presentation to CFS on July 16, 2024, FBNN rescued nearly 5 million pounds of quality food from local food retailers.
 - During the Three Squares Impact Presentation on July 16, 2024, Three Square recovered more than 14 million pounds of quality food from retail food partners.

BUILD Goal

- Build Goal: Assist with resources and programs for the Nevadans experiencing food insecurity and/or at increased risk for food insecurity.
 - FHN activities include distributing fresh fruits and vegetables for home delivery, or a pick-up produce, food distribution program.
 - All 11 FHN agencies have a unique system to connect and refer clients experiencing food insecurity to other needed programs or resources.

BUILD Objectives

- BUILD Objective 1: Collect and promote information about Nevada food resources and how to prepare nutrition-dense foods.
 - Several FHN partners have scopes of work or their own processes to promote and prepare information about food resources. Recipes are specially designed to be nutrition-dense foods and align with the current food being distributed.
- BUILD Objective 2: Community partners plan for the future of food security solutions.
 - CFS nor OFS manage the community partners' plans for the future of food security solutions. However, both remain willing partners in collaboration and solutions. It is important to note, some FHN partners are seeking capacity improvements in refrigerated storage and mobile distribution based on the SFY24 FHN Survey.

CFS FUTURE FOCUS

In the calendar year 2025, CFS will continue to focus on [SHIP](#) food initiatives, guiding the FFPNL subcommittee and activities identified in the [2023 Food Strategic Plan](#). The Council will more specifically work on the following:

- The Council will begin planning another presentation to JHHS and provide a legislative brief to provide the necessary data needed to make informed funding decisions regarding food security in the state.
- CFS will continue to hold ongoing meetings to expand knowledge and understanding of food insecurity in Nevada.

- The Council will work towards hosting a 2025 Food Security Conference in Northern Nevada and a 2027 Food Security Conference in Southern Nevada.
- CFS will continue to monitor the FFPNL Program and partner with OFS to access NACDD AmeriCorps members to support the Council goals further.
- An in-person meeting option, either in Carson City and/or Las Vegas Office(s), is for CFS meetings to enhance collaboration cohesiveness further and increase efforts to reduce councils' vacancies.
- Prioritize building awareness around food distribution, support, and general food access throughout Nevada.
- Hosting presentations focusing on food insecurity statistics (pounds of food distributed, people served, etc.), food distribution, general food access, and building awareness on food insecurity programs and existing food databases to access food-related resources statewide.
- Reviewing the Home Feeds Nevada Program Annual Report and/or outcomes.
- Review federal standards or policies that create barriers and food insecurity risks.
- Determine where the Council can advocate for change.
- Continue addressing food insecurity in hard-to-reach areas and/or food deserts.

Table 4. 2024 CFS Board Members

Board Member Names	Description	Position
Administrator: Cody Phinney: Designee Vickie Ives as of November 29, 2023	<i>Administrator of the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health or his or her designee from within the Division.</i>	Designee; Health Bureau Chief; Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health
Charlotte Williams	<i>A person who is a representative of a food bank serving northern Nevada</i>	Research & Innovation Manager
Deacon Tom Roberts	<i>A person who is a representative of an organization that provides community-based services, including, without limitation, services that focus on the social determinants of health, in southern Nevada</i>	President and CEO; Catholic Charities, Southern Nevada
Designee for Administrator: Jeff Duncan	<i>Administrator of the Aging and Disability Services Division of the Department or his or her designee from within the Division</i>	Designee; Agency Manager; Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division, Child Services

Designee for Administrator: Kelly Cantrelle	<i>Administrator of the Nevada Division of Welfare and Supportive Services or designee from within the Division.</i>	Designee; Deputy Administrator; Nevada Division of Welfare and Supportive Services
Designee for Director: Dr. Dorian Stonebarger	<i>Director of the Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development or his or her designee within the Office.</i>	Director of the Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development; Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development Proxy; Director of Public Policy and Government Affairs
Designee for Governor: Allison Genco	<i>State of Nevada Governor's Designee.</i>	State Public Health Resource Officer, Governor's Office
Designee for Superintendent: Pamela Juniel	<i>Superintendent of Public Instruction of the Nevada Department of education or his or her designee within the Department.</i>	Superintendent of Public Instruction; Nevada Department of Education
Dr. Sabina Malik	<i>A person who is a representative of the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension</i>	Public Health Nutritionist; University of Nevada Cooperative Extension
Jenny Yeager Term ended 02/28/2024	<i>A person who is a representative of a food bank serving northern Nevada</i>	Chief Operations and Programs Officer; Food Bank of Northern Nevada
Jesus Mendoza, Jr.	<i>Western Regional Director of the United States Department of Agriculture or designee from within the Department.</i>	Regional Administrator; United States Department of Agriculture Western Regional Office
Joe Miller	<i>One member who is a representative of farmers or ranchers engaged in food production</i>	UNR-Desert Farm Initiative
Julian Goicoechea	<i>Director of the Nevada Department of Agriculture or designee from within the Department.</i>	Nevada Department of Agriculture, Director
Kelli Kelly Term ended 05/31/2024	<i>One member who is a representative of persons engaged in the business of processing or distributing food</i>	Director; Fallon Food Hub
Lisa Swearingen	<i>Director or his or her designee from within the Department of Health and Human Services</i>	Chief, Eligibility and Payments Unit, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services
Marcia Blake	<i>A person who possesses knowledge, skill and experience in the provision of services to senior citizens and persons with disabilities</i>	Executive Director; Helping Hands of Vegas Valley

Maria Menjivar	<i>One member representing community-based services (Rural Nevada).</i>	Environmental Health Division Manager, Carson City Health and Human Services
Marie Baxter	<i>A person who is a representative of an organization that provides community-based services, including, without limitation, services that focus on the social determinants of health, in northern Nevada</i>	CEO; Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada
Term ended 05/31/2024		
Maurice Johnson	<i>A person who is a representative of a food bank serving southern Nevada</i>	Director of Operations; Three Square Food Bank
(Tori) Samantha Lawson-Boffelli	<i>A person who possesses knowledge, skill, and experience in the provision of services to children and families</i>	Program Analyst – USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Dr. Kenneth Osgood, MD, MPH	A person who is a representative of a local health authority	Southern Nevada Health District Board of Health
Term ended 04/05/2024		
VACANT as of 06/20/2024	A person who is a representative of those engaged in the business of processing or distributing food.	N/A
VACANT as of 06/20/2024	One member who is a representative of the gaming industry, hospitality industry, or restaurant industry.	N/A
VACANT as of 06/20/2024	One member who is a representative of manufacturing that is not related to food.	N/A
VACANT as of 06/20/2024	A person who is a representative of a local health authority	N/A

^aAs of 09/12/2024