

Joe Lombardo
Governor

Richard Whitley, MS
Director



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES



NEVADA DIVISION of PUBLIC
and BEHAVIORAL HEALTH



Dena Schmidt
Administrator

Ihsan Azzam,
Ph.D., M.D.,
Chief Medical Officer

THE NEVADA COUNCIL ON FOOD SECURITY

MEETING AGENDA

October 14, 2025

1:00 p.m. to Adjournment

This meeting is being held virtually and in person. The public is invited to attend.

IN PERSON INFORMATION

Carson City Onsite Location:

Room 303, 4150 Technology Way, Carson City, NV 89706.

VIRTUAL INFORMATION

How To Participate

[Meeting Link:](#)

Microsoft Teams

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Meeting ID: 253 702 028 260

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NOTICE:

1. The agenda items may be taken out of order.
2. Two or more items may be combined; and

3. Items may be removed from the agenda or delayed at any time.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Public Comment: No action may be taken on a matter raised under public comment unless the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an action item. To provide public comment telephonically, dial [+1 775-321-6111](tel:+1775-321-6111). When prompted to provide the meeting ID, enter [576087513#](tel:576087513). Due to time considerations, comments will be limited to five (5) minutes per person. Members of the public utilizing the call-in (audio only) number may raise their hands by pressing *5. Persons making comments will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record, spell their last name, or provide Rory Fuller, r.fuller@health.nv.gov, with written comments.
3. For Possible Action: Discussion and possible action to approve the meeting minutes from July 15, 2025.
4. For Information Only: Discussion on the State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) deliverables.
5. For Possible Action: Review and approval of member applications for the Food for People Not Landfills Subcommittee.
6. For Information Only: Nevada Division of Social Services Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program waivers.
7. For Possible Action: Discussion and possible action on the creation of an Emergency Food Security Plan.
 - a. Discussion with partners from the Nevada Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, Division of Emergency Management (DEM)
8. For Possible Action: Discussion and possible action to approve or provide final edits to the 2025 Food for People Not Landfills Program (FFPNL) Annual Report and the 2025 Council on Food Security (CFS) Annual Report.
9. For Information Only: SFY25 Fund for Healthy Nevada (FHN) Annual Report.
10. For Possible Action: Discussion and possible action on study updates, make recommendations to and to create a subcommittee or subcommittees for [SB233](#) Home Feeds Nevada study and [AB405](#) food insecurity study.
11. For Possible Action: Discussion and possible action on CFS outstanding goals for 2025 tracked in the CFS Annual Report and resolve any outstanding goals.

12. For Possible Action: Discussion and possible action to establish CFS goals for 2026 to be tracked and reported out on in the CFS Annual Report.
 13. For Possible Action: For discussion and possible action to review and determine future agenda items.
 14. Public Comment: No action may be taken on a matter raised under public comment unless the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an action item. To provide public comment telephonically, dial [+1 775-321-6111](tel:+17753216111). When prompted to provide the meeting ID, enter [576087513#](tel:+17753216111). Due to time considerations, comments will be limited to five (5) minutes per person. Members of the public utilizing the call-in (audio only) number may raise their hands by pressing *5. Persons making comments will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record, spell their last name, or provide Rory Fuller, r.fuller@health.nv.gov, with written comments.
 15. Adjournment
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NOTICES OF THIS PUBLIC MEETING HAS BEEN POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

PHYSICAL POSTING LOCATION

- Division of Public and Behavioral Health: 4150 Technology Way Carson City, NV 89706
- Food Bank of Northern Nevada: 550 Italy Drive. Sparks, NV 89437
- Nevada WIC Office: 680 West Nye Lane Ste. 205 Carson City, NV 89703
- Three Square Food Bank: 4190 N. Pecos Rd. Las Vegas, NV 89115
- Helping Hands of Vegas Valley: 3640 N. 5th St. Suite 130 North Las Vegas, NV 89032

INTERNET POSTING

- The Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health website at [Nevada Council on Food Security Meeting Schedule for 2025](#)) and the Department of Administration's website at <https://www.oem.nv.gov/recovery/>. Due to statewide technical difficulties that began Aug. 24, 2025, this agenda cannot be posted to this public body's regular web page. [NRS 241.020](#) states that the minimum meeting posting requirement applies "unless the public body is unable to do so because of technical problems relating to the operation or maintenance of the Internet website of the public body." Though DHS division websites seem to be operational again, access to edit them through staging.nv.gov is not yet operational.

The agenda and meeting information was mailed to groups and individuals as requested. If you need supporting documents for this meeting, please notify Rory Fuller, Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Bureau of Child, Family and Community Wellness, at (775) 684-2203 or by email at r.fuller@health.nv.gov.

We are pleased to make reasonable accommodation for anyone living with a disability and wish to attend the meeting. If special arrangements are necessary, please notify Rory Fuller in writing by email (r.fuller@health.nv.gov), by mail (CFS, Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health, 4150 Technology Way, Suite 210, Carson City, NV 89706) or by calling (775) 684-2203 before the meeting date.

If at any time during the meeting a person intending to present on an agenda item cannot do so or is having technical difficulties, please reach out to Rory Fuller, at (775) 684-2203, or by email at r.fuller@health.nv.gov referencing the agenda item number, what time the difficulty started, and their intent to participate should the agenda item be moved to another time, date, or addressed otherwise.

Please be cautious and do not click on links in the chat area of the meeting unless you have verified that they are safe. If you ever have questions about a link in a document purporting to be from the Office of Food Security, please do not hesitate to contact r.fuller@health.nv.gov. Please refrain from commenting in the chat area of the meeting, unless requested to, because minutes are required to be taken of the meeting.

It is the goal of this body to afford the public a comment period in compliance with the minimum requirements of the Open Meeting Law prior to adjournment. This body provides at least two public comment periods. No action may be taken on a matter raised under public comment unless the item has been specifically included on the agenda as an item upon which action may be taken. The Chair retains discretion to only provide for the Open Meeting Law's minimum public comment and not call for additional item-specific public comment when it is deemed necessary by the Chair to the orderly conduct of the meeting.

This meeting is a public meeting, recorded and held in compliance with and pursuant to the Nevada Open Meeting Law, pursuant to NRS 241. By participating, you consent to recording of your participation in this meeting. All voting members should leave their cameras on for the duration of the meeting and refrain from entering any information into the chat function of the video platform. Please understand the use of obscenities or other behavior which disrupts the meeting to the extent that its orderly conduct is made impractical may result in the forfeiture of the opportunity to provide public comment or removal from the meeting.

Additionally, anyone who would like to be on the mailing list must submit a written request every six (6) months to the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health at the address listed below.

CFS, DPBH, Attn: Rory Fuller
4150 Technology Way, Suite 210
Carson City, Nevada 89706

If you would like to receive updates and agenda postings directly through email, please register for the Council on Food Security Listserv by sending an email to the following link:

CFS-Subscribe-request@listserv.state.nv.us

Agenda Item #3

Joe Lombardo
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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES



NEVADA DIVISION of PUBLIC
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Dena Schmidt
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Ihsan Azzam,
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*Chief Medical
Officer*

THE NEVADA COUNCIL ON FOOD SECURITY (CFS)

July 15, 2025

(Draft) Meeting Minutes

Location: Microsoft Teams, Las Vegas, and Carson City

Type of meeting: Regular meeting

Attendance:

Members present:

- Allison Herzik
- Amber Torres
- Kelly Cantrelle
- Dr. Dorian Stonebarger
- Dr. Julian Goicoechea
- Dr. Sabina Malik
- Jill Moe
- Lisa Swearingen
- Marcia Blake
- Tori Lawson-Boffelli

Members absent:

- Dr. Pamela Juniel
- Dr. Muzafar Makhdoomi
- Vickie Ives

Guests:

- Office of Food Security (Lori Taylor)
- Other attendees asked to sign in via meeting chat, attached as Exhibit A.

1. Call to Order:

Time the meeting was called to order: 1:04PM

Name of the presiding officer: Allison Herzik

2. Public Comment:

No public comment was made. The public comment period was closed.

3. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Meeting Minutes from March 11, 2025, April 15, 2025, and May 13, 2025

Chair Herzik asked the Council for possible action on the meeting minutes from March, April, and May. No changes were suggested by the Council.

Motion: Chair Herzik accepted a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Dr. Goicoechea first approved; Dr. Stonebarger seconded the motion to approve.

4. Information Only: 2025 State Legislative Session Updates

- Senate Bill (SB) 282 regarding a grocery initiative, with a large fiscal note of about \$10 million, was not approved
- No money directly related to the state's food banks.
- SB233 for Home Feeds Nevada was passed with \$800,000 appropriation. Per Dr. Goicoechea indicated that proposed language was needed and the health staff were embedded at the attorney general's office to assist in refining language and rolling out programs, including regulations that can take time.
- SB104 passed pertaining to the financial allocation for school gardens per Dr. Malik.

No other bills discussed as focus will be on those bills with an action item. Agenda Item 4 closed by the Chair.

5. Discussion and Possible Action on Legislatively Required Studies

- a) [SB233](#) Home Feeds Nevada study passed: Council on Food Security (CFS) to oversee the study due no later than December 1, 2026, with a report out on the future recommendations. NDA indicates the funds are limited to purchasing food and NDA is considering those who currently produce food for individuals throughout the state. Barriers include an inability to fund operating expenses (i.e. staff cost, storage, transportation, etc.), support transportation infrastructure (i.e. available trucks, renting trucks, temperature control, rural areas not near food banks, etc.), and the funds can only be allocated to the food banks who have a partnership with feeding America, which only two exist. One being in Northern Nevada and one in Southern Nevada.

- I. Opinions: Explore existing partnerships, how to overcome funding barriers, and the development of a subcommittee to further explore the actions in SB233. Volunteers were appointed during this meeting as Allison Herzik, Patricia Hoppe, Amber Torres, Marica Blake, Jeff Dunca or Three Square, Tori Lawson-Boffelli, Carlos Carillo, and Dr. Malik.

Motion: Dorian Stonebarger motioned to create a subcommittee to form the proposal required in SB233 from the 2025 session. Chair approved and Amber Torress seconded with no one opposing. Motion passed.

- b) [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 405](#) Food insecurity study passed: Requiring the Council to look at food security in the state. The Council is expected to prepare and submit the report to the Department of Agriculture and Legislative Council Bureau for the 84th session of legislature.

Chair Herzik opened the floor for discussion on thoughts or recommendations that are not already mentioned in the strategic plan or the SHIP.

Dr. Goicoechea discussed with Assembly Member Flanagan on this bill and relayed that the work is already being completed and believes another subcommittee or group is not necessary.

Dr. Malik pointed out that the report requests for identification of areas in the state where community gardens and farms can be developed to reduce levels of food insecurity. Both Northern and Southern Nevada have healthy food access maps that identify where the food insecure areas are, but they may not encompass the entirety of Nevada. She also mentioned that the Southern Nevada Food Council assessed how well the policies are written to address food insecurity but only referenced specific four questions.

Chair Herzik stated she will have a conversation with the bill sponsor to set some expectations around what work has been done.

Dr. Malik was asked to present to the Council on the efforts and information on what plans were made for the urban farms and community garden initiatives and present evaluation information.

Marcia Blake asked to consider the financial side of how the state contributes, it would show the issue of what is being spent per person with state dollars. A review of the Supplemental Nutrition Program (SNAP) benefits would show the big impact on costs though it sounds like a huge dollar amount that affects people's lives.

Chair Herzik called for Kelly Cantrelle or Lisa Swearingen to speak on the preliminary impact it would have on the programs at Division of Welfare and Supportive Services. Kelly Cantrelle informed that they are currently under an ABAWD (Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents) waiver and does not expire until January 31, 2026. There's an estimated number of 133,000 individuals that will be affected by the new change in age requirements.

Motion: Chair Herzik accepted a motion to have a special session set for September 9th to discuss requirements of Assembly Bill 405, urban fireman community gardens, evaluations of existing laws via Southern and Northern Nevada food councils, tie in emergency food plan and talk with bill sponsor. Tori Lawson-Boffelli first approved the motion; Dr. Malik seconded the motion.

6. Information Only: State Emergency Food Plan

Chair Herzik requested a DPBH presentation on the States Emergency Food Plan. Sarah informed the Council, Nevada Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEM) would prefer to present in October 2025.

7. Information Only: Maternal Child Health (MCH) Policy Innovation Program Partnership Opportunity – Sarah Rogers, Health Program Manager III

MCH applied for and received a maternal and child health Policy Innovation Program Award (PIP). Two areas of focus were food security efforts and housing efforts, encompassing all the MCH population. Community based organization position is still open to partners with MCH and will receive a \$10,000 award. SNAP, Medicaid, SNAP-Education, MCH, Office of Food Security (OFS), and Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) all

have provided a representative but need a housing representative. The estimated due date to identify a CBO is August 1st.

8. Discussion and possible action on Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 232.4969 Food for People Not Landfills Program (FFPNL) – Lori Taylor, Office of Food Security

The OFS explained FFPNL Annual report is due to Legislative Council Bureau January 31st of each year and the OFS provides administrative support to the Councils report. Additional feedback on the report can be provided in subsequent meetings up until October 2025 to ensure timelines are met for reporting. FFPNL remains an unfunded mandate and is still seeking additional funding opportunities. The subcommittee is still being established and will discuss the seal.

Chair Herzik confirmed with the OFS quarterly meetings are sufficient.

Motion: No action needed or brought forward.

9. Update on OFS Fund for Healthy Nevada for SFY26-SFY27, SFY24 Home Feeds Nevada Annual Report, and 2025 CFS Annual Report – Lori Taylor, Office of Food Security

CFS Annual Report: The OFS explained FFPNL Annual report is due to legislation January 31st of each year and OFS provides administrative support to the Councils report. Report will contain Council's accomplishments, goals, future goals or anything relevant. Additional feedback on the report can be provided in subsequent meetings up until October 2025 to ensure timelines are met for reporting.

NDA Home Feeds Nevada Annual Report: will attend the October meeting to provide an Annual Report for the Council to review.

FHN Funds for SFY26-SFY27: Funding allocated to 9 of the 11 SFY24-SFY25 partners due to the application criteria not being met. Additional details can be found at the [Grants Management Advisory Committee \(GMAC\)](#) meeting minutes/attachments for April 2025.

Chair Herzik asked for additional information on funds for FHN. DPBH reports funds for SFY26-SFY27 were initially intended to increase but finalized with a 6% reduction. Funding is similar to the years prior with a small reduction due to funding partners reducing.

Motion: No action needed or brought forward. DPBH confirmed.

10. Discussion and Possible Action on State Health Improvement Plan, Including 2025 Food Security Conference

Chair Herzik asked DPBH for clarification on any specific discussions or goals that have not been met.

Sarah Rogers elaborated on the 2026 Food Security Conference workgroup collaborating with the University of Nevada, Reno to partner in hosting the conference and accepting sponsors.

The OFS reports they hold a monthly conference workgroup for the Council as part of the SHIP. The Department of Support Services (DWSS) funding was reduced and the interlocal agreement with the University of Reno (UNR) is pending.

Dr. Stonebarger verified with Sarah Rogers if there were to be any repercussions and Sarah Rogers clarified that there would be no repercussions.

Motion: No action needed or brought forward. DPBH confirmed.

11. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding CFS Goals

Amber Torres offered help from the Food Bank of Northern Nevada since they have data that is relevant to the CFS goals and AB405. The presentation of data will be discussed in September along with Three Square.

Chair Herzik inquired about any updates with the Office of Analytics (OoA) presentation and was informed by Sarah that there were no updates but will see if OoA can provide a presentation to the Council if still of interest. Chair Herzik confirmed there would be interest for a presentation at the beginning of 2026. Goal #1 was to establish an Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada (ITCN) meeting that has not been scheduled, Dr. Malik wanted to

communicate to ITCN that CFS is an available resource since they have allocated tribal funds. A collaboration between the DPBH liaison and Tribal liaison would need to be arranged as they meet quarterly should the Council feel the need to present to the chairman. Goal #2 of reviewing federal standards and policies is set to be discussed in the September meeting. Goal #3 will attempt at identifying food insecurity statistics and topics in the Annual Report which is anticipated to be discussed in the Strategic Plan from the Food for People, Not for Landfills report. Sarah Rogers explained that the Council's concerns have been focused on accurately reporting and distinguishing meals served versus pounds served as they were hard to properly distinguish since COVID-19. Agencies have provided conflicting data, but the Council expressed great interest in reconfiguring a better streamlining process during September's meeting.

Motion: No action needed or brought forward.

12. Public Comment:

Second Public Comment Period:

Jenny Yeagar with Food Bank of Northern Nevada (FBNN) looks forward to September and further in-depth discussion on Assembly Bill 405. She provided topic suggestions (i.e. SNAP, DWSS, child nutrition meals, senior hunger, WIC, and Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservation [FDPIR]).

Public comment was closed.

13. Adjournment:

Chair Herzik motioned to adjourn. Dr. Dorian Stonebarger first approved the motion, seconded by Marcia Blake. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:41 PM.

Next Meeting:

Special Session Meeting:

Date: September 9, 2025

Time: 1:00 PM

Location: Microsoft Teams

Attachments:

Meeting agenda and packet (posted online and at physical locations in accordance with Open Meeting Law).

*Minutes prepared by Anais Infante using the following reference:

Robert, H. (2020). *Robert's rules of order: Newly revised (12th ed.)*. Da Capo Press.
Nevada Revised Statutes. *Open Meeting Law (NRS 241)*.

DRAFT

THE NEVADA COUNCIL ON FOOD SECURITY (CFS) SPECIAL SESSION

Date: July 15, 2025

Location: In Person and Virtual via Microsoft Teams

Exhibit A: Others present that signed in via meeting chat.

Alexis Hogan, DPBH

Amber Hise, CDPHP

Carlos Carillo, Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada

Darlene Douthitt, DPBH

Dillon Winkleman, DPBH

Emily Snachez, DPBHE

Jeff Duncan, Three Square

Johnathon Welch, DPBH

Linda Anderson, Nevada Public Health Foundation

Nishat Gould, Generous Brands

Rory Fuller, DPBH

Sabrina Schnur, Carwright Nevada Government Affairs

Sara Ramirez, Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada

Sarah Rogers, DPBH

Taliman Afroz, DPBH

Taylor Moseley, DPBH

Agenda Item #4

Priority Population(s): Food insecure individuals in Nevada statewide with a focus on school-aged children, low socioeconomic status people and seniors.			
Lead Agency: Office of Food Security (OFS) and Council on Food security (CFS)		Supporting Partners: Sponsors, OFS, CFS, Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), school stakeholders (Department of Education, school districts, etc.), and NDA Division of Food and Nutrition.	
Strategies	Action Steps and Responsible Parties (optional)	Timeline	Target Results
1.4.1 Support in the identification of partnerships to increase WIC and SNAP participation and support rural program efforts for the Child and Adult Care Food Program and Summer Food Service Program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The OFS and/or CFS will collaborate with WIC, SNAP, DWSS, and academic partners to identify a representative who is willing to present at CFS about WIC, SNAP, and existing partnerships statewide. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation to include barriers preventing partners from accepting supplemental nutritional assistance applications, which will be tracked via CFS Annual Reports. CFS to collaborate with NDA to Identify at minimum three (3) rural representatives for the Child and Adult Care Food Program and/or Summer Food Service Program to present during the CFS annually. This can include, but not limited to NDA program staff. Allow representative(s) from WIC, SNAP, the NDA Child and Adult Care Food Program, and Summer Food Service Program to present at both the Southern and Northern Nevada Food Security Fair/Conference. CFS and OFS to collaborate with the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) Division of Food and Nutrition and school stakeholders (food distribution on Indian Reservations, school lunch and breakfast recipients, etc.) to increase awareness around NDA administered 	<p>Four (4) presentations to the CFS annually by 12/31.</p> <p>Identification of partners for CFS presentation by 04/30 annually.</p> <p>Identification of partners by 03/31/2025 for Northern Nevada Fair/Conference.</p> <p>One (1) presentation at the Northern Nevada Fair/Conference by 12/31/25.</p> <p>Identification of partners by 03/31/2027 for the Southern Nevada Fair/Conference.</p> <p>One (1) presentation at the Southern Nevada Fair/Conference by</p>	<p>Increase participation in programs designed to reduce food insecurity.</p> <p>Sixteen (16) presentations to the CFS by 2027.</p>

Priority: Social Determinants of Health			
Focus Area: Food Security			
Goal 1: Reduce food insecurity and improve Nevada's overall food security ecosystem to help eliminate the existing hunger gap.			
SMART Objective 1.1: Improve collaboration, communication, coordination, and information and data-sharing among food ecosystem partners by developing and delivering a well-designed presentation to the Nevada legislature on food insecurity and food needs in Nevada. Collaborating with existing organizations like DPBH and CFS, as well as other relevant food ecosystem partners, to increase the effectiveness of these presentations. Host two (2) Food Security fairs/conferences in Southern and Northern Nevada, bringing together local food ecosystem partners, community members, and policy makers, to engage through various keynote speakers and discussions. Also, the provision of opportunities to interact with local vendors, farmers, and community organizations to learn about local foods and resources is essential.			
Priority Population(s): Food insecure individuals in Nevada statewide with a focus on school-aged children, low socioeconomic status people and seniors.			
Lead Agency: Office of Food Security (OFS) and Council on Food security (CFS)		Supporting Partners: DHHS Nutrition Unit, NV Department of Agriculture (NDA), Food Banks, Food Pantries, Council on Food Security (CFS), Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and sponsors.	
Strategies	Action Steps and Responsible Parties (optional)	Timeline	Target Results
1.1.1 Present one (1) presentation to the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Health and Human Services (HHS) each Biennium.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A designated CFS council member will connect with the Joint Interim Standing Committee LCB support staff on HHS (JISCHHS) and request for a member of the CFS to present annually to the committee. CFS to identify a topic(s) to present to the Joint Interim Standing Committee each biennium, including recommendations that align with Objective 1.2 and 1.2.3 strategy. CFS to identify a member to present to JISCHHS who will prepare and present a presentation, follow up on Committee questions, and provide ongoing presentations as necessary and/or requested by JISCHHS and/or CFS. <p><i>All Interim/LCB outreach to occur through the Chair or from a Council member.</i></p>	<p>LCB to be initially contacted by 05/31/2024.</p> <p>LCB contacted again in 2026 by 05/31/2026.</p> <p>CFS identifies a member to present by 02/29</p> <p>A minimum of one (1) annual presentation by 12/31</p> <p>Efforts to continue through 12/31/2027.</p>	CFS completed two (2) presentations to JISCHHS by 2027.

<p>1.1.2 Organize and host two (2) Food Security Fairs/Conferences: one, (1) in Southern Nevada and one (1) in Northern Nevada. Fairs/Conferences to include stakeholders/partners and service providers/vendors as identified by the food security partners, CFS, and the workgroup.</p>	<p>The Leader and Event Planning Lead will be the OFS in collaboration with CFS to arrange the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish an ongoing workgroup to determine logistics of the Fairs/Conferences. • A Survey with Food Security stakeholders/partners and service providers to determine the target audience, presenters (WIC, Child Welfare, Seniors, SNAP, food banks and pantries, transportation service, NDA, early education, mobile grocery shopping, etc.), location, remote option, vendors, date, and time. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Target Audience for the fair/conference at minimum must include an invitation to the following programs: WIC, SNAP, Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), Summer Food Service Program, and food service vendors across the spectrum of food services, including at least one (1) agency with a fleet. • Identify potential source(s) of funding and/or sponsorship. • Establish a Venue/Location, Food, and Fairs/Conferences Schedule/Agenda. • Determine if guidelines are necessary. • Invitations to both conferences are to include legislative partners as identified by the CFS. <p>Communication Lead will be OFS support staff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emailing members, reminders, invites, and RSVPs. <p>Day-Of-Support Lead will be OFS support staff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note-Taking, Tech Support, Printing, Food Logistics, Greeter, Post Refection Survey, etc. 	<p>Workgroup Established by 02/29/2024.</p> <p>Survey to Partners by 05/31/2024.</p> <p>Funding Source and sponsors Identified by 12/31/2024.</p> <p>Efforts and presentations to be documented in the CFS Annual report by 01/31</p> <p>Schedule/Agenda for the Fairs/Conferences to be completed 3 months before Fair/Conference Date.</p> <p>Northern Nevada Fair/Conference held, and Post Reflection Surveys completed by 12/31/2025.</p> <p>Southern Nevada Fair/Conference held, and Post Reflection Surveys completed by 12/31/2027.</p>	<p>One (1) Fair/Conference in Southern Nevada and one (1) Fair/Conference in Northern Nevada with a CFS Annual Report that includes a provider and vendor list, conference presentation summaries, and a contact list to assist in the elimination of the hunger gap in Nevada.</p>
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Resources: <https://www.roomtoread.org/media/cqglk30h/step-by-step-guide-to-holding-a-summit.pdf>, Southern Nevada Food Council, Northern Nevada Food Council, Washoe County Food Policy Council, Nevada Farm Bureau, Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA), Mental Health Stakeholders, Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTC), Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT), Southwest Regional Food Business Center Project, and Food Service partners identified in the 2022 survey for the 2023 Food Security Strategic Plan.

Goal Indicators:

- Food insecurity rate
- Number of clients served by food security service providers
- Percent of population eligible for SNAP who participate

Priority: Social Determinants of Health

Focus Area: Food Security

Goal 1: Reduce food insecurity and improve the overall food security ecosystem in Nevada to help eliminate the existing hunger gap.

SMART Objective 1.2: Partner with local farmers, food vendors, tribal communities, and other community organizations to support initiatives aimed at increasing mobile access (food trucks, community gardens, mobile markets, etc.) to healthy foods throughout the State of Nevada, specifically the underserved and remote areas (Churchill County, Elko, Esmeralda County, Eureka, Humboldt, Lander, Lincoln, Mineral, Nye, Pershing, Lyon, Storey, Douglas, and White Pine).

Priority Population(s): Food insecure individuals in Nevada statewide with a focus on school-aged children, low socioeconomic status people and seniors.

Lead Agency: Office of Food Security (OFS) and Council on Food security (CFS)

Supporting Partners: CFS, OFS, sponsors, stakeholders/partners from Nevada tribal nations, housing, and the transportation sector. Supporting partners will also include NDA, The Division of Plant Health and Compliance works and Division of Food and Nutrition and local farmers.

Strategies	Action Steps and Responsible Parties (optional)	Timeline	Target Results
1.2.1 Recommend a revision of Nevada Revised Statute (NRS 232) to add up to Three (3) seats on the CFS for individuals who have lived experience with Food insecurity and/or homelessness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFS to make recommendations to Nevada's Legislature Interim Health and Human Service Committee through an interim HHS presentation. • CFS to make recommendations to the Director of the Health Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) through the CFS Annual Reports that are submitted to the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB). • Seats to be specific to individuals from the housing and transportation section(s) and include at least 	<p>A presentation completed by 10/31/2024.</p> <p>Recommendation to DHHS Director by 01/31/2025</p> <p>CFS 2024 Annual Report with recommendations completed by 01/31/25</p>	Three (3) additional seats for the CFS by 2027.

	two (2) members from Nevada's tribal communities (North/South).		
1.2.2 Allow representative(s) from the housing, transportation sector, and tribal communities to present during the Food Security Fairs/Conferences and CFS.	<p>CFS to identify partners who can present at the CFS annually and the Fairs/Conferences that will improve awareness on policy and programs around the housing, transportation sector, and tribal communities to mitigate drivers of food insecurity.</p> <p><i>All Interim/LCB outreach to occur through the Chair or from a Council member.</i></p>	<p>One (1) annual presentation to CFS by 12/31.</p> <p>One (1) presentation at each fair/conference (2025 & 2027)</p> <p>Efforts and presentation to be documented in the CFS Annual Report each year.</p> <p>Efforts to continue through 12/31/2027.</p>	<p>By 2027 completed a minimum of four (4) presentations.</p> <p>CFS Annual Reports to include summary of presentations.</p>
1.2.3 Meet at minimum of one (1) time per biennium with the Legislature Interim Health and Human Services Committee	<p>CFS will brief the NV Legislature Interim Health and Human Service Committee on food security issues and identify programs/policies that will increase food security; and make presentations regularly to county/city boards to raise awareness about need and programs.</p> <p><i>All Interim/LCB outreach to occur through the Chair or from a Council member.</i></p>	<p>One (1) presentation by CFS to the Legislature Interim Health and Human Services Committee in 2025 and again in 2027</p> <p>Efforts to continue through 12/31/2027.</p>	<p>By 2027 completed a minimum of two (2) presentations.</p> <p>CFS Annual Reports to include summary of presentations.</p>
Resources: CFS, OFS, NDA, Southern Nevada Council on Food Security, and Northern Nevada Council on Food Security.			

Priority: Social Determinants of Health			
Focus Area: Food Security			
Goal 1: Reduce food insecurity and improve the overall food security ecosystem in Nevada to help eliminate the existing hunger gap.			
SMART Objective 1.3: Support new strategic partnerships and increase awareness among the food security ecosystem regarding service providers and funding opportunities that can assist with distributing food to people, particularly individuals at increased/higher risk for food insecurity. The Office of Food Security (OFS) and the Council on Food Security (CFS) will leverage a statewide Food Security Fair/Conference and other existing marketing to assist with awareness.			
Priority Population(s): Food insecure individuals in Nevada statewide with a focus on school-aged children, low socioeconomic status people and seniors.			
Lead Agency: Office of Food Security (OFS) and Council on Food security (CFS)		Supporting Partners: OFS, CFS, sponsors, Food Banks, Food Pantries, NDA Division of Food and Nutrition, Food Security Service Providers, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS).	
Strategies	Action Steps and Responsible Parties (optional)	Timeline	Target Results
1.3.1 Support the state lead in needs related to the federal SNAP EBT Modernization Technical Assistance Center grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OFS and/or CFS to coordinator SNAP EBT Stakeholders/partners to present at the CFS annually. OFS and/or CFS to provide administrative support with identified partners to present at the CFS each year. Allow representative(s) from SNAP to present at both the Southern and Northern Nevada Food Security Fair/Conference on SNAP EBT Modernization and other funding opportunities that can assist with distributing food to people. 	<p>One (1) presentation to CFS annually by 12/31.</p> <p>One (1) SNAP presentation at the Northern Nevada Fair/Conference by 12/31/25.</p> <p>One (1) SNAP presentation at the Southern Nevada Fair/Conference by 12/31/27.</p> <p>Efforts and presentation to be documented in the CFS Annual Report</p>	Increase funding awareness among the Food Security ecosystem regarding the SNAP EBT Modernization and other grant funding.

		each year.	
		Efforts to continue through 12/31/2027.	
1.3.2 Support a minimum of two (2) service providers in attending In-Person to both Southern and Northern Nevada Food Security Fair/Conference.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The workgroup established in 1.1.1 Strategy will work in collaboration with the CFS and OFS to assist in identifying a minimum of two (2) service providers to attend each Food Security Fair/Conference. OFS will work in collaboration with the workgroup and CFS to identify sponsors to support the attendance of a minimum of two (2) service providers who will attend both the Southern and the Northern Nevada In-Person Food Security Fairs/Conference. Transportation Service providers shall include but not limited to services that bring the food to the people and the people to the food with equity among the rural and urban communities. 	<p>Identification of partners by 03/31/2025 for Northern Nevada Fair/Conference.</p> <p>Identification of partners by 03/31/2027 for the Southern Nevada Fair/Conference.</p> <p>Northern Nevada Fair/Conference Attendance by 12/31/2025.</p> <p>Southern Nevada Fair/Conference Attendance by 12/31/2027.</p>	<p>Support new strategic partnerships that can assist with transportation needs and efforts to distribute food to people.</p>
Resources: https://www.fns.usda.gov/grant/snap-ebt-modernization-technical-assistance-center , Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS), the Grant Lab, the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA), and Nevada Food Banks.			

Priority: Social Determinants of Health

Focus Area: Food Security

Goal 1: Reduce food insecurity and improve the overall food security ecosystem in Nevada to help eliminate the existing hunger gap.

SMART Objective 1.4: Utilize existing outreach channels and participate in marketing opportunities to inform eligible individuals and eligible households about WIC and SNAP benefits, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, the Summer Food Service Program, and any other additional summer food, school lunch, and breakfast programs. Increase awareness of existing campaigns that emphasize the benefits, requirements, and application processes for sponsors.

	<p>programs aimed to improve food Security (Child and Adult Care Food Program, Food Distribution on Indian Reservations, School Lunch and Breakfast Programs, Summer Food Programs, etc.).</p>	<p>12/31/27.</p> <p>All efforts and presentation summaries are to be included in the CFS Annual Report.</p> <p>Efforts to continue through 12/31/2027.</p>	
<p>Resources: Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS), Southern Nevada Council on Food Security, Northern Nevada Council on Food Security, State of Nevada's Council on Food Security, Division of Public Behavioral Health-The Office of Food Security, Nevada Department of Agriculture, Nevada Department of Education, and Statewide Food Banks.</p>			

Agenda Item #5

Joe Lombardo
Governor

Richard Whitley,
MS
Director



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES



NEVADA DIVISION of PUBLIC
and BEHAVIORAL HEALTH



Dena Schmidt
Administrator

Ihsan Azzam,
Ph.D., M.D.,
*Chief Medical
Officer*

DATE: OCTOBER 06, 2025

RE: FOOD FOR PEOPLE NOT FOR LANDFILLS (FFPNL) SUBCOMMITTEE SEEKING A MEMBER OR AGENCY

Per Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) [232.4969](#) the Department of Human Services (DHS) Director's Office has entrusted the Council on Food Security to implement the Food for People Not Landfill (FFPNL) program via creation of a FFPNL subcommittee.

FFPNL is seeking representatives to fill the below vacant seats. Additional agency inquiries to join the subcommittee will be considered.

- *North Gaming Industry*
- *South gaming industry*
- *Retail or Grocery*
- *Representative from an organization that does farmers market buy back and/or food rescue from agricultural procedures*
- *Food Service*

If you are interested in being considered for possible appointment, please submit a letter of interest and a resume by Wednesday December 31, 2025, to Anais Infante, phone (775) 684-2202, email: infante@health.nv.gov or Rory Fuller, phone (775) 684-2203, email: r.fuller@health.nv.gov or to mailing address: 4150 Technology Way Suit 210, Carson City, Nevada 89703, Attn: Rory Fuller. Materials submitted will be forwarded to the FFPNL subcommittee for approval at the preceding subcommittee meeting. New agency applications will be presented to an considered by FFPNL then the Council on Food Security for final consideration at the preceding council/subcommittee meetings. If approved, the candidate or agency will be provided with additional information by the Office of Food Security.

Agenda Item #7



Older Adults & Disasters

Nevada Office of Emergency Management / Homeland Security

Helping people before, during, and after emergencies.



Ready 30

Heather Lafferty

Chief Resilience Officer

Founder Nevada AFN Disaster Coalition

*Chair of the Nevada Hazard Mitigation
Working Group*

Grassroot Scholar in Disability Justice



Rural and Frontier States are part of the tide

NEVADA OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT | HOMELAND SECURITY

HELPING PEOPLE BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER EMERGENCIES

“There is no power for change
greater than a community
discovering what it cares
about.”

Margaret J. Wheatley



What if it was designed like everyone mattered?



NV OEM Older Adults & Disasters



- 1 NV OEM MISSION
- 2 WHAT KEEPS US UP AT NIGHT
- 3 DEFINING ACCESS & FUNCTIONAL NEED
- 4 DISASTER SITUATIONAL AWARENESS
- 5 MASS CARE and Feeding
- 6 READY 30 DAYS

NV OEM MISSION



Purpose: Helping people before, during, and after disasters.

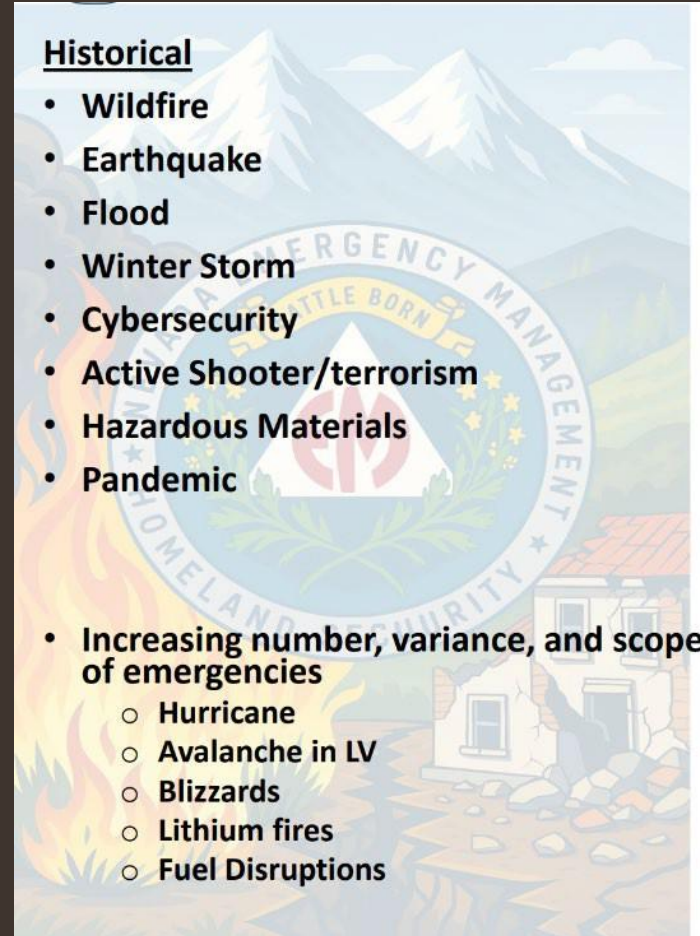
Mission: Helping Nevada prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies and disasters by building a more resilient Nevada through partnerships and collaborations.

WHAT KEEPS US UP AT NIGHT



Historical

- Wildfire
 - Earthquake
 - Flood
 - Winter Storm
 - Cybersecurity
 - Active Shooter/terrorism
 - Hazardous Materials
 - Pandemic
-
- Increasing number, variance, and scope of emergencies
 - Hurricane
 - Avalanche in LV
 - Blizzards
 - Lithium fires
 - Fuel Disruptions



WHAT KEEPS US UP AT NIGHT (Continued)



Future

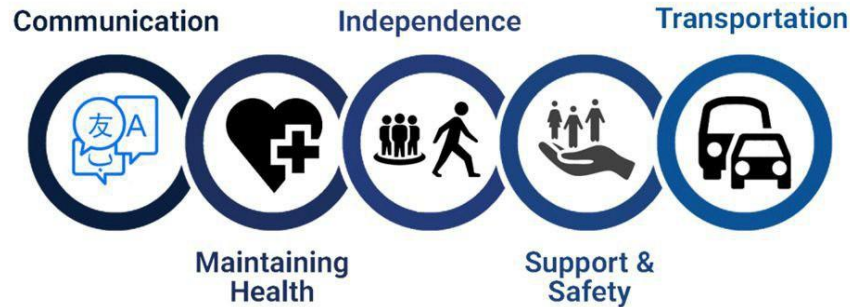
- Critical infrastructure loss
 - Power
 - Fuel
 - Commo
 - Logistics
 - Water
- Nation state actions
- Regional catastrophic EQ
- Tahoe Basin fire
- Extreme weather events



Defining Access and Functional Needs

Nevada Office of Emergency Management identifies its Priority Populations in a disaster as people with disabilities and Access and Functional Needs (AFN). These are individuals who may have additional needs before, during and after an emergency in functional areas, including but not limited to communication, maintaining health, maintaining independence, safety, and transportation (CMIST).

A memory tool for a function-based framework to integrate the needs of the Whole Community and provide an inclusive approach to emergency preparedness, response, and recovery planning.



- Communication
- Maintaining Health
- Independence
- Support, Safety, and Self-Determination
- Transportation

DISASTER SITUATIONAL AWARENESS



14 POINTS OF INEQUITY IN THE DISASTER CYCLE



Inclusive planning

Inclusion in emergency planning that directly affects people with access and functional needs



Alerts and warnings

Pre-disaster alerts, warnings, and notifications

Information

Culturally informed actionable information and instructions posted once a disaster has occurred



Evacuation/transportation

Evacuation and accessible transportation



Emergency contact/S&R

Emergency contact before the disaster, search, and rescue

Sheltering

Sheltering in the most integrated, accessible setting (emergency, intermediate, and long-term)

Communication aids and assistive services

ASL interpreters, screen readers, 508-compliant web-based content

Recovery/mitigation

Disaster recovery and mitigation investments for people and community facilities

Medical care/health

Acute medical care, mental health services, health maintenance, and access to prescriptions support



Power dependency

Power dependency (dialysis, oxygen, and prosthetic devices), personal care services, and service animals



Special diets/drinking water

Dietary/culturally appropriate food needs, and potable water access

Register for disaster services

Sign up for disaster services, including FEMA and state/local/tribal/territorial emergency programs



Housing

Temporary and permanent accessible housing

Pre-disaster home/work/school life

Return to pre-disaster home, school, work, and community life

ALL HANDS PREPARED

THE HOW TOs OF THE MUST DOs

A Person Centered, Accessible Approach to Disasters

Coordinating way our through Big Daddy Disasters

Me at the State



You in the Local Jurisdiction



Facts on the Ground

The Arrival: October 11th



- Western NC on private wells bottle water notice.
- 16 shelters open with total of 622 occupants and 86 pets.
- 372,000 meals served
- Feeding plan under development
- 6 hay and bagged feed distribution centers .



- Power Outages
- 12 fuel depo locations for 1st responders



- 645 Roads remain closed (3 interstates, 44 US roads, 61 NC roads, and 546 secondary roads)
- Landslides ongoing and being monitored



- Future Ops planning ongoing to restore operations to both water and wastewater stations.
- 60 potable water systems on system wide boil water notice.

Mass Care Annex



Feeding, Community Care Sites, Ad-Hoc, Sheltering, Points of Distribution



Why Strategic Partnerships Matter in Mass Care Planning

- Mass care is a multi-agency responsibility requiring coordination between emergency management, food systems, and human services.
- Effective partnerships reduce duplication, fill service gaps, and ensure timely, equitable response.
- Frameworks like the NRF and Disaster Human Services Capabilities Framework reinforce collective action.



Whole Community Inclusion – AFN and Rural Nevadans

- Rural/frontier areas face geographic and logistical barriers: distance, infrastructure, and connectivity.
- People with Access and Functional Needs (AFN) may need adaptive communication, mobility, and medical support.
- Use tools like Person Centered Emergency Preparedness (P-CEP) to tailor preparedness to individual support needs.



Building the Mass Care Annex Together

- Identify underserved populations and infrastructure gaps across Nevada.
- Form a cross-sector Mass Care Planning Workgroup, including OFS representation.
- Co-create solutions through inclusive engagement and shared decision-making.
- Collaborate with trusted local messengers and community-based partners
- Engage public, private, tribal, and nonprofit sectors in feeding operations.



Resilience

People First. Community Driven. Adapt Quickly.



Ready 30
days

★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Thank You.



Heather Lafferty



72252964128



heatherlafferty@dem.nv.gov



www.dem.nv.gov



@NvEmergencyMgmt



Agenda Item #8

FOOD FOR PEOPLE NOT FOR LANDFILLS

SFY25 Annual Report

January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025



State of Nevada

Department of Human Services (DHS)

Division of Behavioral Health Department of Human Services (DPBH)

Office of Food Security (OFS)

Joe Lombardo
Governor of the State of Nevada

Richard Whitley, MS
Director, DHS

Dena Schmidt
Administrator, DPBH

Ihsan Azzam, PhD, MD
Chief Medical Officer, DPB

FOOD WASTE DATA OVERVIEW

The Council on Food Security (CFS), which receives support from OFS, formed a FFPNL Subcommittee in 2020 to promote food waste initiatives and to fulfill the objectives and goals specified in NRS [232.4969](#).³ The subcommittee was dissolved in 2022 due to a lack of funding but reconvened in 2025 with assistance from the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) AmeriCorps Service Members, OFS, and CFS. The primary focus is reducing food waste and collaborating with various organizations and programs across Nevada to achieve the deliverables (Table 1) outlined in the NRS.

Table 1. FFPNL Background

2019-2025 FFPNL Background	
2019	Nevada took action to increase the amount of food diverted from landfills to increase food security by developing Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 232.4969 (unfunded mandate) .
2020-2021	Food for People Not Landfills (FFPNL) was written into legislation to increase food security by decreasing food waste and redirecting excess consumable food. The Council on Food Security (CFS) with the administrative support of the Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) established an FFPNL Subcommittee. The activities of this subcommittee focused on developing a donor toolkit, program seal, and criteria for partner participation.
2022	The Subcommittee dissolved due to funding.
2023	DPBH applied for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) State Physical Activity and Nutrition (SPAN) grant and the Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) grant. Unfortunately, Nevada's applications were not selected. The Office of Food Security (OFS) within DPBH received a financial quote from the local marketing firm KPS3 to address activities identified in the NRS 232.4969 . These activities included a multi-channel campaign to promote efforts through digital, media, and public relations. DPBH continued efforts to secure funding.
2024	OFS partnered with the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) to host three (3) part-time AmeriCorps members (1200 hours for up to a year), which two were assigned to food security issues including food waste efforts. The AmeriCorps member connected with agencies recommended by CFS to reappoint FFPNL subcommittee members (Table 2). DPBH continued efforts in securing funding to support the program.
2025	OFS and AmeriCorps members helped to reestablish efforts in identifying goals and objectives for the FFPNL program, including diversion of food from landfills, increasing food security, creating/establishing an official seal, and identifying and finalizing the subcommittee member list. FFPNL subcommittee meetings occurred July 1, 2025, and September 30, 2025.

Harvard defines food waste as “food that is fit for consumption but consciously discarded at the retail or consumption phases”.⁴ A concerning global trend is the volume of food waste generated, which surpasses the number of people experiencing hunger and food insecurity. For instance, it is estimated that 673 million people are suffering from hunger, 2.3 billion are classified as food insecure, and 2.6 billion cannot afford a nutritious meal.⁵ To exacerbate the issue, it is

estimated that 1.05 billion tons of food were wasted in 2022, with the average person discarding 174 pounds of food each year.⁶ These statistics are alarming due to the potential health repercussions, which may include nutrient deficiencies, weakened immunity, hypertension, diabetes, arthritis, and asthma.⁷⁻⁹

In the United States, approximately 13.5% (18 million) of households are classified as food insecure, with Nevada experiencing slightly higher rates at 15% (481,460).¹⁰⁻¹¹ According to Feeding America, 38% of food produced in the United States is either uneaten or unsold.¹² Additionally, it is estimated that the United States has 73.9 million tons of surplus food of which 85% is disposed of in waste sites such as landfills, sewers, or not ever harvested.¹³ Another important aspect to consider is the environmental impact. It is noteworthy that the cultivation of surplus food requires over 16 trillion gallons of water and 140 million acres of land.¹³ In an effort to address this issue, the United States has established a target to reduce food loss and waste by 50% by the year 2030.¹⁴ Unfortunately, Nevada ranks 4th in terms of the highest levels of food waste,¹⁵ which may be attributed to the significant number of casinos in the state. Nevertheless, various organizations, including food banks, pantries, homeless shelters, casinos, restaurants, and other charitable entities, are actively working to find solutions to minimize food waste across the state.

- According to the SFY25 Hunger Fund survey, five (5) of the eleven (11) sub-awardees collaborated with various organizations to tackle food waste. Collaborations consisted of gleaning programs, local farms, grocery stores, corporate entities, farmers markets, and local senior centers. The primary challenge identified in reducing food waste in Nevada was transportation, followed by issues related to funding, education, and supply chain management.

2025 FFPNL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Two (2) meetings (July and October 2025) were held to reengage discussions about food waste and FFPNL. The Council on Food Security (CFS) provided agency recommendations for participation in the FFPNL subcommittee (Table 2) who would

offer expert recommendations on strategies for minimizing food waste in Nevada. The FFPNL subcommittee meeting information is located at the [CFS website](#). Additionally, OFS partnered with the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) to host three (3) AmeriCorps members, for a one-year term. Two (2) of the members served between 2024-2025 addressing food security in Nevada and helping to reestablish the subcommittee. The Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) submitted an application to NACDD and was selected for an additional year to host. However, the NACDD AmeriCorps Program was unexpectedly dissolved due to federal funding. The FFPNL agenda is set for October 2025 to vote on a FFPNL program seal, review deliverables, and review FFPNL initiatives.

Table 2. FFPNL Subcommittee CFS Recommended Agencies

FFPNL Subcommittee CFS Recommended Agencies
United States of Department of Agriculture (USDA) or Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA)
Three Square
University of Nevada, Reno Extension Program
Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada, includes food rescue
Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada
Food Bank of Northern Nevada, includes food rescue
Northern Nevada Gaming Industry
Southern Nevada 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
A representative from a community partner involved in food rescue

FFPNL FUTURE FOCUS for 2026

The FFPNL Program remains an unfunded legislative mandate. The Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) continues to engage in discussions regarding the needs of the program, including funding opportunities. The FFPNL subcommittee will continue discussions aimed at achieving the following:

- Establishment of program goals.
- Establish meeting guidelines and logistics.

- Development of a financial plan to identify and apply for funding opportunities.
- Establishment of program initiatives and priorities.
- Development of a sustainability plan.
- Determine data that will be used to show the impact of FFPNL on food security in Nevada.
- Establish the eligibility criteria for a food donor to participate in the Program.
- Gather existing Nevada food waste data.
- Develop an ongoing list of food waste partners throughout Nevada.
- Finalization of the program seal.
- Develop a process to allow a food donor who participates in the FFPNL program to display or otherwise use the official seal of the program.
- Identify and finalize an FFPNL toolkit.

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Nevada Council on Food Security (CFS) SFY25 Annual Report

January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025



State of Nevada
Department of Human Services (DHS)
Division of Behavioral Health Department of Human Services (DPBH)
Office of Food Security (OFS)

Joe Lombardo
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Director, DHS

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Administrator, DPBH

Ihsan Azzam, PhD, MD
Chief Medical Officer, DPB

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Nevada's Council on Food Security (CFS) was established in 2014 through an executive order and subsequently codified into state law during the 80th Legislative Session in 2019 as Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) [232.4968](#).¹ The primary objective of CFS is to combat hunger among Nevadans, particularly children and older adults, who face a heightened risk of food insecurity. The tasks associated with this objective include, but are not limited to, evaluating legislation and protocols that influence food policy infrastructure. The Council also convenes special session meetings and holds regular quarterly meetings to deliberate on various subjects (e.g., funding sources, food-security emergency response strategies, quality of service and meals provided to Nevadans, and food security policy), offer feedback, and formulate recommendations, which include an annual report to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB). This report additionally contains details on community gardens and urban farms as stipulated by per NRS [232.4968](#).¹

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

According to [NRS 232.4968](#), CFS is required to prepare a report to, "...review the accomplishments and recommendations of the Council concerning food security, including, without limitation, any recommendations concerning community gardens and urban farms."¹ The CFS Annual Report is due to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau by January 31, 2025, and is written in collaboration with the Office of Food Security located within the Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH).

INTRODUCTION

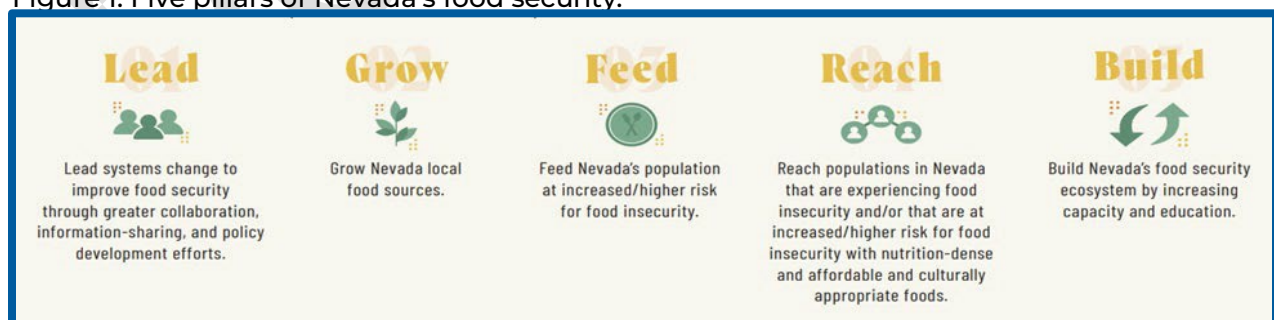
The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) defines food insecurity as, "...a household-level economic and social condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate food".² The impact of this may lead to an increased risk of developing chronic diseases such as diabetes, arthritis, hypertension, asthma, and COPD.³⁻⁵ Factors that contribute to the escalation of food insecurity may include race/ethnicity, age, income, geographical location, disability, employment and health status. Moreover, insufficient access to nutritious food may perpetuate the cycle of food insecurity among vulnerable populations like children and the elderly. For example, children who face food insecurity tend to have poorer overall health and lower academic performance.⁶⁻⁸ Additionally, they are more likely to repeat grades in elementary school, suffer from developmental delays, and experience increased social and

behavioral issues.⁹⁻¹¹ Seniors who experience food insecurity frequently suffer from negative mental and physical health issues, including diabetes, mental health disorders, hypertension, gum disease, heart failure, and asthma.¹⁴ Contributing factors to this vulnerability include poor health conditions, limited financial resources, mobility issues, and low health literacy.¹⁵⁻¹⁶

To help combat these issues, CFS was established to transform food security and assist Nevadans residing in food-insecure households by executing the objectives of the 2013 Food Strategic Plan titled: [Food Security in Nevada: Nevada's Plan for Action](#).¹⁵ In 2018, the plan underwent revisions, and further updates were made in 2023 after a thorough review and needs assessment conducted from July 2021 to November 2022.¹⁶ The revised [Food Strategic Plan](#)¹⁶ is published on the [Department of Human Services \(DHS\) Office of Food Security \(OFS\) website](#), which is formally known as the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). This updated strategic plan outlines five (5) Pillars aimed at tackling the fundamental causes of hunger and fostering a more robust food security ecosystem across Nevada (Figure 1).¹⁶

To assist CFS in the establishment, coordination, and implementation of a robust food system in Nevada, OFS was tasked with providing administrative support. The associated activities are outlined in the [2023-2028 State Health Improvement Plan \(SHIP\)](#)¹⁷ and the [2023 Food Security Strategic Plan](#).¹⁶ In 2025, OFS also continued its collaboration with the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) Public Health AmeriCorps to retain three (3) part-time service members, of which two (2) were assigned to food initiatives that further supported the Council. However, the NACDD AmeriCorps program ended with Nevada in July 2025.

Figure 1. Five pillars of Nevada's food security.



FOOD SECURITY IN NEVADA

As of 2024, approximately 481,460 individuals, or 15% of Nevada's population, are classified as food insecure, a figure that has consistently risen since 2019.¹⁸ In addition, 8% of Nevada's population resides in areas characterized by low income and limited access to affordable, nutritious food.¹⁹ According to the [2023 Nevada Food Security Strategic Plan](#), approximately 80,000 Nevada residents aged 60 and above have reported experiencing food insecurity with projections indicating the older adult population in Nevada to grow by 36% over the next decade.^{16,19} Initiatives such as The Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) and The Senior Nutrition and Wellness Program (SNWP) are designed to help low-income seniors receive healthy nutritious food.²⁰⁻²¹ Among children in Nevada, 20% are considered food insecure.²² Programs such as the Universal School Meals were implemented to provide free breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snacks to school-aged children, but the national program concluded in 2022.²³ The [Free or Reduced-Price School Meal Fact Sheet](#) offers further details regarding the 2024-2025 school year as provided by Governor Joe Lombardo.²⁴

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is a federally funded program overseen by the Division of Social Services (DSS) formerly known as the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS) that aids low-income families in acquiring nutritious food.²⁵⁻

²⁶ There are 500,816 (16%) residents of Nevada, with a significant portion being Hispanic, utilizing the SNAP benefits.²⁷⁻²⁹ For every dollar received through SNAP, it is projected to create \$1.50 in economic activity, and estimation show that Nevada has received \$1.01 billion in SNAP benefits.³⁰ Further analysis of SNAP recipients in Nevada indicates that 62% of SNAP belong to families with children. There is also the Nevada Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program that serves around 55,000 families through nutrition education, breastfeeding support services, supplemental nutritious foods, and referrals to health and social service programs.³¹

There are several charitable food systems as well as private and public sector programs across the State of Nevada to address food insecurity. Input from food banks and pantries have indicated several factors that influence Nevada's efforts to tackle food insecurity, namely, the rising cost of living, particularly consumer prices for food. The Food Bank of Northern Nevada (FBNN) partnered with the Nevada Center for Surveys, Evaluation and Statistics (CSES) at the University of Nevada, Reno, to conduct a yearlong (2021-2022) surveillance-style survey to understand food security in Northern Nevada. This survey determined the leading cause of food insecurity to be poverty, with 1 in 5 individuals

indicating that they frequently run out of food and do not have the financial means to purchase more.³² Furthermore, 33% of those surveyed reported that food pantries were their primary source of food.³²

To further improve access to food, the Home Feeds Nevada (HFN) program was established by NRS Chapter (561).³³ The HFN was created to procure food that is cultivated and produced within the state. The objective was “to help Nevada become more food secure and create economic opportunity for Nevada agricultural producers”.³⁴ This initiative was initially financed by the USDA Local Food Purchase Assistance Program as well as funds allocated by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).³⁵⁻³⁶ As of early 2024, the program had acquired approximately 2.3 million pounds of food, translating to around \$3.5 million in revenue for local producers.³⁷ Between June 1 and November 2024, the program distributed over 511,727 pounds of food and extended support to 19 local producers.³⁸ For further information regarding the NDA Division and its Programs, please visit [Divisions \(nv.gov\)](#). To discover more about NDA's role in community nutrition and school nutrition, please visit [Data and Reports \(nv.gov\)](#).

NEVADA CFS 2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2025, CFS maintained the implementation of the strategic plan and the food focus area of the SHIP. By December 31, 2025, the Council convened a total of eight (8) times (January 14, February 11, March 11, April 15, May 13, July 15, September 30, and October 14), with one (1) meeting held in person to facilitate improved partner collaboration, enhance cohesiveness, and minimize Council vacancies. In addition, four (4) of the meetings were designated as special sessions to evaluate food-related legislation proposed during the 83rd Legislative Session. The accomplishments of the Council in 2025 are outlined as follows:

- Reviewed the following annual reports:
 - a. SFY25 Fund for a Healthy Nevada (FHN)
 - b. 2025 CFS
 - c. 2025 Food for People not Landfills (FFPNL)
 - d. FFY25 Home Feeds Nevada
- Discussed and reviewed the following:
 - a. State Emergency Food Plan
 - b. Maternal Child Health Policy Innovation Program Project Opportunity
- Established a Northern Nevada Food Security Conference resulting in a possible interlocal

agreement with the University of Nevada, Reno, to hold a statewide conference in 2025 or 2026.

- Discussed activities to comply with [SB233](#) (Home Feeds Nevada study) and [AB405](#) (food insecurity study).
- Determined the FFPNL subcommittee member list (Table 1).
- Delegated logistics to OFS to reestablish the FFPNL subcommittee.
- Monitored FFPNL deliverables as a CFS standing agenda item.
- Assured progress and guidance on the 2023 food strategic plan pillars (regular duties per legislation).
- Addressed roles and responsibilities under the pillars in the 2023 Food Strategic Plan and expectations within the SHIP.
- Addressed two (2) goals under the LEAD pillar
 - 1.) LEAD Goal: Enhance cooperation, communication, and representation to support policy development and resource utilization.
 - a. The Council on Food Security (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 security initiatives and partners. The Office of Food Security (OFS) notified the Partners for a Healthy Nevada (PHN) on CFS activities. A member of the Southern Nevada Food Council was seated on CFS.
 - 2.) LEAD Goal: Reduce food insecurity through funding and policy efforts.
 - a. CFS provided recommendations on bills related to food security throughout the 83rd legislative session.
- Addressed three (3) objectives under the LEAD Pillar.
 - 1.) LEAD Objective: This objective is to convene local food ecosystem partners, community members, policymakers, and keynote food security speakers.
 - a. One (1) SHIP objective developed by the Council aligns with this LEAD objective: “Improve collaboration, communication, coordination, and information and data- sharing among food ecosystem partners by developing and delivering a well- designed presentation to the Nevada legislature on food insecurity and food needs in Nevada. Collaborating with existing organizations like DPBH and CFS, as well as other relevant food ecosystem partners, to increase the effectiveness of these

presentations. Host two (2) Food Security fairs/conferences in Southern and Northern Nevada, bringing together local food ecosystem partners, community members, and policy makers, to engage through various keynote speakers and discussions. Also, the provision of opportunities to interact with local vendors, farmers, and community organizations to learn about local foods and resources is essential.”

- i. In 2025, the Council maintained a workgroup with the support of OFS to establish a food security conference in Northern Nevada. The conference was initially planned for 2025 to align with the SHIP objectives and the 2023 Food Security Plan to convene the local food ecosystem. This conference has shifted to 2026 due to a lack of funding.
 - ii. In 2025, CFS received presentations on food security data from the following: Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada, Food Bank of Northern Nevada, and Three Square. Also, the Nevada Office of Minority Health and Equity presented a Nutritional Health Literacy survey.
- 2.) LEAD Objective: This objective 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.
 - a. The Council developed one (1) SHIP objective to align with this LEAD objective: “Partner with local farmers, food vendors, Tribal communities, and other community organizations to support initiatives aimed at increasing mobile access (food trucks, community gardens, mobile markets, etc.) to healthy foods throughout the State of Nevada, specifically the underserved and remote areas (Churchill County, Elko, Esmeralda County, Eureka, Humboldt, Lander, Lincoln, Mineral, Nye, Pershing, Lyon, Storey, Douglas, and White Pine).”
 - i. In 2025, the Council continues in its endeavors to support a food security workgroup aimed at organizing a conference in both the Northern and Southern regions of Nevada. Funding for the SNAP-Ed program for FFY26 was requested but not awarded for this project due to budget cuts. The work group has suggested

establishing a cohosting partnership with the University of Reno, NDA, and DSS. Discussions regarding logistics are ongoing.

3.) LEAD Objective: This 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.

a. The Council developed two (2) SHIP objectives to align with this LEAD objective.

i. SHIP Objective: "Support new strategic partnerships and increase awareness among the food security ecosystem regarding service providers and funding opportunities can assist with distributing food to people, particularly individuals at increased/higher risk for food insecurity."

- The Office of Food Security (OFS) and CFS have made ongoing efforts to create a statewide Food Security Fair/Conference and are using their resources to assist with awareness.

ii. SHIP Objective: "Utilize existing outreach channels and participate in marketing opportunities to inform eligible individuals and eligible households about WIC and SNAP benefits, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, the Summer Food Service Program, and any other additional summer food, school lunch, and breakfast programs. Increase awareness of existing campaigns that emphasize the benefits, requirements, and application processes for sponsors."

- To assist the Council in making well-informed decisions regarding this objective, the Council engaged in discussions about statewide food security data and evaluated various programs. The data reviewed encompassed statistics on food insecurity (such as the amount of food distributed, the number of individuals served, etc.), food distribution methods, overall food access, awareness of food insecurity initiatives, and existing food databases that provide access to food-related resources across the state. Additionally, CFS examined the state's nutrition statistics to identify possible

obstacles to enhancing food security, the measures being taken to address food insecurity in hard-to-reach areas and/or food deserts in Nevada, and the opportunities for the Council to advocate for necessary changes. The programs and data that were discussed included the following, presented in no order:

- 1) NDA on the Community Food Access Project, gaps analysis on food security.
 - 2) Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP)
 - 3) Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA)
 - 4) The Summer Food Program (SFP)
 - 5) Home Delivered Meals Program
 - 6) Home Feeds Nevada Program
 - 7) Medicaid Waiver 1115 programs as it relates to food security
 - 8) Food Bank of Northern Nevada data
 - 9) Northern Nevada Food Council data
 - 10) Three Square data
 - 11) Nutritional Health Literacy Survey
 - 12) Office of Analytics (OoA) data available on Nevada's Food Security Statistics.
- The Council's efforts on the FFPNL Program also align with this objective. This program is designed to increase food security by decreasing food waste and redirecting excess consumable food to underserved communities throughout the state. The council monitors the program as a standing agenda item and DHS continues to look for funding to support the unfunded mandate.
 - The Council reviewed the SFY25 Fund for a Healthy Nevada-Hunger Funds Annual Report, whose funds are administered through the DHS Grants Management Unit (GMU) and utilize 60% of tobacco settlements received/recovered by the State of Nevada. The Hunger Funds supported the 2019 Statewide Community Needs Assessment and aligns with the updated

2023 Food Strategic Plan (NRS 439.630). Please reference the SFY25 FHN Hunger Funds annual report at [Home - Office of Food Security \(nv.gov\)](https://www.nv.gov/office-of-food-security) (expected to be posted in 2026).

- Supported OFS under the BUILD pillar regarding two (2) strategies.
 - 1.) BUILD Strategy: This strategy is about supporting efforts to increase FHN resources dedicated to food security.
 - In 2025, CFS continued to ensure progress and guidance of the strategic plan along with the SHIP. The council discussed funding concerns and the need to determine the future of the program. This included the continued partnership with OFS who oversees FHN funds that align with the FEED and BUILD pillar in the strategic plan and carries out initiatives that increase access to nutrition-dense and affordable food for populations at increased/higher risk for food insecurity.
 - 2.) BUILD Strategy: This strategy works to 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 2025, the Council sought assistance of OFS to collaborate with a tribal liaison to place CFS on the ITCN agenda, thereby enhancing the Council's visibility among tribal members.

Table 1. FFPNL Subcommittee Recommended Agencies

CFS Recommended FFPNL Subcommittee Agencies
United States of Department of Agriculture (USDA) or Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA)
Three Square
University of Nevada, Reno, Extension
Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada, includes food rescue
Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada
Food Bank Northern Nevada, includes food rescue
North Nevada Gaming Industry
Southern Nevada 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
A representative from a community partner involved in food rescue

CFS 2025 RECOMMENDATIONS

Advise and inform the Governor on the food policy of this State

The Council is actively engaged in discussions regarding the necessity of a legislative brief aimed at addressing food policy within the State of Nevada. The 83rd Legislative Session required the Council to undertake a thorough study of the Home Feeds Nevada Agriculture Food Purchase Program through Nevada Senate Bill 233 and a food insecurity study per AB405. These studies will concentrate on determining long-term financial sustainability and exploring potential sustainable revenue sources.

Funding the Plan

The Council can evaluate grant proposals and alternative funding sources upon the Director's request to offer funding recommendations. Currently, no request has been submitted by the Director. In 2025, the Council examined and deliberated various food security bills in preparation for the 83rd Legislative Session.

Advise, assist and make recommendations to the Director

At present, there has been no request from the Director. Nevertheless, the Council considered the options to submit a request for the inclusion of a seat for individuals who have experienced food insecurity and/or homelessness, in addition to adding two members from Nevada's Tribal communities (North and South).

Community Gardens and Urban Farms

The Council is authorized to investigate and formulate recommendations regarding community gardens and urban farms. This must encompass, but is not limited to, the analysis of the following aspects:

- Local and regional initiatives aimed at establishing community gardens and urban farms
- Regulatory and policy obstacles hindering the development of community gardens and urban farms
- The possible implications of community gardens and urban farms on economic growth within this State.

In 2025, the Council persisted in its endeavors related to the SHIP and strategic plan initiatives, which have a direct or indirect influence on Community Gardens and Urban Farms.

CFS FUTURE FOCUS

In the year 2026, CFS will maintain its emphasis on [SHIP](#) food initiatives, oversee the FFPNL subcommittee, and engage in activities outlined in the 2023 Food Strategic Plan. The Council recognizes the need for collaboration between all partners to reduce hunger and improve wellness outcomes. The Council will concentrate more specifically on the following:

- 1) Provide a second presentation to the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Health and Human Services (JISHHS) and a legislative brief with the necessary data needed to make informed funding decisions regarding food security in the state.
- 2) Conduct ongoing meetings to expand knowledge and understanding of food insecurity in Nevada.
- 3) Continue efforts to host a Food Security Conference in Northern and Southern Nevada.
- 4) Guide and monitor the FFPNL Program and partner with OFS to support Council goals, focusing on subcommittee selection, diversion of food from landfills, and increasing food security.
- 5) Continue addressing food insecurity in hard-to-reach areas and/or food deserts.
- 6) Host presentations, which are focused on food insecurity statistics (pounds of food distributed, people served, etc.), food distribution (e.g. home delivered meals), general food access, nutritional health literacy, and building awareness on food insecurity programs and existing food databases to access food-related resources statewide.
- 7) Prioritize building awareness around food distribution, support, and general food access throughout Nevada, including the clarification of food insecure and distribution terminology as well as a review of food hubs and mobile food distributions in the state.
- 8) Plan and review the emergency food plans and the need for dissemination throughout Nevada.
- 9) Continuation of at least one (1) in-person meeting for CFS in Carson City and/or Las Vegas Office(s) to enhance collaboration, cohesiveness, and to increase efforts to reduce Council vacancies.
- 10) Council members to attend Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada meetings, if able.
- 11) Increase the number of CFS seats that represent individuals' tribal, housing, and transportation sectors, and individuals with lived experience.
- 12) Review of the Home Feeds Nevada Program Annual Report and/or outcomes.

- 13) Review the Fund for a Healthy Nevada (FHN) Hunger Funds, including but not limited to the annual report and funding allocations.
- 14) Review federal standards or policies that create barriers and food insecurity risks.
- 15) Determine where the Council can advocate for change.

Table 2: 2025 CFS Board Members as of 06/12/2025

Board Members	Description	Position
Allison Herzik	State of Nevada Governor's Designee	Director of Government Relations
Amber Torres	A person who is a representative of food bank serving Northern Nevada.	Tribal Liaison with the Food Bank of Northern Nevada
Charlotte Williams	Term ended 01/09/2025 A person who is a representative of a food bank serving Northern Nevada.	Research and Innovation Manager, FBNN
Dr. Dorian Stonebarger	Director of the Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development within the Office.	Designee; Director of the Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development
Dr. Muzafar Makhdoom	Western Regional Director of the United State or the Department of Agriculture (NDA) or designee from within the Department.	Regional Administrator, NDA
Dr. Pamel Juniel	Superintendent of Public Instruction of the Nevada Department of Education or designee within the Department.	Designee; State Coordinator for the McKinney-Vento State Coordinator
Dr. Sabina Malik	Representative of the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension	Public Health Specialist; University of Nevada Cooperative Extension
Gabby Everett, MPA	Term ended 01/2025 Representative of a food bank service Southern Nevada.	Director of Advocacy, Three Square
Jeff Duncan	Term ended 06/06/2025 Designee of the Administrator of the Aging and Disability Services Division of the Department	<i>Designee; Agency Manager; Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division, Child Services</i>
Jill Moe	Representative of farmers or ranchers engaged in food production.	UNR-Desert Farm Initiative
Julian Goicoechea	Director of the Nevada Department of Agriculture or designee from within the Department.	Nevada Department of Agriculture, Director
Kelly Cantrelle	Designee of the Administrator of the Nevada Division of Welfare and Supportive Services	Designee; Deputy Administrator; Nevada Division of Welfare and Supportive Services
Kelli Kelly	Representative of persons engaged in the business of processing or distributing food	Director; Fallon Food Hub
Lisa Swearingen	Director of the Department of Human Services or designee from within the Department.	Chief, Eligibility and Payments Unit, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services
Marcia Blake	A person who possesses knowledge, skill and experience in the provision of services to senior citizens and persons with disabilities	Executive Director; Helping Hands of Vegas Valley
Maria Menjivar	One member representing community-based services (Rural Nevada).	Environmental Health Division Manager, Carson City Health and Human Services

	Seat Change: A person who is a representative of a local health authority.	Central Nevada Health District
Terry Gunnell	Term end 01/23/2025 Western Regional Director of the USDA from within the Department.	Deputy Regional Administrator serving as Interim Regional Administrator.
Tori Lawson-Boffelli	A person who possesses knowledge, skill, and experience in the provision of services to children and families	Program Analyst – USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Vickie Ives	Designee of the Administrator of the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health.	Designee; CFCW Health Bureau Chief, Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health
VACANT	A person who is a representative of food bank serving Southern Nevada.	N/A
VACANT	On member representing community-based services (Rural Nevada).	N/A
VACANT	Representative of manufacturing that is not related to food.	N/A

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