

NEVADA COUNCIL ON FOOD SECURITY 2026 ANNUAL REPORT



Nevada Department of Human Services
Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
Office of Food Security

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Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	3
BACKGROUND	3
OVERVIEW.....	4
RECOMMENDATIONS	5
Policy Review	5
Funding Plan	6
Community Gardens and Urban Farms.....	6
FUTURE FOCUS.....	6
BOARD MEMBERS	7
REFERENCES.....	8

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

It is estimated that 13.3% of Americans and 15.0% of Nevadans are food insecure, which is of concern since it may increase their risk of developing a chronic disease. There are also certain groups at increased risk of food insecurity, which include single mothers, African Americans, and individuals with low income. To help tackle this issue, Nevada provides community-based services and programs along with developing a [Health Improvement Plan for 2023-2028](#) and a [Food Security Strategic Plan](#). Additionally, in 2019, the Nevada Legislature codified into law the Council of Food Security and tasked them with improving Nevada's access to healthy affordable food. During 2026, the Council accomplished two (2) research studies, to comply with Senate Bill (SB) [233](#) and Assembly Bill (AB) [405](#). Along with these studies, the council reviewed data and policies to develop recommendations and potential program initiatives. As food security changes, the council will adapt and continue with its efforts to reduce food insecurity across the state.

BACKGROUND

The United States Department of Agriculture defines food insecurity in two (2) ways: low food security as "reports of reduce quality, variety, or desirability of diet. There is little or no indication of reduced food intake" and very low food security as "reports of multiple indications of disrupted eating patterns and reduced food intake".¹ It is estimated that 13.3% of Americans are food insecure and 5.2% very low food secure.² At the state level, Nevada ranks 8th (15.0%) for the highest level of food insecurity and 11th (6.1%) for very low food security.² A complication arising from this is an increased risk of chronic disease such as diabetes, arthritis, hypertension, asthma, and COPD.³⁻⁴ Factors that may contribute to the threat of food insecurity include race/ethnicity, age, income, geography, disability, employment, and health status. For example, single mothers, African Americans (non-Hispanic), and lower income-to-poverty ratios had the highest prevalence of food insecurity and very low food insecurity for their respective categories.²

Additionally, it is important to point out the concerns among at-risk populations like seniors and children. Estimations show that 7.4 million American seniors and 75,001 (9.5%) Nevada seniors are food insecure, which may increase their risk of diabetes, depression, heart disease, and gum disease.⁵⁻⁷ Among children, 7.3 million live in a food insecure household and 751,000 live in very low food secure household.² At the local level, it is estimated that 20% of Nevada children are food insecure.⁸ This may lead to cardiovascular problems, nutrient deficiencies, developmental delays, and poor social skills.⁹ To combat these problems, the state of Nevada provides multiple community-based services and programs (Table 1) along with developing a [Health Improvement Plan for 2023-2028](#) and [Food Security Strategic Plan](#).

Table 1. State of Nevada Food Insecurity Programs

Name	Description
Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP)	Provides low-income seniors with coupons to be used for food at farmers markets or roadside stands. ¹⁰
Senior Nutrition and Wellness Program (SNWP)	Supplies food packages to seniors 60 years or older with incomes below 150% of the poverty level. ¹⁰
Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP)	Issues food to the meals-on-wheels program. ¹⁰

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP)	Gives fresh fruit and vegetables to elementary schools that have greater than 50% of students who are eligible for free or reduced lunch. ¹⁰
National School Lunch Program (NSLP)	Serves free or reduced lunches to individuals based on household income. ¹⁰
Special Milk Program (SMP)	Dispenses milk to children in schools who do not participate in other federal meal programs. ¹⁰
Summer Food Program (SFSP)	Assists low-income students 18 years and younger with food when school is not in session. ¹⁰
Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program	Delivers nutrition and breastfeeding education along with supplemental food to women, mothers, infants, and children five (5) or under. ¹²
Child and Adult Care Food (CACFP)	Allots funds for organizations that supply healthy meals and snacks to children and adults attending daycare. ¹⁰
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	Issues financial assistance to low-income individuals to purchase food. ¹¹
Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservation (FDPIR)	Distributes food to low-income households who reside on Indian reservations. ¹⁰
Home Feeds Nevada (HFN)	Purchases food that is grown, produced, or processed in Nevada and then is dispersed to local foodbanks. ¹⁰
Fund for a Healthy Nevada Hunger Funds	Allocates funds to support organizations who work to reduce food insecurity such as food banks and pantries.
Foodbanks and Pantries*	Non-profits that provide food assistance to children, adults, and seniors through donations. Services may include basic food items, home delivered meals, and communal meals. ¹⁰

*Not run by state entities.

OVERVIEW

The Council of Food Security was established in 2014 by executive order and codified into law in 2019 during the 80th legislative session as Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) [232.4966](#). The duties of this committee are found in NRS [232.4968](#) and include but are not limited to improving access to healthy affordable food, increasing participation in federal and state nutrition programs, advising the governor on food policy, and analyzing food insecurity issues, policies, and regulations. They are also tasked with holding quarterly meetings and special sessions to discuss the services being provided, number of Nevadans served, funding sources, policies, and program suggestions. In addition, they are expected to submit an annual report, with the assistance of the Office of Food Security (OFS), to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) on or before January 31st of each year, outlining their accomplishments and recommendations related to food access, funding, community gardens, and urban farms.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Council on Food Security (CFS) continued to meet, assess, and discuss the status of food security in Nevada. In addition, they debated policies, program sustainability, and future initiatives. The completed tasks of the council are the following:

- Quarterly meetings were held on 01/20, 04/21, 06/21, 10/20.

- Conducted special session meetings to discuss [SB233](#) and [AB405](#) on 03/10, 04/08, 05/13, 06/10, 07/08, 08/12, 09/09, 10/14,
- Carried out a review and research study to comply with [SB233](#) (Home Feeds Nevada study) and [AB405](#) (food insecurity study)
- Combined efforts with the Nevada Department of Agriculture to support a food security conference for 2027 in the Northern Nevada region.
- Hosted presentations on food insecurity statistics (pounds of food served, number of individuals served, demographics), food distribution, food access, health literacy, food databases, and building awareness.
- Assessed Nevada's emergency food plan and assist in distributing throughout Nevada.
- Continue to offer in-person quarterly meetings in Carson City to enhance collaboration, cohesiveness, and to increase efforts to reduce Council vacancies.
- Evaluated state and federal standards and policies along with their impact on food security.
- Reviewed data from the Funds for a Healthy Nevada Hunger Funds.
- Discussed where the Council may advocate and promote food security. Including possible action on decision to submit a Bill Draft Review (BDR) for the 2027 legislative session.
- Reviewed information on the following reports:
 - FFY25 Home Feeds Nevada
 - SFY25 Funds for a healthy Nevada
 - 2025 Food for People Not for Landfills (FFPNL)
- Provided a second presentation to the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Health and Human Services (JHHS) and a legislative brief with the necessary data needed to make informed funding decisions regarding food security in Nevada.
- 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.
- Continue to review the need to increase the number of CFS seats that represent individuals' tribal, housing, and transportation sectors, and individuals with lived experience.
- CFS received the following presentations:
 - Medicaid Waiver
 - Division of Social Services One Big Beautiful Act Bill (HR1) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) Impact
 - Food Bank of Northern Nevada Food Recovery
 - Three Square Food Recovery

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on discussions conducted during quarterly meetings, CFS has developed a set of recommendations aimed at reducing food insecurity across the state.

Policy Review Recommendations

As required by the 83rd legislative session, CFS conducted two studies analyzing the Home Feeds Nevada program ([SB233](#)) and general food insecurity across the state ([AB405](#)). Based on this, CFS suggests the following:

[SB233](#)

Council Information Needed.

AB405

Council Information Needed.

Any other policies name reviewed by the Council enter here

Funding Plan

Established through research and discussions, CFS recommends that Council Information Needed.

Community Gardens and Urban Farms

After an assessment on the status of community gardens and urban farms, CFS recommends Council Information Needed.

FUTURE FOCUS

In 2027, the Council will maintain its efforts to reduce food insecurity across the state. Potential activities may include the following:

- Coordinate and collaborate with tribal liaisons to attend an Inter-Tribal Council meeting. In addition, explore opportunities to increase tribal representation at CFS.
- Discuss the possibility of increasing participation in CFS among those in the housing and transportation sectors as well as those with lived experience.
- Provide additional activities.

BOARD MEMBERS

Members	Seat Description
Marcia Blake	The Governor or his or her designee.
VACANT	Director or his or her designee from within the Department.
Kelly Cantrelle (Designee)	The Administrator of the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services of the Department of his or her designee from within the Division.
Dr. Muzafar Makhdoomi	The Regional Administrator for the Western Regional Office of the United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service or his or her designee from within the United States Department of Agriculture.
Dr. Dorian Stonebarger (Designee)	The Executive Director of the Office of Economic Development or his or her designee from within the Office.
Vikie Ives	The Administrator of the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of his or her designee from within the Division.
Dr. Pamela Juniel (Designee)	The Superintendent of Public Instruction or his or her designee from within the Department.
Dr. Julian Goicoechea	The Director of the State Department of Agriculture or his or her designee from within the Department.
Lori Lutu (Designee)	The Administrator of the Aging and Disability Services Division of the Department or his or her designee from within the Division.
Nishat Gould	One member who is a representative of retailers of food.
VACANT	One member who is a representative of manufacturing that is not related to food.
VACANT	One member who is a representative of the gaming industry, hospitality industry or restaurant industry.
VACANT	One member who is a representative of farmers or ranchers engaged in food production.
VACANT	One member who is a representative of persons engaged in the business of processing or distributing food.
Jenny Yeager (Designee)	A person who is a representative of a food bank serving northern Nevada.
Jeff Duncan	A person who is a representative of a food bank serving southern Nevada.
Roberto (Carlos) Carrillo	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.
Sara Ramirez	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.
VACANT	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 rural Nevada.
Dr. Sabina Malik	A person who is a representative of the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension.
VACANT	A person who possesses knowledge, skill and experience in the provision of services to senior citizens and persons with disabilities.
VACANT	A person who is a representative of a local health authority.
Samantha (Tori) Lawson-Boffelli	A person who possesses knowledge, skill and experience in the provision of services to children and families.

(Updated 04/09/2026)

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