

Home Feeds Nevada Evaluation

SB233 Subcommittee

Home Feeds Nevada Evaluation

After reviewing the Home Feeds Nevada program, the CDPHP evaluation team generated a set of questions to better assess and comprehend the program’s process, activities, impact, and outcomes. Each question is designed to assist the Council of Food Security in conducting their research study required by SB233. If the information in question is unavailable, unascertainable, or not collected, please provide a reasoning for why. Any information provided is greatly appreciated.

Application Process

1. How many individuals make up a review committee?
 - a. Two individuals compose the review committee.
2. What are their required backgrounds?
 - a. Review committee members are selected based on their relevant program knowledge, adherence to established eligibility criteria, and their ability to provide an impartial evaluation throughout the review process. The review committee verifies the following information:
 - The applicant is a registered vendor with the state with an approved and assigned vendor number.
 - The applicant has a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) with the federal government through SAM.gov.
 - The applicant has an active Nevada Department of Agriculture producer’s certificate number and/or livestock assessment number.
 - The applicant must provide documentation for each requirement as part of their application. Incomplete applications are placed on hold and ineligible to participate until all required documentation is provided.
3. Are applications reviewed by each committee member?
 - a. Yes.
4. Are there templates or guidelines for how the committee should evaluate applications?
 - a. Yes. The committee follows an established internal procedure through which qualifications are evaluated using a standardized “pass/fail” threshold to determine whether the applicant meets the required eligibility standards.
5. Are Scope of Works created for applicants who receive funding?
 - a. No. The program does not utilize contracts; rather, it operates using declining Requests to Purchase (RTPs). Early in the program’s implementation, contracts were determined to be overly burdensome for small farmers and businesses, with

approval timelines that did not align with the rapid turnaround required by fresh food producers and processors. The RTP structure was identified as the only viable approach to meet the time-sensitive needs of fresh food procurement.

Program

1. The premium amount is based on farm size, but how are premiums decided?
 - a. The premium structure is based on farm size as defined by the USDA Economic Research Service, which measures farm size according to annual gross cash farm income (GCFI). GCFI is the total annual income before expenses and includes cash receipts, farm-related income, including sales of crops and livestock, and government farm program payments. Farm size categories include:
 - Small farms: GCFI less than \$350,000
 - Midsize farms: GCFI between \$350,000 and \$999,999
 - Large-scale farms: GCFI of \$1,000,000 or more
2. Are they based on cost of living, geography, and regulations?
 - a. No.
3. Depending on financial resources and food needs, how is it determined if an applicant/partner is added, removed, or changed?
 - a. The NDA stays in close contact with the two food banks responsible for receiving and distributing food purchased through the HFN program. These partners are directly involved in identifying which products should be procured, as they have the most current insight into the immediate needs of their food-insecure population, and which foods the recipients will be most interested in and beneficial to meet their nutritional needs. The program strives to create economic opportunity for Nevada's agricultural small and mid-sized producers, and prioritizes fresh produce, which is both broadly needed and often more costly and difficult for food banks to obtain. Additionally, the program also prioritizes other nutrient dense, high-demand products, such as meat proteins and fluid milk, which are not always readily accessible through other programs. In doing so, the program also benefits Nevada ranchers, dairies and processors. When operational funding becomes available, the NDA consults with partnering food banks to assess seasonal availability, community need and cost considerations. It is also important to note that procurement decisions may vary across funding periods, meaning a producer who is not selected during one cycle may be considered during a subsequent cycle.
4. How do you determine what type of food to buy?
 - a. The NDA works closely with the two food banks responsible for receiving and distributing food throughout the state to monitor on-the-ground food needs and ensure purchases reflect current demand. The department also considers product availability during each purchasing period. For example, the availability of fresh produce is limited during winter months, so when funding is available and food

bank partners request purchases during this time, the program purchases other eligible products during that time.

5. How many months does this program serve food? For example, does it purchase food monthly, quarterly, or yearly?
 - a. Food purchases largely depend on the availability of operational funding. In periods when the program had higher, more secure and long-term funding, the program purchased food throughout the year, including on a weekly basis. During the winter months, when less fresh produce was not readily available, the program purchased other items, such as fluid milk, meat protein, honey and other products, on a monthly basis.
6. For required reporting elements, do you distribute data templates for food banks/pantries to use?
 - a. NRS 561.515.6(b) requires reporting on the “number of people and households served by the Program.” The NDA collects this information annually from the two partnering food banks, who provide this data via email for inclusion in the annual report.
7. Has there been any issues with food waste? For instance, do partners or food banks have problems distributing food before it goes bad?
 - a. The NDA maintains continuous communication with partner food banks to ensure that all food purchased through the HFN program aligns with their current needs, reducing the risk of food waste. If a producer delivers products that are not satisfactory, the food bank partners will reject it and notify NDA. There is a need for transportation of food items in some rural areas during the summer months to assist with reducing or preventing food spoilage, as our small producers do not have vehicles equipped with the necessary climate control.

Partners

1. How many organizations participate in this program?
 - a. To date, 23 farmers, ranchers and food processors have participated in the program. During the program’s most recent operational period, 17 farmers, ranchers and food processors were actively participating.
2. Do you have a breakdown of the organizations funded. For example, producer, processor, transportation, or storage facility?
 - a. Over the life of the program, 15 producers and 8 processors have participated, with no transportation or storage organizations included. (For clarification: the HFN program does not fund organizations; rather, the program purchases food products from the organizations for distribution through the two food banks.)
3. What is the distribution of farms for the program. For example, how many were small vs medium, vs large?
 - a. All farms participating in the HFN program are classified as small farms.

4. What region are the farms located in? For instance, how many are in southern Nevada vs Northern Nevada?
 - a. There are 4 farms in southern Nevada, 8 farms in northern Nevada, and one farm in west-central Nevada.
5. What counties do they reside in?
 - Clark County: 4 producers
 - Churchill County: 4 producers
 - Elko County: 1 producer
 - Lyon County: 1 producer
 - Washoe County: 3 producers
6. Do you know how many organizations delivered their own food, how many used a transportation agency, and how many used a storage facility?
 - a. To our knowledge, the majority of producers and processors completed their own product delivery. The HFN program did not issue any payments to transportation companies or storage facilities. In several instances, one food bank was able to provide transportation of perishable products for producers due to delivery routes in the area already planned, at no cost to the producers.
7. Is there a record of how many deliveries were accepted, partially accepted, or rejected?
 - a. Yes. 571 deliveries were accepted, one delivery was rejected and two deliveries were partially accepted/rejected.
8. Are you able to break down when food is distributed? For instance, by month or quarter?
 - a. Distributions are completed by the two partnering food banks, and they would need to provide this information.
9. Are you able to break down the amount of transportation costs that went to each category or partner? For instance, how much went to producers, processors, or transportation agencies?
 - a. At this time, there have not been any transportation costs paid directly to a transportation agency or company. Transportation needs were minimal and reimbursed or paid directly to the producer as part of their invoice. Specific transportation costs are recorded on past invoices, which are retained in accordance with record-keeping requirements.
10. What is the geographical distribution of food? Is there a measurement tool used to determine how much food was distributed to urban, rural, or tribal communities (counties or zip codes)?
 - a. Distributions are completed by the two food banks, and they would need to provide this information.
11. Are storage facilities required to have a certain health department grade?
 - a. Storage facilities must comply with required regulations enforced by the applicable health authorities. The health authority that regulates these facilities would be able to

better answer this. (The program has not historically received inquiries or applications from any storage facilities.)

Individuals Served

1. Are the number of individuals and households served unduplicated or duplicated?
 - a. The numbers reported for individuals and households served are duplicated, as provided by the food banks.
2. Do you know the demographics of the individuals served?
 - a. As the distributions are completed by the two food banks, they would need to provide this information.
3. Is the number of individuals served an estimation? If not, how do food banks/pantries report this and how do they decide who receives food from this program?
 - a. Distributions are completed by the two food banks, and they would need to provide this information.

Food Reporting

1. Do you have a breakdown of what type and how many pounds of meat was purchased?
 - a. 613,665 lbs. of meat have been purchased through the program thus far. The breakdown of quantity by type of meat can be provided but will require additional staff time to compile.
 - b. The types of meat proteins purchased:
2025: Ground beef, ground pork, stew meat and cross rib roasts.
2024: Beef (ground, stew meat, ribs, chuck steak, chuck roast and cross rib roast).
Pork (ground, butt roast, chops, country sausage links and sweet Italian sausage).
2023: Ground beef, pork chops and loin, beef ribs and roast.
2. Why did the program purchase honey and not use this money for increasing the purchasing of fruit, vegetables, dairy, or meat?
 - a. Honey is a requested, nutrient-rich product that has broad-based appeal and a long shelf life. The honey is purchased from a local producer and is a popular item that is seldom available through many food programs. HFN's purchase of this product provides the opportunity to include this novel, nutritious product in distributions.
3. Is there a way to divide the fresh produce items into fruit vs vegetables?
 - a. Vegetables purchased: Beets, bok choy, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, chard, cucumbers, eggplant, garlic, green beans, greens (mixed, mustard, salad mix, super), kale, lettuce, onions, peppers (Anaheim, bell, hot chili, jalapeno, serrano, shishito), pumpkins, radish, shallots, squash (summer/winter, acorn, butternut, spaghetti, zucchini), spinach, tomatoes, tomatillos, turnips.
 - b. Fruits purchased: Apples, cantaloupe, grapes, peaches and watermelon.
4. Is all purchased milk pasteurized?

- a. Yes.
- 5. Would you be able to provide cost per pound measurements for each food category?
 - a. Yes.

Specific Reporting Year

- 1. Do you know the number of individuals served for 2023?
 - a. Individuals served in 2023: 941,354
- 2. Do you know the number of individuals and households served for 2024?
 - a. Households served in 2024: 774,894
 - b. Individuals served in 2024: 1,117,742
- 3. Reason behind no transportation costs for 2025? Was the cost donated or absorbed?
 - a. There were no transportation costs submitted for payment from producers in 2025.

Other

- 1. Are there any plans in place for future funding?
 - a. The NDA continually seeks new funding opportunities, including federal grants, to strengthen services provided to Nevadans. Given that the food banks have indicated they have sufficient food stores to last through the current fiscal year, expenditures from the 2025 General Fund award of \$800,000 are expected to begin after July 1, 2026.