

Nevada Council on Food Security (CFS)

Home Feeds Nevada Agriculture Food Purchase Program
2025-2026 Interim Study



Nevada Department of Human Services

Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

Office of Food Security

Joe Lombardo
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

Andrea R. Rivers
ADMINISTRATOR, DPBH

Laura Rich
DIRECTOR, DHS

Ihsan Azzam, PhD, MD
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER, DPBH

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This report was developed by the Nevada Council on Food Security (CFS) also referred to as 'the Council' with administrative support from the Nevada Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH), Office of Food Security.

Report Prepared By:

Alexis Hogan, MPH

Reviewed By:

DHS, DPBH Office of Food Security

2025 CFS Board Members (Appendix A)

AB 405 & SB 233 Subcommittee Board Members (Appendix B)

DRAFT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Senate Bill 233 (SB 233) was enacted during Nevada's 83rd Legislative Session and became effective on July 1, 2025. The legislation directs the Council on Food Security (Council) to conduct a study of the long-term sustainability of the Home Feeds Nevada Agriculture Food Purchase Program (HFN) during the 2025–2026 interim, including identifying sustainable sources of revenue for the program. The Council is required to submit a report of its findings by December 1, 2026, to the Director of the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) and the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) for transmittal to the 84th Session of the Nevada Legislature.¹ To carry out the study, the Council established an SB 233 Subcommittee to guide the review, identify information needs, engage interest holders, and evaluate factors affecting the program's long-term sustainability. The study methodology included review of HFN annual reports and available program data; applicable statutes and legislative materials; information provided by NDA; engagement with food banks, agricultural organizations, producers, processors, and other interest holders; and review of funding mechanisms and operational approaches used by comparable food purchasing programs.

The Council's review examined HFN's program administration, producer participation, procurement practices, food distribution, funding, transportation, data collection and reporting, and coordination among participating organizations. Available program reporting demonstrates that HFN has established a statewide framework connecting eligible Nevada agricultural producers and processors with the state's two regional food banks. The review also identified long-term funding, transportation and distribution logistics, administrative capacity, program reporting, and comparable state approaches as areas requiring continued consideration.

The findings presented in this report reflect the information reviewed by the Council during the study period and document the operational and sustainability considerations identified through the SB 233 study process. The report is intended to provide the Legislature with an objective summary of the Council's review and inform consideration of the long-term sustainability of the Home Feeds Nevada Agriculture Food Purchase Program.¹

REQUIREMENTS ([SB233](#), [NRS 561.505](#), & [NRS 561.515](#))

Pursuant to SB 233, the Council on Food Security may request the drafting of one legislative measure (Bill Draft Request [BDR]) related to the Home Feeds Nevada Agriculture Food Purchase Program. The request must be submitted to the Legislative Counsel on or before December 1, 2026, using the form prescribed by the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB).¹ An allocation of \$800,000 has been established in accordance with Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) [561.505](#) and is allocated from the state general funds to the Director of the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) for Home Feeds Nevada (HFN) Agriculture Food Purchase Program as per [NRS 561.515](#).^{1,2} The remaining funds from this appropriation will not be available after June 30, 2027, for the entity that received the appropriation or any entity that acquires funds from it in any way. Additionally, any unspent funds must not be utilized for any purpose after September 17, 2027, by either the original entity or any subsequent entity that received the funds and must be returned to the state general fund by September 17, 2027.

Legislative Background

Food insecurity continues to affect communities throughout Nevada, with many households experiencing limited or uncertain access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food.³ While federal nutrition assistance programs remain an essential component of the food assistance network, state and local initiatives also play an important role in strengthening food systems, supporting agricultural producers, and improving access to nutritious foods.

Recognizing the importance of strengthening Nevada's local food system, the Nevada Legislature established HFN during the 81st Legislative Session through Senate Bill (SB) 370, codified in NRS

[561.505–561.515](#), inclusive.^{4,5} The program is administered by the NDA and was created to increase the purchase of Nevada-grown and Nevada-produced food while improving access to nutritious foods for food-insecure households. Through partnerships with Nevada agricultural producers, meat processors, and the state's two regional food banks as distributors to hundreds of food pantries across the state through their networks, the program supports both local agriculture and food distribution efforts throughout Nevada.⁵

During the 83rd (2025) Legislative Session, the Nevada Legislature enacted Senate Bill 233 (SB233), which, among other provisions relating to agriculture, appropriated additional general fund support for HFN. In conjunction with this legislative action, the Council on Food Security (CFS) was directed to evaluate the long-term sustainability of the program during the 2025–2026 interim. The Council's study focuses on understanding the operational, financial, and administrative factors that influence the program's ability to continue serving Nevada communities while supporting the state's agricultural economy.¹

PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

According to SB 233, the purpose of the report is for CFS to conduct a study that minimally identifies sustainable sources and revenue for HFN. This report is required to be submitted to the Director of NDA and the Director of LCB for forwarding to the 84th Session of the Legislature.¹ This report documents the Council on Food Security's study activities conducted pursuant to SB 233 during the 2025–2026 interim. The report summarizes information reviewed by the Council, including program operations, annual program reports, partner input, available program data, and discussions regarding long-term sustainability.

Consistent with the Council's statutory responsibilities, the study examines topics including program administration, procurement practices, funding, partnerships, operational considerations, and approaches used by comparable programs in other states.⁵ The purpose of the report is to provide the Legislature with an objective summary of information reviewed by the Council and to document the status of the study as of the publication of this draft.

Council on Food Security

The Nevada Council on Food Security was established to coordinate statewide efforts to improve food security, strengthen collaboration among public and private partners, and advise state leadership on issues affecting food access and nutrition.⁶ The Council brings together representatives from state agencies, food banks, agriculture, education, health care, community organizations, retailers, and other sectors to identify strategies that improve Nevada's food system and reduce food insecurity.

As part of its responsibilities under SB 233, the Council established a subcommittee to guide the study of HFN. Throughout the study process, the subcommittee reviewed annual program reports, engaged with representatives from the NDA and other interest holders, examined available program data, and discussed operational considerations affecting the program's long-term sustainability.⁷ These activities informed the preliminary findings presented throughout this report.

Background

Food Security and Local Food Systems in Nevada

Food security is achieved when all people, at all times, have physical, social, and economic access to

sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.⁸ While Nevada relies heavily on national and international food supply chains, strengthening local food systems has become an increasingly important strategy for improving food security, supporting agricultural producers, and increasing community resilience.

Nevada imports the majority of its food from outside of the state, making the food system vulnerable to disruptions in transportation, supply chains, labor availability, and market conditions. Recent events, including the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighted the importance of strengthening local food production and distribution networks while improving access to nutritious foods for food-insecure households. These challenges have reinforced statewide efforts to support Nevada producers while expanding access to locally grown and produced food through community partnerships.⁷

The Nevada Food Security Strategic Plan identifies strengthening local food systems, expanding access to nutritious foods, and supporting agricultural partnerships as important components of improving statewide food security. These priorities align with broader public health efforts to increase access to healthy foods while strengthening Nevada's agricultural economy.⁷

Home Feeds Nevada Agriculture Food Purchase Program

HFN was established during the 81st Nevada Legislative Session through Senate Bill 370 and is codified in NRS [561.505](#) through [561.515](#), inclusive.^{2,3} The program is administered by the NDA and is designed to increase purchases of Nevada-grown and Nevada-produced food while improving food access for Nevada households experiencing food insecurity.

In contrast to Nevada's established systems that primarily purchase food through national distribution systems, HFN intentionally purchases directly from eligible Nevada agricultural producers and processors. Through this approach, the program seeks to achieve two complementary objectives:⁶

- Increase access to nutritious food for food-insecure Nevadans.
- Create economic opportunities for Nevada farmers, ranchers, and food processors by expanding markets for locally produced food.

Food purchased through the program is distributed through Nevada's two regional food banks, Three Square Food Bank and the Food Bank of Northern Nevada—which coordinate regional distribution to partner agencies and communities throughout the state.

Program Administration

The NDA administers HFN and is responsible for overseeing producer eligibility, food procurement, financial administration, and annual reporting requirements established in [NRS 561.515](#).³

According to information provided by the NDA, participating producers and processors must satisfy established eligibility requirements before participating in the program. Applications are reviewed through a standardized eligibility review process conducted by a two-person review committee. Eligibility verification includes confirmation of State vendor registration, a federal Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), and applicable Nevada producer certification or livestock assessment documentation. Applications that do not contain all required documentation remain incomplete until the necessary information is provided.⁶

Rather than utilizing traditional procurement contracts, the program purchases food through Requests to Purchase (RTPs). The NDA reported this procurement approach was adopted because traditional contracting requirements created administrative challenges for many small agricultural producers and did not align with the rapid purchasing timelines often necessary for fresh agricultural

products. The RTP process allows the program to respond more efficiently to seasonal production and food bank demand while reducing administrative burden on participating producers.⁶

Program Funding

Since implementation HFN has been supported through multiple funding sources. Initial program operations were funded through the United States Department of Agriculture Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) Program and State American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding.^{4,9} During the 2025 Legislative Session, the Nevada Legislature appropriated an additional \$800,000 from the State General Fund to the Nutritious Food Purchase Account to support continued operation of the program.¹

For the reporting period of October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024, NDA reported approximately \$3.30 million in program expenditures. Approximately 98% of reported expenditures supported direct food acquisition, while comparatively smaller amounts supported transportation and contract program management.⁴

Table 1. Home Feeds Nevada Program Expenditures (October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024)

Expenditure Category	Amount
Food Acquisition	\$3,246,580.02
Transportation	\$4,465.06
Contract Program Management	\$46,938.00
Total	\$3,297,983.08

Source: Nevada Department of Agriculture, Home Feeds Nevada Annual Report to the Council on Food Security, Reporting Period: October 1, 2023–September 30, 2024. ⁴

Program Goals

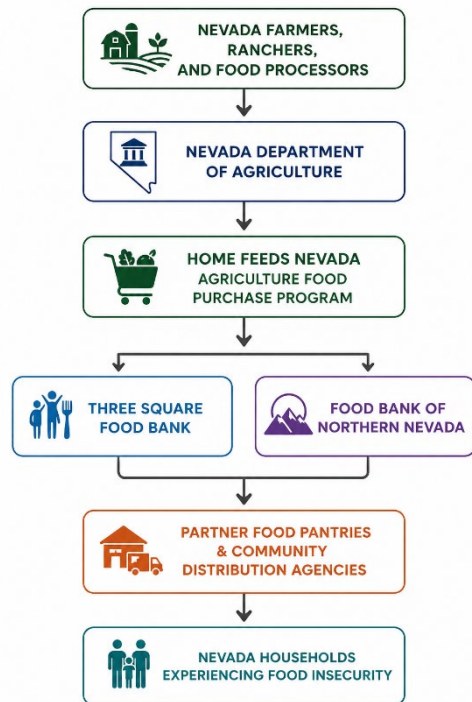
HFN was established to support both public health and agricultural objectives by strengthening connections between Nevada producers and organizations serving food-insecure households. As implemented, the program seeks to:^{3,6,7}

- Increase the availability of nutritious, locally produced food.
- Support Nevada farmers, ranchers, and food processors through expanded purchasing opportunities.
- Improve resilience within Nevada's food system.
- Strengthening partnerships among state agencies, agricultural producers, and food banks.
- Expand access to fresh and nutrient-dense foods for households experiencing food insecurity.

HFN operates through a collaborative statewide network connecting Nevada agricultural producers with organizations that distribute food to households experiencing food insecurity. NDA administers the program by coordinating food purchases from eligible Nevada producers and processors, while the state's two regional food banks facilitate distribution through their established networks of partner agencies. Figure 1 illustrates the general flow of food products through the HFN Agriculture Food Purchase Program.^{4,6}

Figure 1. Home Feeds Nevada Agriculture Food Purchase Distribution Model

The Nevada Department of Agriculture purchases eligible food products from participating Nevada producers and processors for distribution through Nevada's two regional food banks. Food is then distributed through partner agencies to households experiencing food insecurity throughout the state.



Source: Developed by the Council on Food Security based on information provided by the Nevada Department of Agriculture, Home Feeds Nevada Annual Report to the Council on Food Security (2024) and Nevada Department of Agriculture program information.^{4 6}

Study Methodology

Study Purpose

SB 233 directed the Council to evaluate the long-term sustainability of the Home Feeds Nevada (HFN) Agriculture Food Purchase Program during the 2025–2026 interim. To support this effort, the Council established a subcommittee to guide the study, identify information needs, engage with interest holders, and develop a report summarizing the information reviewed throughout the study process. The SB 233 subcommittee membership and leadership are provided in Appendix A.^{1,5}

Grant funding alone will not sustain this program, so it was important to identify any other barriers that could be solved through collaboration from Council partners. The study was designed to provide an objective assessment of the program's implementation, operations, and sustainability. Rather than evaluating a single policy proposal, the Council examined the administration and performance of an existing statewide program while identifying factors that may influence its long-term success.

Study Approach

The Council organized its work around four primary study objectives:⁵

1. Interest Holder Engagement – Engage organizations involved in administering, supporting, or participating in the HFN Agriculture Food Purchase Program to better understand program operations, successes, and implementation challenges.
2. Program Operations and Sustainability Review – Examine administrative processes,

procurement practices, funding, transportation, reporting, and other operational factors that may affect the program's long-term sustainability.

3. Review of Funding Models and Comparable Programs – Research funding mechanisms and operational approaches used by similar local food purchasing programs in other states to better understand potential approaches supporting long-term sustainability.
4. Report Development – Compile information reviewed throughout the study into a report documenting the Council's activities, observations, and preliminary findings for consideration during the 2025–2026 interim.

These objectives were developed to organize the Council's review and ensure discussions addressed both current program operations and future sustainability considerations.

Interest Holder Engagement

Throughout the study, the Council engaged with representatives from organizations directly involved in the HFN and Nevada's broader food system. Discussions focused on understanding program implementation, operational practices, funding, procurement, and distribution processes. Consistent with Nevada's Open Meeting Law (OML), subcommittee meetings were publicly noticed and open to the public, providing opportunities for interested individuals and organizations to observe proceedings and provide public comment.⁵

Interest holders contributing information during the study included, but were not limited to:

- Nevada Department of Agriculture
- Three Square Food Bank
- Food Bank of Northern Nevada
- Nevada Farm Bureau
- Agricultural producers and processors
- Council on Food Security members
- Retail Association of Nevada

Information Reviewed

To support its evaluation, the Council reviewed a variety of documents and data sources, including:⁵

- HFN annual reports prepared by NDA;
- Program operational information provided by NDA;
- Applicable Nevada Revised Statutes and legislative materials by NDA;
- Council on Food Security's previous meeting materials and presentations;
- Information regarding comparable state and federal food purchasing initiatives; and
- Statewide food security planning documents and other publicly available resources relevant to food security and agricultural systems.

The Council supplemented these materials with presentations, discussions, and responses to questions submitted during the study process.

Study Limitations

The Council's review reflects information available during the 1 year study period. Certain information, including additional operational data, funding information, geographic distribution data, and future program performance measures, remained under review at the time this report was prepared. Across the country, local food promotion program funding has become a critical and heavily pursued. Many states are simultaneously searching for solutions with urgency. This limits examples to be able to follow. There was also limited capacity to quantify the impact of funding on Nevada's food system or through the return on investment on the local economy and farmers. Scheduling conflicts also limited ability to engage with the state treasurer's office for additional insight on possible solutions. (move to information reviewed) In addition, several topics identified by the Council—including long-term funding strategies, transportation considerations, administrative capacity, and comparisons with similar programs in other states.^{1,5}

Table 2. Council on Food Security Study Framework for the SB233 Evaluation

Phase	Activity
1 - Legislative Direction	Senate Bill 233 directs the Council to study the long-term sustainability of the Home Feeds Nevada Agriculture Food Purchase Program.
2 - Information Gathering	Review annual reports, statutes, operational documents, and program data.
3 - Interest Holder Engagement	Engage NDA, food banks, producers, processors, and other interest holders.
4 - Program Evaluation	Review administration, procurement, funding, transportation, reporting, and sustainability.
5 - Draft Report Development	Summarize information reviewed and preliminary findings for Council consideration.

Home Feeds Nevada Agriculture Food Purchase Program

Producer Eligibility and Participation

Participation in HFN is limited to eligible Nevada agricultural producers and meat processors that satisfy program requirements established by the NDA

As of the most recent operational period, 23 Nevada agricultural organizations had participated in the program since its inception, including 15 producers and 8 food processors. During the most recent purchasing cycle, 17 producers and processors actively participated in program activities. All participating farms were classified as small farms according to the United States Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service farm size classifications.^{4,11}

Procurement Process

The NDA reported that this purchasing model was selected because traditional contracting processes created administrative barriers for many small agricultural producers and were not well suited for purchasing highly perishable food products. The RTP process allows purchasing decisions to occur more quickly while reducing administrative requirements for participating producers.⁶

Program purchases are coordinated closely with Three Square Food Bank and the Food Bank of Northern Nevada. The food banks provide ongoing information regarding current community food needs, seasonal demand, and product availability. This collaborative process helps ensure that food purchases align with recipient needs while supporting Nevada agricultural producers.

When fresh produce is seasonally unavailable, the program may prioritize other eligible food products, including dairy products, meat proteins, and other nutrient-dense foods requested by food bank partners.

Food Distribution

Food purchased through HFN is distributed through Nevada's two regional food banks:⁴

- Three Square Food Bank
- Food Bank of Northern Nevada

The food banks coordinate distribution to partner agencies serving communities throughout

Nevada. Because these organizations interact directly with recipient households, they also provide annual reporting information regarding households and individuals served through the program.⁴

The NDA reported that procurement decisions are made collaboratively with the food banks to reduce food waste and better match purchases with community demand. During the program's operation, 571 deliveries were accepted, one delivery was rejected, and two deliveries were partially accepted, demonstrating a high level of successful product delivery and quality control.^{4,6}

Program Outputs

Between October 1, 2023, and September 30, 2024, HFN procured and distributed approximately 1.83 million pounds of food through participating food banks.⁴

Table 3 summarizes the progression of the HFN from its initial implementation through the most recent reporting periods. Although reporting periods and funding sources varied, the available reports demonstrate continued statewide food procurement and distribution, while illustrating changes in program activity as funding and program operations evolved over time.

Table 3. Home Feeds Nevada Program Progression

Reporting Period	Pounds (lbs.) Procured/Distributed	Food Acquisition Cost	Households served
2023	1,543,460	\$2,167,474.39	Not reported
2024	1,828,565.96	\$3,246,580.02	774,894
2025	390,847	\$677,427.90	242,550

Source: Developed by the Council on Food Security using data from the Nevada Department of Agriculture, *Home Feeds Nevada Annual Reports* (2024 and 2025) and Nevada Department of Agriculture Biennial Report (2023).⁴

Table 4. Food Purchased Through Home Feeds Nevada (October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024)

Food Category	Pounds Purchased	Cost
Meat Proteins	407,226	\$1,842,118
Milk	1,058,158	\$384,523
Honey	21,953	\$167,282
Fresh Produce	323,806	\$703,225
Total	1,828,565.96	\$3,097,148

Source: Nevada Department of Agriculture. *Home Feeds Nevada Annual Report to the Council on Food Security, Reporting Period: October 1, 2023–September 30, 2024.*⁴

Products purchased through the program included a variety of fresh vegetables, fruits, meat proteins, dairy products, and other locally produced foods. Fresh produce included leafy greens, squash, tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, broccoli, carrots, melons, apples, and other seasonal products grown within Nevada.

Program Reach

For calendar year 2024, participating food banks reported serving approximately 774,894 households, including:⁴

Table 5. Households Served (2024)

Food Bank	Households Served
Three Square Food Bank	477,575
Food Bank of Northern Nevada	297,319

Total	774,894
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Source: Nevada Department of Agriculture. Home Feeds Nevada Annual Report to the Council on Food Security, Reporting Period: October 1, 2023–September 30, 2024.⁴

In addition, annual program reporting identified approximately 1,117,742 individuals served during 2024. The Nevada Department of Agriculture notes that these counts are reported by participating food banks and represent duplicated counts rather than unique individuals or households.⁴

Long-Term Sustainability Assessment

Funding Sustainability

Long-term funding sustainability was a primary focus of the Council's review. Discussions examined the limitations of relying on time-limited federal funding and the need to identify a funding approach capable of supporting continued program operations over time. The Council considered both recurring State General Fund appropriations and opportunities to supplement state support with federal and other available funding sources.

As part of the study, the Council also explored a range of potential revenue mechanisms and financing approaches. Concepts discussed included the use of existing state revenue sources or fees, targeted commercial fees, public-private and retailer-supported funding models, and potential financing mechanisms involving the Office of the State Treasurer. Discussions also considered whether a revenue mechanism connected to commercial food waste or waste management could provide a potential nexus between reducing food waste and supporting food access.

Interest holder perspectives were also considered during these discussions. Agricultural and retail organizations have historically expressed concerns regarding funding mechanisms that would impose new costs directly on their respective industries. Accordingly, discussions emphasized the importance of evaluating potential revenue mechanisms based on their ability to generate sustainable funding while minimizing disproportionate impacts on individual industries or constituencies.

The Council also discussed potential connections between HFN and Nevada's Food for People, Not Landfills (FFPNL) initiative as part of its consideration of long-term sustainability. Because FFPNL focuses on reducing food waste and strengthening food recovery efforts, discussions considered whether future policy approaches could more closely align food waste reduction, local food procurement, and food access objectives. The Council also discussed whether a revenue mechanism associated with commercial food waste or waste management could potentially support these complementary objectives while providing a recurring source of support for HFN. These concepts remain exploratory and would require additional analysis to determine their feasibility and appropriate structure.

Discussions of the experience of other states and the challenges associated with establishing dedicated revenue streams for agricultural food purchasing programs. State General Fund appropriations were identified as one approach used to support comparable efforts, while members continued to consider whether Nevada could establish or leverage an alternative recurring revenue source.

These concepts represent funding approaches discussed during the study and should not be interpreted as recommendations or endorsements by the Council. Additional analysis, interest holder engagement, and coordination with appropriate state entities, including the Legislative Counsel

Bureau and potentially the Office of the State Treasurer, would be necessary before determining the feasibility of any specific revenue mechanism.⁵

Examples of funding approaches identified for additional review included:

- State General Fund appropriations;
- Federal grant opportunities;
- Public-private partnerships;
- Grant matching opportunities; and
- Other funding mechanisms identified through the Council's review of comparable state programs.

These discussions were exploratory in nature and were intended to inform the Council's understanding of potential funding models rather than establish formal funding recommendations.

Program Administration and Procurement

The Council reviewed the administrative structure used by HFN, including producer eligibility, RTPs), procurement procedures, and coordination with participating food banks.

Information presented during Council meetings indicated that procurement decisions are closely coordinated with participating in food banks to reflect current community demand and seasonal product availability. This collaborative purchasing process helps prioritize fresh produce when available while allowing purchases of other eligible nutrient-dense products, including meat proteins and dairy products, during periods when fresh produce is less readily available.⁶

Infrastructure and Distribution Capacity

The Council identified food system infrastructure as an additional consideration affecting the long-term sustainability and potential expansion of HFN. While the program currently relies on participating producers, processors, food banks, and existing transportation networks, limitations in aggregation, storage, processing, and transportation capacity may affect the ability to efficiently move Nevada-produced foods throughout the state, particularly in rural communities.

Discussions identified the potential role of regional food hubs or similar aggregation and distribution infrastructure in strengthening local food procurement. Increased infrastructure capacity could provide centralized locations for aggregating products from multiple Nevada producers, support storage and distribution, and help connect smaller producers with institutional and food assistance markets. State investment or other financial support to expand food hub capacity was identified as an area for further evaluation as the Council considers opportunities to strengthen HFN and Nevada's broader local food system.

The Council also discussed whether financing mechanisms available through the Office of the State Treasurer could provide an alternative approach to supporting HFN or related food system infrastructure. Concepts discussed included the potential use of bond or loan financing that could provide upfront resources with repayment occurring over time. Because these approaches would represent a less conventional funding structure for a program such as HFN, the Council identified further analysis and consultation with the Office of the State Treasurer as necessary to determine whether such mechanisms are legally and financially feasible.

Transportation and Distribution

Transportation and distribution logistics were identified as important considerations in evaluating the long-term sustainability of HFN. Information provided by the NDA indicates that transportation costs have historically represented a relatively small portion of overall program expenditures, in part

because producers frequently deliver products directly to participating food banks and food bank partners may assist with transportation when existing delivery routes are available. Despite relatively low reported transportation expenditures, the Council identified logistical challenges that may affect the program's ability to efficiently serve all areas of the state. Nevada's geographic size, the distance between agricultural producers and distribution locations, and limited transportation and storage infrastructure in some rural communities can create challenges for moving locally produced food. These considerations may be particularly significant for fresh and perishable products that require timely delivery and, in some cases, climate-controlled transportation to maintain product quality and reduce spoilage.

The Council also discussed transportation challenges affecting certain communities. Small producers geographically located far from the two regional food banks that are approved to accept HFN purchased food items experience transportation challenges to participating. These challenges include distances that are too far to transport and not having the necessary vehicle or equipment, particularly during warmer months when climate-controlled transportation is necessary to reduce spoilage of perishable products. During winter months, inclement weather and long distances can also impede their ability to deliver. For example, a producer in Elko, NV is approximately 430 miles from Las Vegas and approximately 300 miles from Reno, NV. Finding innovative ways to address these challenges will enable increased producer participation across the state thereby assisting with sustainability.

Interest Holder Collaboration

A central component of the Council's study involved engagement with organizations participating in or supporting Home Feeds Nevada.

Representatives from the Nevada Department of Agriculture provided information regarding program administration, procurement practices, reporting requirements, and operational experience. Additional discussions included participation from Three Square Food Bank, the Food Bank of Northern Nevada, the Nevada Farm Bureau, agricultural producers and processors, Council members, and other stakeholders with knowledge of Nevada's food system. The Council also identified the Nevada Retail Association as a potential organization for future collaboration regarding funding and program sustainability opportunities.⁵

The Council identified continued engagement with these organizations as an important component of the ongoing study, recognizing that collaboration among program partners contributes to understanding both current operations and future sustainability considerations.⁵

Review of Comparable Programs

As part of its legislative charge, the Council initiated a review of similar local food purchasing programs operating in other states.¹²

The purpose of this review was to better understand how comparable programs are administered, funded, and sustained over time. Council members reviewed available information regarding state appropriations, federal funding, public-private partnerships, and other approaches supporting local food purchasing initiatives.¹²

This review remains ongoing and will continue to inform the Council's understanding of potential strategies supporting the long-term sustainability of HFN.

Data Collection and Reporting

The Council also reviewed existing reporting requirements established in [NRS 561.515](#) and

information currently collected through HFN.³

Program reporting currently includes expenditures, food purchases, the total pounds of food procured and distributed, and the number of households and individuals served. For the reporting period of October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024, the Nevada Department of Agriculture reported that Home Feeds Nevada procured and distributed approximately 1.83 million pounds of food through the program.⁴ During discussions, the Council identified opportunities to better understand additional operational information, including geographic distribution, transportation logistics, and other program measures that may support future evaluations.⁵ The Council's review of reporting practices remains ongoing and will continue as additional information becomes available through annual reporting and partner engagement.⁵

Preliminary Findings

Overview

The findings presented in this chapter summarize information reviewed by the Council on Food Security during the 2025–2026 interim pursuant to SB 233. These findings reflect information available at the time this draft was prepared and are intended to document observations that emerged throughout the Council's study of the HFN Agriculture Food Purchase Program.^{1,5}

As the Council continues to engage interest holders, review additional information, and evaluate comparable programs, these findings may be revised or expanded in future drafts of this report.

Finding 1. HFN Has Established a Statewide Procurement and Distribution Framework

The Council successfully found that HFN established an operational framework connecting Nevada agricultural producers and processors with Nevada's two regional food banks through coordinated food purchasing administered by the NDA.

Finding 2. Program Operations Depend on Strong Collaboration Among Multiple Organizations

The Council observed successful implementation of HFN depends upon collaboration among numerous public and private organizations.

NDA administers the program and coordinates procurement activities. Three Square Food Bank and the Food Bank of Northern Nevada identify food needs within their service areas and distribute purchased food through local partner agencies. Agricultural producers and processors supply eligible food products, while the Council provides oversight through its study activities.

Finding 3. The Program Has Demonstrated Measurable Operational Activity

Information reviewed by the Council demonstrates that Home Feeds Nevada has supported significant food purchasing and distribution activities since implementation.

During October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024, reporting period, NDA reported:

- Approximately \$3.3 million in total program expenditures.
- More than 1.8 million pounds of food procured and distributed.
- Approximately 774,894 households served.
- Approximately 1.1 million individuals served.
- Participation from 23 Nevada producers and processors.

These measures demonstrate the operational scale of the program and provide an initial basis for evaluating future program performance.⁴

Finding 4. Long-Term Funding Represents the Most Significant Risk to Program's Continued Success

Throughout the Council's review, long-term funding sustainability emerged as one of the primary

topics discussed by members and participating interest holders.

The Council reviewed current funding sources supporting Home Feeds Nevada, including the United States Department of Agriculture Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) Program, State American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, and General Fund appropriations. Members also began reviewing funding mechanisms utilized by comparable programs operating in other states.^{4 5 9}

The Council recommends development of a diversified funding strategy that reduces reliance on any single funding source and incorporates state, federal, philanthropic, and private-sector funding opportunities.

To date, the Council has identified several preliminary considerations for further evaluation, including:

- Continued reliance on recurring State General Fund support as the most reliable mechanism;
- Pursuit of additional federal grant opportunities and required matching funds;
- Public-private partnerships and philanthropic funding opportunities;
- Exploration of voluntary retailer-supported fundraising initiatives, including point-of-sale donations and round up campaigns, developed in partnership with Nevada retailers and food-system interest holders;
- Opportunities to leverage existing state grant programs and matching fund initiatives; and
- Potential administrative capacity needs to support long-term program coordination and grant management.⁵

During these discussions, members identified the Nevada Retail Association as a potential partner for exploring voluntary customer "round-up" campaigns and other retailer-supported fundraising opportunities that could supplement future program funding. These concepts remain under evaluation and have not been adopted as formal recommendations.

Finding 5. Transportation and Distribution Logistics Influence Program Implementation

The Council identified transportation and distribution as important operational considerations affecting statewide program implementation.

Information reviewed during the study indicated that transportation costs currently represent a relatively small portion of reported program expenditures. However, discussions also identified logistical considerations affecting rural communities and the transportation of perishable food products, particularly during warmer months.

The Council will continue reviewing how transportation infrastructure and distribution practices may influence long-term program sustainability.^{4,6}

Finding 6. Existing Reporting Provides Important Performance Information While Additional Data May Support Future Evaluations

The Council reviewed annual reporting submitted by the Nevada Department of Agriculture pursuant to [NRS 561.515](#).³

Current reporting includes expenditures, food purchases, and the number of households and individuals served. Throughout the study, members also discussed opportunities to better understand additional operational information, including geographic distribution, transportation activities, and other measures that may further support future program evaluations.

Finding 7. Evaluation of Comparable State Programs Remains Ongoing

The Council initiated a review of local food purchasing programs operating in other states to better understand approaches supporting long-term sustainability.

This review includes examining funding mechanisms, administrative structures, procurement practices, and partnerships utilized by similar programs. Information gathered through this review is intended to inform the Council's understanding of Home Feeds Nevada and does not represent an endorsement of any particular funding model or administrative approach.¹²

Additional review of comparable state programs is anticipated during the remainder of the study

period.

Legislative Measure Development

Pursuant to SB 233, the Council was authorized to request the drafting of not more than one legislative measure related to the Home Feeds Nevada Agriculture Food Purchase Program. During the study process, a Bill Draft Request (BDR) was granted to support development of potential legislation addressing the program's long-term sustainability. Development of the legislative measure will be informed by the Council's study, including its review of funding sustainability, program operations, interest holder input, and potential revenue mechanisms. As development of the BDR progresses, potential policy approaches may include consideration of opportunities to align HFN with complementary statewide initiatives, including Food for People Not Landfills (FFPNLF), as well as potential revenue and financing mechanisms identified through the Council's sustainability review.

The granting of the BDR does not constitute Council endorsement of any specific funding mechanism or policy approach.

Conclusion

Pursuant to SB 233, the Council on Food Security initiated a study of the HFN Agriculture Food Purchase Program during the 2025–2026 interim to better understand factors affecting the program's long-term sustainability. Throughout the study, the Council reviewed annual program reports, operational information, partner input, and available program data to better understand how the program functions and the considerations that may influence future implementation.^{1,5}

Information reviewed during the study demonstrates that Home Feeds Nevada has established an operational framework supporting the procurement and distribution of locally produced food throughout Nevada. Annual reporting also demonstrates measurable program activity, including food purchases, producer participation, and statewide distribution through Nevada's two regional food banks.⁴

The Council's review also identified several topics that warrant continued evaluation, including long-term funding, transportation and distribution logistics, administrative capacity, program reporting, and approaches utilized by comparable programs operating in other states. These topics continue to inform the Council's understanding of the program and will be further evaluated as the study progresses.

This report reflects information available at the time of drafting and is intended to document the Council's work completed to date. As additional information becomes available and the Council continues its evaluation pursuant to SB 233, future drafts may incorporate additional analyses, findings, and any formal recommendations adopted by the Council.¹

Future Council Activities

The Council's study of the HFN Agriculture Food Purchase Program remains ongoing. During the remainder of the 2025–2026 interim, the Council anticipates continued engagement with interest holders, additional review of program data, and continued examination of funding and operational approaches that may support long-term program sustainability.⁵

Future Council activities are expected to include:

- Continued review of Home Feeds Nevada operational data and annual reports.
- Additional engagement with the NDA, food banks, agricultural producers, processors, and

other interest holders.

- Continued examination of funding models and administrative approaches utilized by comparable programs in other states.
- Review of additional information related to transportation, distribution, and other operational considerations affecting program sustainability.
- Development and refinement of findings and, if appropriate, consideration of potential recommendations for future Council action.

Consistent with the Council's statutory responsibilities, future revisions to this report will incorporate additional information reviewed during the study and reflect any actions formally adopted by the Council before submission of the final report to the Legislature.^{1,5}

DRAFT

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6. Nevada Council on Food Security. *SB233 Subcommittee Meeting Notes and Study Tracker (2025–2026)*. (Internal Council working document.)
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10. United States Department of Agriculture. *Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program (LFPA)*. https://www.ams.usda.gov/selling-food-to-usda/lfpa?utm_source=chatgpt.com
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12. United States Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service. *Farm Household Income and Characteristics*. [USDA ERS Farm Household Income and Characteristics](#)
13. National Association of State Departments of Agriculture. Information on state local food purchasing and farm-to-institution initiatives. [National Association of State Departments of Agriculture \(NASDA\)](#)

APPENDIX A

2025 CFS Board Members (Updated 1/14/2026)

Members	Description
Amber Torres	<i>A person who is a representative of a food bank serving Northern Nevada</i>
Designee: Dr. Dorian E. Stonebarger	<i>Director of the Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development or his or her designee within the Office.</i>
Designee: Dr. Pamela Juniel (JA-NEL)	<i>The Superintendent of Public Instruction of the Nevada Department of education or his or her designee within the Division.</i>
Designee: Kelly Cantrelle	<i>Administrator of the Nevada Division of Welfare and Supportive Services or designee from within the Division.</i>
Designee: Lori Lutu	<i>The Administrator of the Aging and Disability Services Division of the Department or his or her designee from within the Department</i>
Dr. Julian Goicoechea (Designee: Brittany Mally & Designee: Patricia Hoppe)	<i>Director of the Nevada Department of Agriculture or designee from within the Department.</i>
Dr. Muzafar Makhdoomi	<i>Western Regional Director of the United States Department of Agriculture or designee from within the Department.</i>
Dr. Sabina Malik	<i>A person who is a representative of the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension</i>
Jeff Duncan	<i>A person who is a representative of a food bank serving Southern Nevada</i>
Jill Moe	<i>One member who is a representative of farmers or ranchers engaged in food production</i>
Marcia Blake	<i>The State of Nevada Governor's Designee.</i>
Nishat Gould	<i>One member who is a representative of retailers of food.</i>
Roberto (Carlos) Carrillo	<i>A person who is a representative of an organization that provides community-based services, including, without limitation, services that focus on the social determinants of health, in northern Nevada</i>
Sara Ramirez	<i>A person who is a representative of an organization that provides community-based services, including, without limitation, services that focus on the social determinants of health, in southern Nevada</i>

APPENDIX B

2026 AB 405 & SB 233 Subcommittee Board Members (Updated 7/30/2026)

Members	Description
Dr. Pamela Juniel	<i>State Coordinator at Nevada Department of Education</i>
Marcia Black	<i>Executive Director at Helping Hands of Vegas Valley</i>
Nishat Gould	<i>Attorney</i>
Samantha (Tori) Lawson-Boffelli	<i>Program Analyst at USDA</i>
Shane Piccinini	<i>Manager of Public Policy Advocate and Government Relations at Food Bank of Northern Nevada</i>
Vickie S. Ives	<i>Health Bureau Chief at Department of Public and Behavioral Health</i>
Jeff Duncan	<i>Chief of Staff at Three Square</i>
Dr. Dorian Stonebarger	<i>Deputy Director for the Governor's Office of Economic Development</i>
Chair – Dr. Sabina Malik	<i>Assistant Professor and State Specialist at the University of Nevada, Reno Extension</i>