

Food Insecurity

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Bureau of Child, Family, and Community Wellness

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NEVADA DIVISION of PUBLIC
and BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

ABOUT DPBH

MISSION

To protect, promote, and improve the physical and behavioral health and safety of all people in Nevada, equitably and regardless of circumstances, so they can live their safest, longest, healthiest, and happiest life.

VISION

A Nevada where preventable health and safety issues no longer impact the opportunity for all people to live life in the best possible health.

PURPOSE

To make everyone's life healthier, happier, longer, and safer.



ALL IN GOOD HEALTH.

AGENDA

1. Food Insecurity in Nevada
2. Food Deserts in Nevada
3. Office of Food Security and Wellness Funding
4. Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC)
5. WIC Participation vs. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
6. Food Security Best Practices

Food Insecurity in Nevada



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Statewide	
2021	2020
13%	11%

Race/Ethnicity	2021	2020
Black	21%	22%
Latino	14%	17%
White	9%	8%

Congressional District	2021	2020
District 1	17.8%	14.5%
District 4	13%	10.6%
District 3	11.6%	9.2%
District 2	10.5%	9.9%



Food Deserts in Nevada

See “Food Deserts in Nevada”, [Child and Adult Care Food Program](#), [Child Care Aware](#)

See “Food Access Atlas”, [Economic Research Service](#), [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#)

- The United States Department of Agriculture defines “food deserts” as areas with limited access to supermarkets or grocery stores, resulting in inadequate availability of nutritious and healthy food within 1-mile radius in urban areas and 10-miles radius in rural areas, as per census tract.

Low-access census tracts

Low-income and low-access census tracts

[Child Care Aware Story Map](#)
[Food Access Atlas](#)

Office of Food Security and Wellness



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- Mission - Effectively improve the quality of life and health of Nevadans by increasing food security throughout the state.
- Under the Chronic Disease and Health Promotion (CDPHP) section, the Office of Food Security and Wellness (OFS) manages the Funds for Healthy Nevada (FHN).
 - Supports initiatives and programming aimed at reducing hunger, promoting public health and improving health services for children, senior citizens and persons with disabilities.
- In addition, the OFS staffs a wellness component, supports the Nevada Governor's Council on Food Security (CFS), and supports implementation of the "2023 Food Security Strategic Plan."

OFS Funding

FHN

2024-2025 Notice of funding opportunity - 13 proposals

FY1 \$3.9M	FY2 \$3.9M	Total \$7.9M
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2024-2025 Actual - 11 funded

FY1 \$2M	FY2 \$2M	Total \$4M
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- In addition to the funds for partners, FHN supports 1 state full-time equivalent – Social Service Specialist III (OFS Manager)

- OFS supplemented through CDPHP federal grants
 - Food Security Evaluator
 - Wellness and Prevention Coordinator

WIC Program

Provides nutrition education, breastfeeding support services, supplemental nutritious foods and referrals to health and social services.

- March 2024 - Congress approved additional \$1 billion

Sustained Monthly Fruit and Vegetable Cash Value Increase	
Children - \$9 Women - \$11	Children - \$26 Pregnant and Post-Partum Women - \$47 Partially and Fully Breastfeeding Women - \$52



WIC Participation vs. SNAP

WIC Total Recipients		SNAP Participants Categorically Eligible for WIC	
2023	54,059	2023	105,637
2022	51,073	2022	104,336
2021	52,977	2021	103,758

- Estimated 50% of all those WIC-eligible participation rate
- 57% benefit redemption rate
 - Infant formula (86.8%) and fruits and vegetables (78.7%) are the highest redeemed.

Food Security Best Practices

- Stable funding
 - The OFS FHN and Public Health and Health Services funds used to support initiatives of OFS are not considered stable; FHN proposals were for double the amount available.
 - Costs for programs and cost of living for Nevada residents has increased for FHN providers.
 - OFS would benefit from an additional staff member to improve technical assistance for community partners, seek and apply for federal grants and increase support for the Governor's Council on Food Security.
 - [The state of Colorado dedicated \\$14M of supplemental funding to end hunger.](#)
- Address food deserts
 - [Illinois state legislature](#) allocated \$20M to help open municipally owned grocery stores in food deserts.
 - [Client choice pantries](#)

Food Security Best Practices



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- Increase utilization of supplemental nutrition programs
 - WIC and SNAP collaborations to decrease participation gaps
 - Improve provider referrals to WIC and SNAP programs.
 - Increase number of providers utilizing [Hunger Vital Signs](#) to screen for food insecurity and who are knowledgeable on how to refer through state policy.
 - WIC and SNAP meet regularly to discuss efforts.
 - [Cross program trainings](#)
 - [Regular gap analysis](#)
 - Referral improvement
- Increase WIC redemption
 - Modernize WIC program
 - WIC online ordering grant
 - WIC modernization grant



Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Kelly Cantrelle, Deputy Administrator
Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS)



SNAP/WIC Partnership

1. Case workers with the Division of Welfare and Supportive Service (DWSS) evaluate households to see if they are potentially eligible for the Woman, Infants, and Children (WIC) program.
2. Households that meet the eligibility criteria are asked if they would like to apply for WIC.
3. Referrals are emailed to the WIC agency.
4. Customers applying online through the Access Nevada portal, are asked if they would like information on WIC, and an automatic referral is sent if they select yes.



Supplemental Emergency Allotment

- Supplemental Emergency Allotment (SEA) payments issued a monthly supplement that increased household benefit amounts to the maximum allowance for their household size.
- These benefits ended in February 2023, and the last payment was issued in March 2023.
- Since March 2023, there has been an increase in referrals from the Division of Welfare and Support Services (DWSS) to the WIC program.
- SNAP applications spiked in March but remained static for the rest of the year.



SNAP Applications After SEA Payment

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| • March 2023 – Last SEA payment | • 50,357 |
| • April 2023 | • 44,114 |
| • May 2023 | • 44,217 |
| • June 2023 | • 43,169 |
| • July 2023 | • 39,814 |
| • August 2023 | • 43,946 |
| • September 2023 | • 45,656 |
| • October 2023 | • 48,515 |
| • November 2023 | • 41,569 |
| • December 2023 | • 44,134 |



WIC Referrals After SEA Payments

• March 2023 - Last SEA payment	• 1,036
• April 2023	• 1,311
• May 2023	• 1,395
• June 2023	• 1,441
• July 2023	• 1,437
• August 2023	• 1,756
• September 2023	• 1,552
• October 2023	• 1,416
• November 2023	• 1,399
• December 2023	• 1,244



Ways to Reduce Food Insecurity

- DWSS was approved for a waiver from the Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) requirements through June 30, 2025.
- DWSS is requesting a waiver to complete telephonic signatures on SNAP applications.
- DWSS is exploring participation in the Restaurant Meals Program (RMP), which allows elderly, disabled, and unhoused SNAP recipients to use their SNAP benefits at local restaurants.
- DWSS and WIC have started discussions about co-locating some staff from WIC into the DWSS offices.
- DWSS staff will have required WIC training twice a year.



Summer EBT

- The Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (SEBT) Program for Children will officially launch summer of 2024.
- SEBT provides grocery-buying benefits to low-income families with school aged children when schools are closed for the summer.
- More than 30 million children in America could benefit from SEBT, with an estimated 350,000 in Nevada.
- Nevada submitted a state plan to the Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) and a letter of intent for participating in the program.
- SEBT benefits are 100% federally funded, administration costs are matched 50/50 with federal and state funds.

QUESTIONS?



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ACRONYMS

- CFS- Governor's Council on Food Security
- CDPHP- Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
- DPBH- Division of Public and Behavioral Health
- FHN- Funds for Health Nevada
- OFS- Office of Food Security and Wellness
- PHHS- Public Health and Health Services Block Grant
- SNAP- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- SNAP-Ed- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program- Education
- WIC- Women, Infants, and Children Program