

FOOD SECURITY IN NEVADA

Nevada's Plan for Action

Funded by the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services



Difficult economic conditions in Nevada have led to an increase in the number of households that are food insecure, meaning that they do not have “access at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members.” From 2007 to 2010, Nevada experienced a 50 percent increase from 10 percent to 15¹ percent in households that were food insecure (203,000 households), compared to the number of households prior to the recession (Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service).



- Hunger is Expensive for All of Us
- Hunger is a Public Health Concern
- Rural Communities Have Been Hit Hard
- Some Experience Hunger at Higher Rates, Including Seniors and Children
- Food Assistance Programs Have Short-term Impact



¹ Percentage varies depending on year and source.

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MISSION

Improve the quality of life and health of Nevadans by increasing food security throughout the state.



NEVADA'S PLAN IS BASED ON THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:

1. Incorporate economic development opportunities into food security solutions.
2. Use a comprehensive, coordinated approach to ending hunger and promoting health and nutrition, rather than just providing emergency short-term assistance.
3. Focus on strategic partnerships between all levels of government, communities, nonprofit organizations including foundations, private industries, universities, and research institutions.
4. Use available resources in a more effective and efficient way.
5. Implement research-based strategies to achieve measurable results.

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GOALS FOR A FOOD SECURE NEVADA

A Food Security Steering Committee was created to oversee the strategic planning process. In addition, four workgroups were created to address specific core areas of food security in Nevada. The four workgroups include: Grow Nevada, Feed Nevada, Lead Nevada, and Reach Nevada.

LEAD


 Goal 1: Establish the systems and positions necessary to implement a permanent, sustainable, accountable state leadership structure for food security to increase all Nevadans' understanding, value and support of food security solutions.

 Goal 2: Promote a policy agenda to increase food security in Nevada.




FEED

 Goal 1: Maximize participation in each federal nutrition program available to the state.


 Goal 2: Establish and integrate an actual or virtual "one-stop-shop" system to increase access to food and other services for food insecure Nevadans.

GROW

 Goal 1: Increase the number of servings of nutritious foods consumed by Nevadans – with emphasis on foods that are produced in Nevada.



REACH

 Goal 1: Change the current models of purchase (commodities) and distribution of nutritious foods to increase economies of scale, and link frequency of deliveries, and availability of local food to the specific needs of communities throughout the state (rural, urban, and food deserts).



Goal 2: Develop the technology to connect and share data among multiple state agencies, regional food banks, community agencies, and faith-based organizations for efficient and effective targeting of services and populations.

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EVALUATING NEVADA'S PROGRESS

Nevada's food security plan will be evaluated annually to measure progress toward goals based on benchmarks. Benchmarks were selected based on the ability to measure meaningful impact, ability to collect and report on change, and ability to make comparisons to other states.

Nevada's National Ranking

| | |
|-------------|----|
| Benchmark 1 | 16 |
| Benchmark 2 | 16 |
| Benchmark 3 | 48 |

Benchmark 1: Measured at 15% in 2010 Reduce Food Insecurity to 6% by 2018.

Benchmark 2: Measured at 5% in 2010 Reduce Very Low Food Insecurity to 1% by 2018.

Benchmark 3: Measured at 61% in 2009 Increasing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Participation to 85% by 2018.



The core objective in Nevada is to provide needed assistance, resources, training, and education to children, individuals and families to improve nutrition and reduce hunger. There are four benchmarks associated with addressing hunger:

Food Insecurity – Percent of households that do not have access at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members

Very Low Food Security – Percent of households that had their food intake reduced or their eating patterns disrupted at some time during the year because the household lacked money or other resources for food

Participation Rate – Percent of eligible population that participates in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

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THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED!

- 50 participants, representing the public and private sector all across Nevada, took part in workgroups to develop this plan.
- 17 national, state and local leaders from a variety of industries participated in key informant interviews.
- 90 Nevada residents from 6 counties provided input in focus groups.
- 1,673 Nevada residents, representing 14 of Nevada's 17 counties, provided input via surveys.
- 81 providers of emergency food and resources across Nevada completed surveys.



Infographic developed by Social Entrepreneurs, Inc. (SEI), 775.324.4567. Any questions about this infographic or to obtain a copy of the full strategic plan, contact Kelly Marschall at kmarschall@socialent.com.