

Maryland State Profile

State Partnerships Improving Nutrition & Equity

Overview

State Partnerships Improving Nutrition & Equity (SPINE) is a program of the [National Association of Chronic Disease Directors'](#) (NACDD) [Center for Advancing Healthy Communities](#). In collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity (DNPAO), NACDD is providing funding to nine DNPAO Ambassador states to address food and nutrition security through equitable and sustainable actions that tackle economic and social conditions limiting food and nutrition security across the lifespan. State Health Departments receiving funding are Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Oklahoma, and Oregon. Five states – Iowa, Michigan, Nevada, New Hampshire, and Oklahoma – received additional funding to augment existing efforts in their states to improve initiation, exclusivity, and duration of breastfeeding/chestfeeding.

SPINE states are developing meaningful partnerships or enhancing existing partnerships to support the implementation of a SPINE State Action Plan (SAP) that serves as a strategic roadmap for carrying out equitable food and nutrition security activities throughout their state. The initial project period was January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022; an additional year of funding was awarded in 2022, expanding the project period to December 31, 2023.

Learn more about the [SPINE program](#).

Activities

Overarching

- Establish a food and nutrition security program within Maryland Department of Health's Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Control (Center) to engage partners in the development and implementation of activities addressing food and nutrition insecurity throughout the state.
- Expand efforts to collect data on food and nutrition insecurity throughout the state.

Food and Nutrition Security

- Provide funding to five Local Health Improvement Coalitions (LHIC) in jurisdictions without an active food security council (Baltimore, Charles, Howard, Garrett, and St. Mary's counties); each LHIC will create a food security subcommittee and add at least one food and nutrition security goal to their community action plan priorities.
- Launch a food and nutrition security webpage on the Center's website, which provides an overview of food and nutrition security information including the benefits of healthy eating and healthy eating resources.
- Establish and maintain a statewide food and nutrition security advisory working group comprised of multisector partners to support equitable food and nutrition security efforts.
- Pilot a project in collaboration with Moveable Feast to support the Food Access Support Services Team in developing a streamlined nutrition services referral flow that will allow optimal access to available nutrition services across multiple organizations with just one referral.
- Develop and disseminate one fact sheet/surveillance brief on food and nutrition insecurity.

- Provide at least six educational sessions to expand knowledge of food and nutrition security resources to multisector partners during SPINE Advisory working group calls.

Health Equity

- Engage at least two partners with lived experience in food and nutrition insecurity to support the planning and implementation of SPINE efforts.
- Incorporate food and nutrition insecurity questions into Maryland's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey.

Health Equity Spotlight

Identify Maryland communities without existing food councils and fund five Local Health Improvement Coalitions, up to \$20K, in those jurisdictions to establish a food security subcommittee, conduct a food security needs assessment, integrate at least one measurable food security goal into their action plan, and achieve that goal.



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