

Oklahoma 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

- Work with partners – Oklahoma Primary Care Association, Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma, Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, Oklahoma Hospital Association and Hunger Free Oklahoma – towards implementing systems change to identify food insecure people across the lifespan and connect/refer them to resources that promote food access (e.g., Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) application assistance and information on local food pantries).
- Partner with healthcare organizations – Shortgrass Community Health Center (Federally Qualified Health Center, FQHC), Health and Wellness Center (FQHC), Kiamichi Family Medical Center (FQHC), SSM Health (clinic), LCDA Super Niños Clinic, and up to 10 County Health Departments – to initiate food insecurity screenings and create onsite food pantries that also provide SNAP application assistance.
- Assist hospitals in improving maternity care by providing trainings on supportive breastfeeding strategies and decreasing barriers for hospitals to maintain Baby-Friendly Hospital designation.

Food and Nutrition Security

- Identify and provide technical assistance to three FQHCs and interested health clinics on integrating food insecurity screening questions into intake forms or Electronic Medical Records/Electronic Health Records (EMR/EHR).

- Partner with Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma and Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma to create onsite food pantries at health clinics to provide food and SNAP application assistance to patients that are screened and identified as food insecure.
- Conduct regular audits to ensure screenings are being conducted appropriately and the referral system is working seamlessly.
- Convene the State Obesity Plan Stakeholders group and five sub-committees on a quarterly basis to address food and nutrition security needs throughout the state.

Breastfeeding/Chestfeeding

- Provide 50% match for Baby-Friendly Hospitals USA re-designation fees for 11 hospitals in the state.
- Offer healthcare staff at Baby-Friendly Hospitals a 15-hour didactic, online, self-paced breastfeeding course designed to train staff in skills necessary to implement the Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding.
- Work with maternity hospitals, providers, community breastfeeding/chestfeeding support sites, worksites, and other emergency assistance organizations to develop and implement breastfeeding/chestfeeding friendly policies.

Health Equity

- Develop and strengthen partnership with the Oklahoma Primary Care Association to promote SPINE activities to FQHCs in areas of greatest need.
- Identify and develop new partnerships with community coalitions, organizations, and/or community sites to identify areas with the highest food and nutrition insecurity.
- Support Community Health Workers in carrying out food and nutrition security activities in communities most impacted (e.g., what to do when a client screens as food insecure).
- Engage local partners to ensure that lived experience is considered in the development of the onsite food pantries.

Health Equity Spotlight

Integrate food and nutrition insecurity and social determinants of health screenings into the EMR/EHR at partnering FQHCs; ensure patients identified as food insecure or at risk for food and nutrition insecurity receive immediate food assistance from the onsite food pantry and are connected to SNAP application assistance, local food pantries, and other community resources.

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