

Alaska Food and Nutrition Security State Profile

Purpose

The purpose of the Food and Nutrition Security Profile (Profile) is to provide an overview of state and regional efforts and infrastructure to advance food and nutrition security. Although not exhaustive, the Profile serves as a resource to support greater collaboration across disciplines and sectors to improve equitable access to food. The intended audience includes public health practitioners, food policy councils, community-based organizations, food banks and pantries, school district wellness councils, food sovereignty organizations including Indigenous groups and coalitions, and others with a mission to improve food and nutrition security.

The Profile serves as a companion to the [National Food and Nutrition Security Profile](#) and will be reviewed and updated biennially. If you have any questions or comments about your Profile, please contact the Center for Advancing Healthy Communities at CAHCinfo@chronicdisease.org.

Food Banks, Pantries and Feeding Programs

There is one food bank that serves the entire state of Alaska and is a member of the Feeding America [network](#).

[Food Bank of Alaska](#)

- Sponsors the [Alaska Food Coalition](#).
- View the [programs offered](#).
- View the [partner agencies](#).

For a list of food banks that operate independently from Feeding America, see [listing](#) compiled by Food Bank News.

Select Food and Nutrition Security Programs

Food Is Medicine Programs

- Find the [Double Up Food Bucks](#) program in your state.
- Locate the [Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program](#) (GusNIP) grantees in your state.
 - *Current Produce Prescription Program Funding*
 - [Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation](#) (2019-2024, 2022-2025, and 2023-2026)
 - [Norton Sound Health Corporation](#) (2023-2026)

Community Nutrition Education Programs

- [Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program](#) (EFNEP)
 - [University of Alaska-Fairbanks](#)

- [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education \(SNAP-ED\)](#)
 - The Alaska Department of Health is the state agency responsible for Alaska SNAP-Ed. SNAP-Ed implementing agencies include the University of Alaska Cooperative Extension.

Community Nutrition Education Programs

- [Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program \(EFNEP\)](#)
 - The implementing agency is University of Alaska.
- [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education \(SNAP-Ed\)](#)
 - The Alaska Department of Health is the state agency responsible for SNAP-Ed. The SNAP-Ed implementing organization is the University of Alaska Cooperative Extension.
- [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\)](#)
 - [Alaska SNAP Directory](#)

Senior Nutrition Programs

- [Elderly Nutrition Program](#) led by the Alaska Department of Health.
- [Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program](#) led by the Alaska Department of Health.

Child Nutrition Programs

[United States Department of Agriculture \(USDA\) Child Nutrition Programs](#) contacts for implementing agencies of programs listed below:

- Child and Adult Care Food Program
- Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program
- National School Lunch Program
- School Breakfast Program
- Special Milk Program
- Summer Food Service Program (SUN Meals)
- The Patrick Leahy Farm to School Program

Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations

The [Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservation](#) program provides USDA Foods to income-eligible households living on Indian reservations and to Native American households residing in designated areas near reservations. [State program contacts.](#)

Emergency Food Response

- USDA Food and Nutrition Service [State COVID-19 Waivers and Flexibilities](#)
- [Alaska Emergency Preparedness Plan 2024](#)
- [Federal Emergency Management Agency Regional Contact](#) – Region 10
- [The Emergency Food Assistance \(TEFAP\) Program](#)



Food Policy) Coalitions and Councils

- View [list of food policy councils](#) in each state through the John Hopkins Center for Livable Future's 2021 Food Policy Network Map.
- [Alaska Food Coalition](#)
- [Alaska Food Policy Council](#)
- [Kenai Local Food Connection](#)
- [Sitka Local Foods Network](#)
- [Arctic Food Security and Nutrition Network](#)
- [Alaska Food Security and Independence Task Force](#)

Other Key Food and Nutrition Security Organizations

- [Alaska Farmers Market Association](#) supports and promotes sustainable farmers markets throughout Alaska.
- [Alaska Grown](#) supports access for all to Alaska grown food and farm products.
- [Alaska Department of Education and Early Development](#) operates various nutrition programs including farm to school aimed to ensure children are nourished and ready to learn.
- [Alaska Food Banks Directory](#) lists food banks, soup kitchens, and food pantries in Alaska by city.
- [Rural Alaska Community Program](#) empowers low-income Alaskans through advocacy, education, affordable housing, and direct services.
- [USDA Local Food Directories](#)

Data Sources and Resources

- [AK Profile of Hunger, Poverty, and Federal Nutrition Programs](#) – Food Research and Action Center
- [Food Security in the U.S.](#) – USDA
- [Child Nutrition Programs Dashboard](#) – USDA
- [Food Environment Atlas](#) – USDA
- [Map the Meal Gap](#) – Feeding America

Public Health Contacts for Food and Nutrition Security

Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

Erin Peterson, State Chronic Disease Director

erin.peterson@alaska.gov

hss.cdphp@alaska.gov

Physical Activity & Nutrition Unit

pan@alaska.gov

Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Program

Rebekah Morisse, MCH Director
rebekah.morisse@alaska.gov

Family Nutrition Programs

Elizabeth (Liz) Walsh, Family Nutrition Programs Manager/Alaska WIC Director
liz.walsh@alaska.gov

For additional information or questions about this profile, please contact the Center for Advancing Healthy Communities at CAHCinfo@chronicdisease.org.

The Improving Food Security, Access to Safe Physical Activity, and Social Connectedness project, commonly known as Building Resilient Inclusive Communities (BRIC), was a national project of the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors that was supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Cooperative Agreement #OT18-1802, Strengthening Public Health Systems and Services through National Partnerships to Improve and Protect the Nation's Health, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The contents of the profile are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by, CDC/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

The National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) and its more than 7,000 Members seek to strengthen state-based leadership and expertise for chronic disease prevention and control in states and nationally. For more information, visit chronicdisease.org.