

Arkansas 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

The following food banks are members of Feeding America's [network](#).

[Arkansas Food Bank](#)

- View the [programs offered](#).
- Serves the communities of West Helena, Marianna, and Lake Village.
- View the [partner agencies](#).

[Harvest Regional Food Bank](#)

- View the [programs offered](#).
- Serves Bowie, Columbia, Hempstead, Howard, Lafayette, Little River, Miller, Nevada, Pike and Sevier Counties.
- View the [partner agencies](#).

[Mid-South Food Bank](#)

- View the [programs offered](#).
- Serves the community of West Memphis.
- View the [partner agencies](#).

[Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas](#)

- View the [programs offered](#).
- Serves the community of Forrest City.
- View the [partner agencies](#).

[Northwest Arkansas Food Bank](#)

- View the [programs offered](#).
- Serves Benton, Carroll, Madison and Washington Counties.
- View the [partner agencies](#).



[River Valley Regional Food Bank](#)

- View the [programs offered](#).
- Serves Crawford, Franklin, Johnson, Logan, Polk, Scott, Sebastian, and Yell Counties.
- View the [partner agencies](#).

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

Select Food and Nutrition 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 Nutrition Incentive Funding:*
 - [Arkansas Coalition for Obesity Prevention](#) (2021-2025)
 - *Current Produce Prescription Funding:*
 - [Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance](#) (2022-2025)

Community Nutrition Education Programs

- [Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program](#) (EFNEP)
 - The implementation agency is the University of Arkansas Extension.
- [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education](#) (SNAP-Ed)
 - The Arkansas Department of Human Services is the state agency responsible for AR SNAP-Ed. SNAP-Ed implementing agencies include the Arkansas Coalition for Obesity Prevention, the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension and the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff.
- [Supplemental Nutrition Assistant Program](#) (SNAP)
 - [Arkansas SNAP Directory](#)

Senior Nutrition Programs

- [Elderly Nutrition Program](#) led by Arkansas Association of Area Agencies on Aging.
- [Senior Farmers Market Nutrition](#) led by the Arkansas 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
- National School Lunch Program
- School Breakfast Program
- Summer Food Service Program (SUN Meals)
- The Patrick Leahy Farm to School Program
- USDA Foods in Schools



Emergency Food Response

- USDA Food and Nutrition Service [State COVID-19 Waivers and Flexibilities](#)
- [Arkansas Preparedness and Emergency Plan](#)
- [Federal Emergency Management Agency Regional Contact](#) – Region 6
- [Emergency Food Assistance Program \(TEFAP\) Contacts](#)

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.
- [Arkansas Coalition for Obesity Prevention](#)
- [Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance](#)

Other Food and Nutrition Security Organizations

- [Arkansas Children's - Access to Healthy Foods Group](#) aims to build evidence, capacity, and support for an equitable food system that fosters the health and wellness of children, families, and communities in Arkansas.
- [The Arkansas Department of Health](#) convenes partners and collaborates to develop policies and programs for food and nutrition security.
- [The Arkansas Farmers Market Association](#) provides a forum where market managers can network and advocate on behalf of Arkansas farmers.
- [The University of Arkansas: Resiliency Center - Resilient Food Initiative](#) develops strategies for increasing the resiliency of critical life-support systems.
- [Arkansas Farm to School Collaborative](#) connects schools, farms, and the community to local food.
- [USDA Local Food Directories](#)

Data Sources and Resources

- [AR 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

State Public Health Contacts for Food and Nutrition Security

Chronic Disease Prevention and Control Branch

Bala Simon, State Chronic Disease Director
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Maternal and Child Health and Family Health

Hattie Scribner, Family Health Branch Chief
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Women, Infants, and Children Program

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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 this 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.