

National Food and Nutrition Security Profile

Purpose

Food and nutrition security means having reliable access to enough high-quality food to avoid hunger and stay healthy.¹ Improving access to nutritious food supports overall health, reduces chronic diseases, and helps people avoid unnecessary health care. The National Food and Nutrition Security Profile (National Profile) serves as a companion to the [State/Territorial Food and Nutrition Security Profiles](#). Although not exhaustive, the National Profile can be used to identify national programs, services, and data sources to affect food and nutrition security infrastructure, collaboration, and initiatives at the state and/or local level. The National Profile also supports the implementation of [The White House National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health](#).

The National Profile will be reviewed and updated biennially. If you have any questions or comments, please contact the Center for Advancing Healthy Communities at CAHCinfo@chronicdisease.org.

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) – Nutrition Assistance and Nutrition Education Programs

- [Supplemental Food Assistance Program](#) (SNAP) is a benefits program that provides financial assistance to eligible households to supplement their food budget as a means of improving food and nutrition security. USDA Food and Nutrition Service works with state agencies to administer the SNAP program at the state and local level. [SNAP State Directory](#)
- [Supplemental Food Assistance Program Education](#) (SNAP-Ed) is the nutrition education arm of SNAP. SNAP-Ed is administered by [state and territorial agencies](#) and implemented by various agencies. [FNS Regional Offices](#) provide support to state SNAP-Ed agencies. SNAP-Ed aims to help individuals stretch their food budgets through nutrition education; policy, systems, and environmental change; and social marketing approaches. Every state SNAP-Ed program is unique as it is based on the specific needs of the community.
- [Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program](#) (EFNEP) is a Federal Extension (community outreach) program that currently operates through the Land-Grant Universities in every state, the District of Columbia, and the six U.S. territories. EFNEP uses education to support participants' efforts toward self-sufficiency, nutritional health, and well-being. Connect with [EFNEP partners](#) in each state and U.S. territory.

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/health-equity-chronic-disease/social-determinants-of-health-and-chronic-disease/index.html>



- [Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children \(WIC\)](#) provides federal grants to states and territories for supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and to infants and children at nutritional risk. [State/Territory WIC Contacts](#)
- [Farmers Market Nutrition Program \(FMNP or WIC FMNP\)](#) provides eligible WIC participants with farmers market coupons in addition to their regular WIC benefits. The coupons can be used to buy eligible foods from farmers, farmers markets, or roadside stands that have been approved by the state agency to accept FMNP coupons. [State/Territory WIC FMNP Contacts](#)
- [Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations \(FDPIR\)](#) provides USDA Foods to income-eligible households living on Indian reservations and to Native American households residing in designated areas near reservations or in Oklahoma. [FDPIR Program Contacts](#)

Senior Food and Nutrition Programs (for older Americans, 60+)

There are several federal agencies and national organizations supporting the nutrition of older adults. The programs are administered by state agencies and implemented by state, territorial, and local agencies and organizations.

- USDA Food and Nutrition Service programs
 - [Commodity Supplemental Food Program](#) works to improve the health of low-income persons at least 60 years of age by supplementing their diets with nutritious USDA Foods.
 - [Seniors' Farmers Market Nutrition Program](#) provides low-income seniors in states, U.S. Territories, and Indian Tribal Organizations with access to locally grown fruits, vegetables, honey, and herbs through farmers markets and roadside stands.
 - [Child and Adult Care Food Program \(CACFP\): Adult Day Care Centers](#) provides adults with the nutrition they need as a routine part of their day care program.
- U.S. Department of Health & Human Services program
 - Through the Older Americans Act, the [Administration for Community Living's Administration on Aging](#) provides grants to states to support nutrition services nationwide (such as a congregate and home-delivered meals) for adults age 60 and older. State and local nutrition and other services for older adults are centralized through the [Eldercare Locator](#).
- [US Aging](#) is the national infrastructure that includes federal, state, regional, and local organizations (such as local Area Agencies on Aging) to develop, plan, and deliver home- and community-based services and supports (e.g., nutrition services) to older adults and their caregivers.



- [Meals on Wheels](#) is the leadership organization that supports more than [5,000 community-based programs](#) across the country that are dedicated to addressing senior isolation and hunger through home-meal delivery. There are [12 Meals on Wheels State Associations](#) that provide an additional level of support and coordination.

Child Nutrition Programs

- [National School Lunch Program](#) (NSLP) is a USDA federally assisted meal program administered by states. It operates in schools and residential childcare institutions, providing nutritionally balanced, low-cost or no-cost lunches to children.
- [School Breakfast Program](#) is a USDA federally assisted meal program administered by states. It operates in schools and residential childcare institutions, providing nutritionally balanced, low-cost or no-cost breakfast to children.
- [Healthy School Meals for All](#) is currently being implemented by eight states – California, Maine, Colorado, Minnesota, New Mexico, Vermont, Michigan, and Massachusetts. It offers a free breakfast and lunch to all students regardless of household income.
- [Child and Adult Care Food Program](#) (CACFP) provides reimbursements for meals and snacks to eligible children and adults who are enrolled for care at participating childcare centers, day care homes, and adult day care centers.
- [Summer Food Service Program](#) (also referred to as SUN Meals) provides kids of all ages with meals and snacks during the summer at no cost at schools, parks, and other neighborhood locations.
- [Patrick Leahy Farm to School Program](#) helps child nutrition program operators incorporate local foods into the National School Lunch Program, SUN Meals, CACFP, and all associated programs. In addition, USDA staff work with tribal communities by promoting food sovereignty and the integration of traditional food ways into tribal meal programs.
- [USDA Foods in Schools](#) supports nutrition programs and American agricultural producers through purchases of 100% American-grown and -produced foods for use by schools and institutions participating in NSLP, CACFP, and SUN Meals.
- [Special Milk Program](#) provides milk to children in schools and childcare institutions who do not participate in or have access to other federal meal service programs.
- [Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program](#) provides a variety of free, fresh fruit and vegetable snacks to children at eligible elementary schools along with a nutrition lesson. Schools work with partners at the state and local level to support the program.



- [National Farm to School Network](#) enriches the connection communities have with fresh, healthy food and local food producers by changing food purchasing and education practices at schools and early care and education sites. Core components include local food procurement, community gardens, and education.

Food Is Medicine

- [Food is Medicine Taskforce](#), convened by the Milken Institute, brings together thought leaders from diverse sectors, including insurance, food retail, healthcare, and non-profit, who are committed to accelerating food is medicine implementation.
- USDA's [Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program](#) (GusNIP) brings together stakeholders from various parts of the food and healthcare system and provides competitive grants supporting these efforts.
- [Food is Medicine Coalition](#) is an association of nonprofit medically tailored food and nutrition service providers.
- [Food is Medicine Initiative](#), developed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, collaborates with federal partners and external organizations and communities to develop resources that can be used to advance Food is Medicine approaches across the country.

Charitable Food System

The charitable food system is a network of food banks, food pantries, and meal programs within a state or region that provide supplemental food and services to populations seeking food and nutrition security.

- [Feeding America](#) is part of a national network of food banks, food pantries and community-based organizations across the U.S. working to bring food to people facing hunger. Feeding America advocates for policies to improve food security and address long-term solutions to hunger.

Emergency Food Response

- USDA Food and Nutrition Service [State/Territory COVID-19 Waivers and Flexibilities](#) can serve as a resource for future emergencies/disasters, even though the COVID-19 pandemic public health emergency support from USDA expired in May 2023.
- USDA's [The Emergency Food Assistance Program](#) (TEFAP) provides supplemental, emergency food assistance to individuals with limited income. USDA provides 100% American-grown USDA Foods and administrative funds to states to operate TEFAP. [State TEFAP Contacts](#)
- [Federal Emergency Management Agency \(FEMA\) Regional Contacts](#) FEMA has 10 regional offices across the country. Each regional office has leadership contacts and resources to support the Tribal Nations and states/territories within the region to prepare for and respond to disasters. Each state's page includes localized content, such as disaster recovery centers, flood maps, fact sheets, and other resources. [Tribal Nations](#) and [Regions, States and Territories](#)



Data Resources

- [United States Profile of Hunger, Poverty, and Federal Nutrition Programs](#) – Food Research and Action Center
- [Food Security in the U.S.](#) – USDA Economic Research Service
- [Child Nutrition Programs Dashboard](#) – USDA Food and Nutrition Service
- [Food Environment Atlas](#) – USDA Economic Research Service
- [Map the Meal Gap 2024](#) – Feeding America
- [Fresh Fruit and Vegetable State Profiles](#) – International Fresh Produce Association

For additional information or questions about the National 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.