

# Tennessee Food and Nutrition Security State Profile

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## 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](mailto:CAHCinfo@chronicdisease.org).

## Food Banks, Pantries, and Feeding Programs

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

- [Chattanooga Area Food Bank](#)
  - View the [kids](#), [seniors](#), and [emergency](#) programs offered.
  - View the [counties served](#).
  - View the [partner agencies](#).
- [Mid-South Food Bank](#)
  - View the [programs offered](#).
  - View the [counties served](#).
  - View the [partner agencies](#).
- [Second Harvest Food Bank of East Tennessee](#)
  - View the [programs offered](#).
  - View the [counties served](#).
  - View the [partner agencies](#).
- [Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee](#)
  - View the [programs offered](#).
  - View the [counties served](#).
  - View the [partner agencies](#).
- [Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee](#)
  - View the [programs offered](#).
  - View the [counties served](#).
  - View the [partner agencies](#).



## 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 funding:*
    - [Appalachian Resource Conservation & Development Council](#) (2022-2025)

### Community Nutrition Education Programs

- [Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program](#) (EFNEP)
  - The implementation agencies are the Tennessee State University and University of Tennessee Cooperative Extension.
- [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education](#) (SNAP-Ed)
  - The Tennessee Department of Human Services is the state agency responsible for TN SNAP-Ed. SNAP-Ed implementing agencies include the Tennessee State University Cooperative Extension and the University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service.
- [Supplemental Nutrition Assistant Program](#) (SNAP)
  - [Tennessee SNAP Directory](#)

### Senior Nutrition Programs

- [Elderly Nutrition Program](#) led by the Tennessee Commission on Aging & Disability.
- [Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program](#) led by the Tennessee 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)
- USDA Foods in Schools

## Emergency Food Response

- USDA Food and Nutrition Service [State COVID-19 Waivers and Flexibilities](#)
- [Tennessee Emergency Management Plan](#)
- [Federal Emergency Management Agency Regional Contact](#) – Region 4
- [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.



## Other Key Food and Nutrition Security Organizations

- [National Farm to School Network - Tennessee](#) increases access to local food and nutrition education to improve children’s health, strengthen family farms, and cultivate vibrant communities.
- [Tennessee Justice Center](#) educates, informs and advocates for people about the federal nutrition programs through outreach materials, webinars, and partners
- [Tennessee Association of Farmers Markets](#) empowers market organizers and vendors across the state by providing valuable resources, support, and knowledge
- [USDA Local Food Directories](#)

### Data Sources and Resources

- [Tennessee 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 and Health Promotion

Denise Werner, Deputy Medical Director  
[denise.werner@tn.gov](mailto:denise.werner@tn.gov)

### Maternal and Child Health Program

Elizabeth Harvey, Assistant Commissioner  
[elizabeth.harvey@tn.gov](mailto:elizabeth.harvey@tn.gov)

### Women, Infants, and Children Program

Alesha Reeves, Supplemental Nutrition Program Section Chief  
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For additional information or questions about this Profile, please contact the Center for Advancing Healthy Communities at [CAHCinfo@chronicdisease.org](mailto: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](http://chronicdisease.org).