

United States Virgin Islands Food and Nutrition Security Profile

Purpose

The purpose of the Food and Nutrition Security Profile (Profile) is to provide an overview of territorial 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

- [Feeding Caribbean](#)
 - Currently serves St. Thomas with plans to serve all United States Virgin Islands (USVI).
- [University of the Virgin Islands Essential Needs Pantry](#)
 - Serves students on St. Croix and St. Thomas campuses.
 - Contact [St. Croix](#) campus or the [St. Thomas](#) campus.
- [Frederiksted Baptist Church Feeding Ministry](#)
 - Serves St. Croix.
- [Catholic Charities Soup Kitchens](#)
 - Serves St. Croix, St. John, and St. Thomas.

Select Food and Nutrition Security Programs

Community Nutrition Education Programs

- [Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program](#) (EFNEP)
 - The implementing agency is University of the Virgin Islands.
- [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education](#) (SNAP-Ed)
 - The responsible and implementing agency for USVI SNAP-Ed is the Virgin Islands Department of Human Services.
- [Supplemental Nutrition Assistant Program](#) (SNAP)
 - [USVI SNAP Directory](#)

Senior Nutrition Programs

- [Elderly Nutrition Program](#) led by the Department of Human Services Office of Senior Citizens Affairs.
- [Seniors Farmers Market Nutrition Program](#) led by the USVI Department of Agriculture.

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
- USDA Foods in Schools

Emergency Food Response

- USDA Food and Nutrition Service [State/Territory COVID-19 Waivers and Flexibilities](#)
- [USVI Territorial Emergency Operations Plan](#)
- [Federal Emergency Management Agency Regional Contact](#) – Region 2
- [Emergency Food Assistance Program \(TEFAP\) Contacts](#)

Food (Policy) Coalitions and Councils

- [Virgin Islands Good Food](#) supports USVI farmers and producers and ensures that healthy good food is accessible to every resident in the territory.
- [Virgin Islands Farmers Alliance](#) is an inclusive voice and educational resource on behalf of professional farmers and for future farmers of the Virgin Islands.

Other Key Food and Nutrition Security Organizations

- [World Central Kitchen Food Producer Network](#) supports smallholder farms, fisheries, and food-related small businesses to strengthen food security and sustainable economic development throughout the food producing communities on St. Croix, St. John and St. Thomas.
- [USVI Farmers Markets](#) includes listings for farmers markets in St. Croix, St. John, and St. Thomas.
- [The Village Cooks](#) delivers chef-inspired meals to local families in need.

Data Sources and Resources

- [Hunger Cliff 2023: Virgin Islands](#) – Food Research and Action Center
- [Virgin Islands Community Food Systems Snapshot 2020](#) – Iowa State University



Public Health Contacts for Food and Nutrition Security

Chronic Disease Prevention

Lyña Fredericks, Director
lyna.fredericks@doh.vi.gov

Maternal and Child Health

Janis Valmond, Interim MCH Director
janis.valmond@doh.vi.gov

Women, Infants, and Children

Lorna Concepcion, WIC Director
lorna.concepcion@doh.vi.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 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.