

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

## Food Banks, Pantries and Feeding Programs

The following food bank is a member of Feeding America's [network](#).

### Utah Food Bank

- View the [programs offered](#).
- Serves all 29 counties in Utah.
- 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 Security Programs

### Food Is Medicine Programs

- Find the [Double Up Food Bucks](#) program in your state. [Double Up Food Bucks](#) led by Utahns Against Hunger and Utah Department of Health and Human Services.
- Locate the [Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program](#) (GusNIP) grantees in your state:
  - *Current Nutrition Incentive Funding:*
    - [Utah Department of Health and Human Services](#) (2022-2024)
- [Utah Produce Rx](#)

### Community Nutrition Education Programs

- [Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program](#) (EFNEP)
  - The implementing agency is Utah State University.
- [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education](#) (SNAP-Ed)
  - The Utah Department of Workforce Services is the state agency responsible for the UT SNAP-Ed program called Create Better Health. The SNAP-Ed



implementing agency is Utah State University Extension.

- [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program](#) (SNAP)
  - [Utah SNAP Directory](#)

### **Senior Nutrition Programs**

- [Elderly/Senior Nutrition Program](#) supported by the Utah Department of Health & Human Services, Aging and Adult Services.
- [Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program](#) led by the Utah Department of Health and Human Services.

### **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 Emergency Food Assistance Program
- The Patrick Leahy Farm to School Program
- USDA Foods in Schools

### **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](#)
- Utah [Emergency Management Plan](#)
- [Federal Emergency Management Agency Regional Contact](#) – Region 8
- [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.
- [Local Food Advisory Council](#)
- [Utah Food Security Council](#)
- [Salt Lake City Local Foods: Food Policy Council](#) and [Food Equity Advisors](#)

### **Other Key Food and Nutrition Security Organizations**

- [Get Healthy Utah](#) is a non-profit organization working to improve healthy eating, active living and mental wellbeing in Utah.
- [Utahns Against Hunger](#) is the only statewide anti-hunger non-profit organization working to increase access to food through advocacy, outreach, and education.



- [Food Justice Coalition](#) works to increase healthy food access throughout Utah utilizing direct outreach, advocacy, and food sovereignty education.
- [Utah State University - Hunger Solutions Institute](#) is an integrated academic, extension, and community organization dedicated to educational and societal solutions to hunger.
- [National Farm to School Network - Utah](#) increases access to local food and nutrition education to improve children's health, strengthen family farms, and cultivate vibrant communities.
- [Utah Farmers Market Network](#) supports local agriculture by promoting farmers markets and supporting increased capacity through communication, collaboration, technical assistance, and professional development.
- [USDA Local Food Directories](#)

### Data Sources and Resources

- [UT 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 Food and Nutrition Security Contacts

### Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

Braden Ainsworth, State Chronic Disease Director  
[bainsworth@utah.gov](mailto:bainsworth@utah.gov)

### Community Food Security Program

Natalie Loots, Manager  
[natalieloots@utah.gov](mailto:natalieloots@utah.gov)

### Maternal & Child Health (MCH) Program

Laurie Baksh, MCH Director  
[lbaksh@utah.gov](mailto:lbaksh@utah.gov)

### Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program

Christopher D. Furner, WIC Director  
[cfurner@utah.gov](mailto:cfurner@utah.gov)



For additional information or questions about this Profile, please contact the Center for Advancing Healthy Communities at [CAHCinfo@chronicdisease.org](mailto:CAHCinfo@chronicdisease.org).

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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](http://chronicdisease.org).