

# West Virginia 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 banks are members of Feeding America's [network](#).

- [Mountaineer Food Bank](#)
  - View the [programs offered](#).
  - View the [counties served](#).
  - View the [partner agencies](#).
- [Facing Hunger Foodbank](#)
  - View the [programs offered](#).
  - Serves Cabell, Boone, Jackson, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, McDowell, Mason, Mingo, Putnam, Wayne and Wyoming Counties.
  - 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:*
    - [University Health Associates Inc.](#) (2022-2025)
    - [Williamson Health Wellness](#) (2022-2025 and 2021-2024)
  - *Current Nutrition Incentive Funding:*
    - [West Virginia Farm to Food Coalition](#) (2020-2024 and 2021-2025)
- [SNAP Stretch](#) led by the WV Food and Farm Coalition.

### Community Nutrition Education Programs

- [Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program](#) (EFNEP)
  - The implementing agencies are WV University and WV State University.

- [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education \(SNAP-ED\)](#)
  - The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources is the state agency responsible for the WV SNAP-Ed program called WV Family Nutrition Program. SNAP-Ed implementing agency is West Virginia University Extension Service.
- [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\)](#)
  - [West Virginia SNAP Directory](#)

### **Senior Nutrition Programs**

- [Elderly Nutrition Program](#) led by the West Virginia Bureau of Senior Services.
- [Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program](#) led by the West Virginia 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

## **Emergency Food Response**

- USDA Food and Nutrition Service [State COVID-19 Waivers and Flexibilities](#)
- West Virginia [Emergency Operations Plan](#)
- [Federal Emergency Management Agency Regional Contact](#) – Region 3
- [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.
- [West Virginia Food and Farm Coalition](#)

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

- West Virginia [Food Link](#) is a resource hub supporting a people-centered, resilient food network in West Virginia.
- West Virginia University [Center for Food System Resilience](#) explores the role the food system plays in building community resilience at a local, regional, and global scale, and work towards food sovereignty and the “right to food” in Appalachia and beyond.
- West Virginia University [Food Justice Lab](#) is an experimental space for research and action focused on challenging food systems inequalities.

- [WV Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics](#) is a professional, not-for-profit organization of Registered Dietitian Nutritionists, Dietetic Technicians Registered, and dietetic students who offer expert food and nutrition advice and information for the promotion of optimal health and well-being.
- [Farm to School – West Virginia](#) increases access to local food and nutrition education to improve children’s health, strengthen family farms, and cultivate vibrant communities. Supports the [West Virginia Farm to School State Plan 2020-2025](#).
- [West Virginia State Farmers Market Association](#) strengthens the capacity of West Virginia farmers markets and positively impacts the communities through education, advocacy, and access to healthy, locally grown food.
- [Meals on Wheels State Association – West Virginia](#) facilitates collaboration between non-profit organizations and governmental agencies to strengthen senior nutrition services.
- [USDA Local Food Directories](#)

### Data Sources and Resources

- [WV Profile of Hunger, Poverty and Federal Nutrition Programs](#) – Food Research and Action Center
- [WV Food Link: Data and Food Access Resources for the Mountain State](#) – West Virginia University, Center for Resilient Communities
- [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

Sheryn Carey, State Chronic Disease Director  
[sheryn.i.carey@wv.gov](mailto:sheryn.i.carey@wv.gov)

### Maternal Child Health (MCH) Program

James Jeffries, MCH Director  
[james.e.jeffries@wv.gov](mailto:james.e.jeffries@wv.gov)

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

Heidi E. Staats, WIC Director  
[heidi.e.staats@wv.gov](mailto:heidi.e.staats@wv.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).

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).