

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.

Food Banks, Pantries, and Feeding Programs

The [Federation of Virginia Food Banks](#) is the state association of food banks affiliated with Feeding America. The Federation supports the seven regional Virginia/ Washington D.C. food banks in building partnerships, securing resources, sharing data, and raising awareness of food insecurity throughout the Commonwealth.

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

- [Blue Ridge Area Food Bank](#)
 - View the [programs offered](#).
 - View the [counties served](#).
 - View the [partner agencies](#).
- [Capital Area Food Bank](#)
 - View the [programs offered](#).
 - View the [counties served](#).
 - View the [partner agencies](#).
- [Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore](#)
 - View the [programs offered](#).
 - View the [counties served](#).
 - View the [partner agencies](#).
- [Feed More](#)
 - View the [programs offered](#).
 - View the [counties served](#).
 - View the [partner agencies](#).



- [Feeding Southwest Virginia](#)
 - View the [programs offered](#).
 - View the [counties served](#).
 - View the [partner agencies](#).

- [Fredericksburg Regional Food Bank](#)
 - View the [programs offered](#).
 - View the [counties served](#).
 - View the [partner agencies](#).

- [Virginia Peninsula Foodbank](#)
 - View the [programs offered](#).
 - Serves the [counties served](#).
 - 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 as Medicine

- 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:*
 - [Local Food Hub, Inc.](#) (2022-2025)
 - *Current Nutrition Incentive Funding:*
 - [Local Environmental Agriculture Project](#) (2021-2024 and 2023-2025)

Community Nutrition Education Programs

- [Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program](#) (EFNEP)
 - The implementing agency is the Virginia Cooperative Extension.

- [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education](#) (SNAP-Ed)
 - The Virginia Department of Social Services is the state agency responsible for the VA SNAP-Ed Virginia Family Nutrition Program. The SNAP-Ed implementing agency is Virginia Cooperative Extension.

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

Senior Nutrition Programs

- [Elderly Nutrition Program](#) led by Virginia Office of Aging and Rehabilitative Services.
- [Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program](#) led by the Virginia Department of Aging and Rehabilitative 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 Patrick Leahy Farm to School Program
- USDA Foods in Schools

Emergency Food Response

- USDA Food and Nutrition Services [State COVID-19 Waivers and Flexibilities](#)
- [Commonwealth of 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.
- [Virginia Food System Council](#)
- [Virginia Community Food Connections](#)
- [Appalachian Virginia Food Systems Network](#) (requires login to Facebook)
- [Virginia Food Access Coalition](#)

Other Key Food and Nutrition Security Organizations

- [Virginia Farmers Market Association](#) supports farmers' markets through education initiatives while building opportunities for collaboration, networking, advocacy, and innovation that support the growth and sustainability of farmers' markets statewide.
- [National Farm to School Network – Virginia](#) increases access to local food and nutrition education to improve children's health, strengthen family farms, and cultivate vibrant communities.
- [Local Environmental Agriculture Project](#) works to create an equitable food and farming system that prioritizes health and abundance by supporting community initiatives, markets, farms, and farmers.
- [USDA Local Food Directories](#)



Data Sources and Resources

- [Virginia Profile of Hunger, Poverty and Federal Nutrition Programs](#) – Food Research and Action Center
- [Virginia's Roadmap to End Hunger 2024](#) – Virginia Poverty Law Center
- [Feed VA: Explore Virginia trends in hunger, food access and health](#) – Feed VA
- [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 Prevention and Health Promotion

Heather Board, State Chronic Disease Director
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Maternal and Child Health Program

Cynthia deSa, Maternal Child Health/Title V Director
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Women, Infants and Children Program

Paula Garrett, Director, Division of Community Nutrition
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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 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.