



FOOD BANK
OF NORTHERN NEVADA

Building Stronger Communities: The Food Bank of Northern Nevada's Approach to Food Insecurity

By Frankie Ortiz RD, LD – Health Equity Manager
& Sarah Gotcher – Food Donation Coordinator



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Frankie Ortiz RD, LD Health Equity Manager

My name is Frankie Ortiz, and I'm a Registered Dietitian passionate about serving diverse communities. I have a strong educational background in community nutrition and am currently pursuing a Master's degree in Dietetics. Over the past two years, I have been at the Food Bank of Northern Nevada, where I oversee the Prescription Pantry Program, support the implementation of SWAP (Supporting Wellness at Pantries), and am actively involved in various nutrition and JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) initiatives. My work focuses on improving access to nutritious foods and addressing health disparities within the community, as well as promoting nutrition education. I believe in the importance of nutrition equity and the necessity of providing tailored support and guidance that reflects the unique needs of each community.



Sarah Gotcher Retail Program Coordinator

I'm Sarah Gotcher, and I am fortunate to have over 12 years of experience in the food access space. I grew up volunteering in my mom's pantry located in a rural community, where I first realized the importance of ensuring that everyone has access to nutritious food. This experience led me to my current role with the Food Bank of Northern Nevada, where I'm dedicated to supporting neighbor's needs. To further enhance my ability to make a positive impact, I'm currently pursuing my M.S. in Sociology. I believe that understanding the social dynamics at play is crucial in helping people access the resources they need. I'm passionate about my work and committed to fostering a healthier, more equitable community for all.



Objectives

- Learn about food insecurity in Northern Nevada and its impact on communities.
- Discuss FBNN's key programs
- See how FBNN partners with schools, healthcare, and local organizations.
- Review FBNN's impact through data driven results
- Learn about challenges FBNN has faced and how they've adapted.
- Discover FBNN's future goals and areas for growth.



Food Insecurity in Northern Nevada

What Hunger Looks Like in Nevada

In Nevada, 456,700 people are facing hunger - and of them 144,290 are children.



People facing hunger in
Nevada
are estimated to report needing

\$333,490,000

more per year to meet their food needs.

The average cost of a meal in Nevada is \$3.88. Data from Feeding America's [Map the Meal Gap](#) study. [Learn more >](#)

- Nevada is ranked **8th** nationally among states with the highest projected rates of **very low food insecurity in 2021** (6.2 percent) compared to 2019 actuals of 2.8 percent.
- **80,000** Nevadans aged **60 years and older** identified as **food insecure**.
- Data projections suggest Nevada will witness a **36% increase** in the **older adult population** over the next ten years

Nevada Department of Health & Human Services - Food ..., dphh.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/dphh.nv.gov/content/Programs/FINAL_FSSP.pdf. Accessed 22 Oct. 2024.

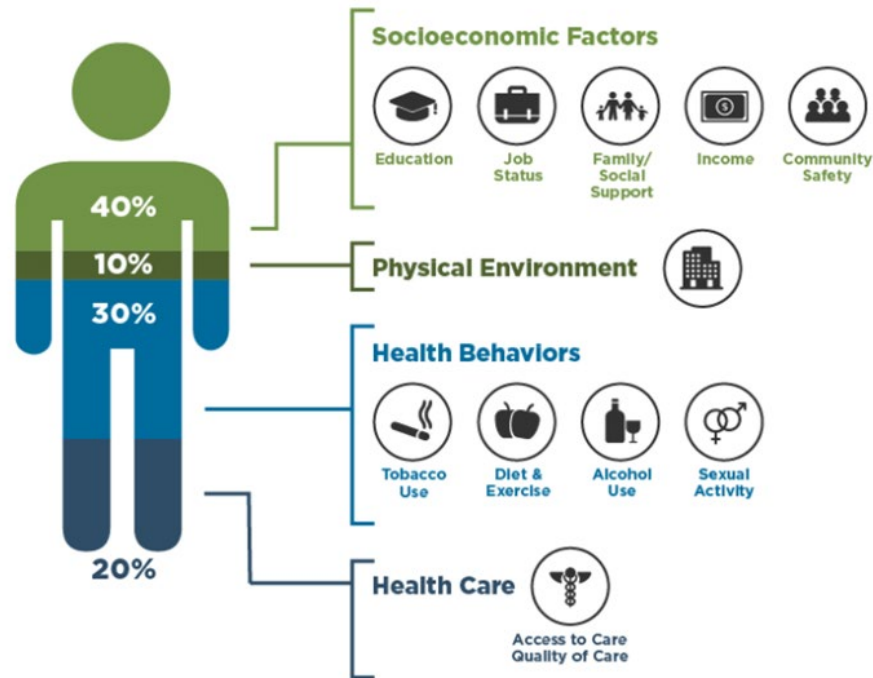


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Food Insecurity and Health Outcome

What Goes Into Your Health?



Source: Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement, Going Beyond Clinical Walls: Solving Complex Problems (October 2014)

Adapted from The Bridgespan Group

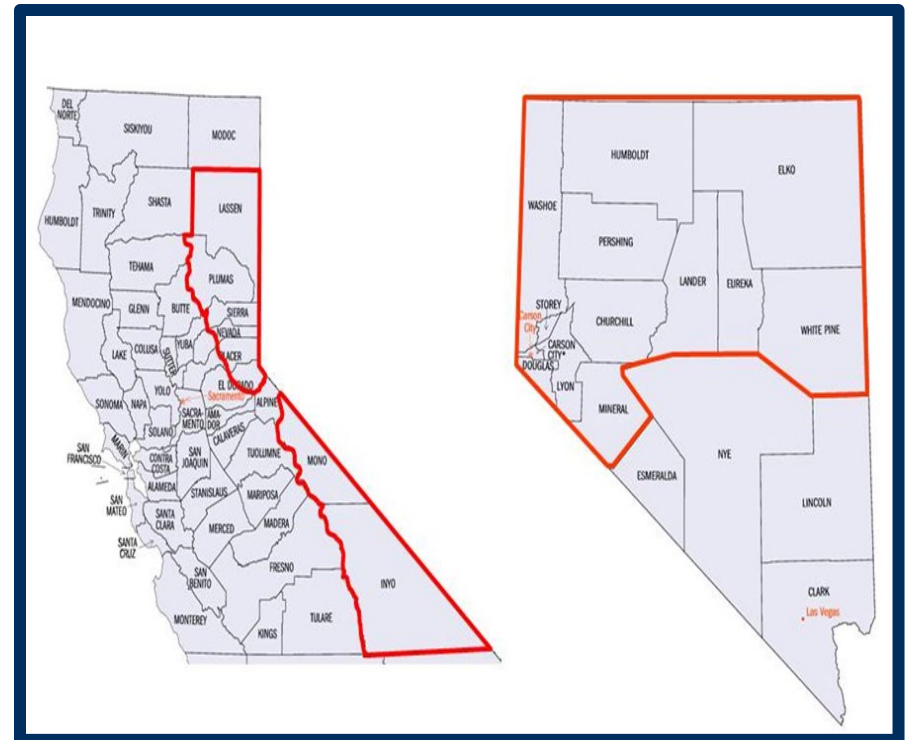


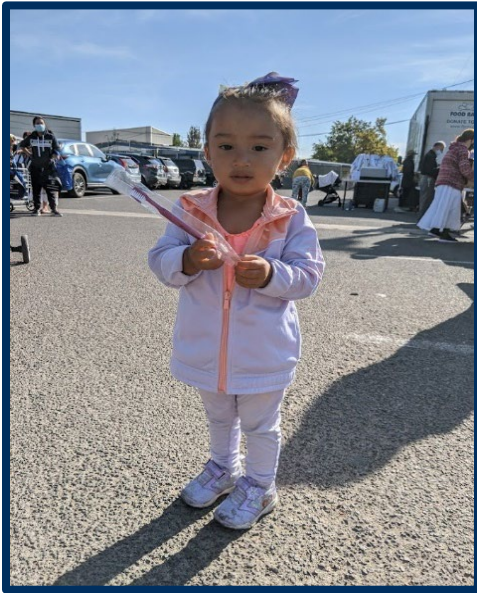
Who We Serve

The Food Bank of Northern Nevada services **90,000 square mile** area throughout northern Nevada and the eastern slope of the Sierras in California

Fun Fact:

This is almost equivalent to the entire state of Wyoming (97,000 square miles)





Vulnerable Populations

- **Nearly half** of those served by the Food Bank are **children or seniors**.
- Nevada is in the **top 10** states for **senior hunger**.
- **Tribal communities** were significantly impacted during the pandemic.



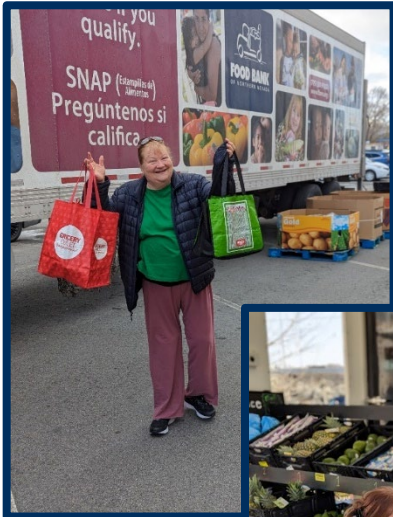
How We Do it

152 Partner Agencies

155,000 people served per month

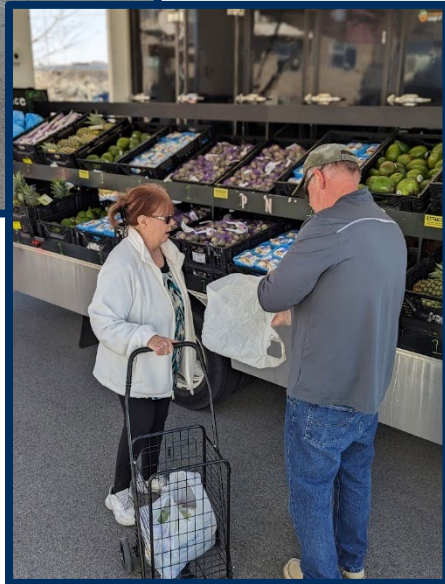


More of Our Neighbors Are Needing Support



We are seeing more neighbors facing hunger every day. Over the last year, we served an average of **155,000 people per month**.

This number has increased nearly **30%** in the last two years.



What We're Hearing From Our Neighbors

- High cost of living.
- Wages aren't keeping up with inflation and expenses.
- Pandemic benefits have expired.



FBNN's Core Programs and Initiatives

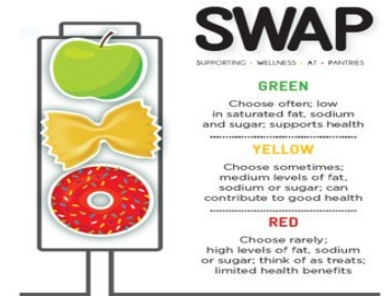
- **Senior Programs**
 - Senior Nutrition and Wellness Program (SNW)/ Senior Boxes
 - Golden Groceries Program, pantries hours just for seniors.
 - Produce on Wheels , free produce in more manageable quantities for those 60+ (~16 rural sites monthly)
- **Direct Service Programs**
 - Mobile Harvest (~25 rural sites monthly)
- **The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)**



FBNN's Core Programs and Initiatives

- **Child Nutrition**

- Kids Cafe
- Summer Lunch
- School pantries
- Back Pack kids program



- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**

- **Nutrition Focused Programing**

- Prescription Pantry Program
- Supporting Wellness at Pantries (SWAP)



Partnerships for Success

Who are our partners?

Local Schools:



- School pantries
- Engage underserved students and families.

Healthcare Systems:



- Prescription Pantry Program – Partnerships with 13 unique healthcare organizations
- Integrate food security in healthcare
- Consistent access to nutritious foods

Community Organizations:



- Pantry Partners
- Local and State Agencies
- Joint outreach events
- Volunteer mobilization for distributions and events
- Leverage existing networks for resource distribution

Goal:
**Meet People
Where They Are &
Improve Access**



Measuring Impact and Success

Data-Driven Results

Fiscal Year 24 Snap Shot



- **25,207,771** Pounds distributed (up 16% over FY23)
- People served **155,000 a monthly average** (up 15,000 over FY23)
- **20,339, 848 lbs.** through partner agencies
- **32%** of what we distributed was **fresh produce**
- **2,568,047 lbs.** through Mobile Harvest
- **1,222,768 lbs.** through Senior Boxes
- **524,111 lbs.** through School Pantries
- **300,540lbs.** Through Produce on Wheels
- **223,566lbs.** Through Rx Pantry
- **413, 999** Meals through SNAP Outreach
- **322,004** Meals through Kids Cafe



Challenges and Lessons Learned

Growing Demand:

Significant increase in the number of neighbors accessing food at both our direct service sites and partner locations.

Geographic Barriers:

Difficulties in both delivering food to rural areas and sourcing a diverse range of foods, especially in regions with limited supply chains.

Federal Funding Fluctuations:

Ongoing changes in federal program funding have impacted our ability to consistently purchase and provide food.



Looking Forward – FBNN’s Future Vision



Rural Access Hub:

Purpose:

Support rural communities, particularly Elko County, with better food access.

What This Means:

- Acts as a **storage hub** for faster food distribution.
- Provides a space for **community services** (e.g., workshops, nutrition education).

Partner Agency Access:

- More frequent delivery schedules.
- Reliable food supply chain for rural areas



Looking Forward – FBNN’s Future Vision

Culturally Preferred Food Sourcing:



Goal:

Offer food that aligns with the cultural preferences of the diverse communities we serve.

What This Means:

- Partner with local suppliers for culturally relevant foods.
- Follow **Feeding America Service Requirements** for equitable and inclusive food sourcing.

Impact:

- Increased acceptance and use of food assistance.
- Better nutrition outcomes by respecting cultural dietary needs.



Looking Forward – FBNN’s Future Vision

Identifying Additional Funding Opportunities



Goal:

Secure sustainable funding to support and expand programs and food purchasing.

What This Means:

- Explore federal, state, and local grants tailored for hunger relief, nutrition programs, and community support.
- Build partnerships with private donors, foundations, and corporations interested in food security and health equity.
- Identify new opportunities through collaboration with other non-profits, government agencies, and community organizations.

Impact:

- Expanded resources to improve food access and program sustainability.
- Increased ability to invest in innovative solutions, like culturally relevant food sourcing or enhanced nutrition education.
- Greater financial resilience to adapt to shifts in funding landscapes.





Additional Questions ?

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Thank You For Joining Us !

