



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE  
4126 Technology Way, Suite 100  
Carson City, Nevada 89706  
Telephone (775) 684-4000 • Fax (775) 684-4010  
<http://dhhs.nv.gov>

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**CONTACT:** Mary Woods, Public Information Officer  
(775) 684-4024, [mary.woods@dhhs.nv.gov](mailto:mary.woods@dhhs.nv.gov)

## **Nevada Receives Grant to Help End Childhood Hunger**

*Carson City, NV*, The State of Nevada is pleased to announce it has been selected as a recipient of the USDA Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act (HHFKA) Demonstration Project Grant, and will receive over \$3.1 million over three years to help end childhood hunger in Nevada.

Nevada will use the awarded funding to establish an innovative Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Enhancement Demonstration Project that aims to reduce food insecurity, improve nutrition and improve household economic stability.

Specifically, the program will determine if an increase in monthly benefits to SNAP, along with additional outreach, case management and education, will reduce food insecurity in children under the age of five.

At the end of the project, data collected from the Nevada pilot project will be evaluated by the federal Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to assess what alternative models are most successful at easing childhood hunger.

The pilot program will take place in households that are below 75 percent of the federal poverty line in 12 neighboring zip codes in Clark County. To measure success, there will be one control group and two cohorts who will receive different SNAP benefits.

The grant will be administered by the Division of Public and Behavioral Health in conjunction with the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, both within the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

Nevada is only one of 10 states in the nation where hunger rates exceed the national average. Over 28 percent of households with children report being food insecure in Nevada.

Ending childhood hunger has been the primary focus of The Governor's Council on Food Security, chaired by First Lady Kathleen Sandoval. "This is an exciting step forward in the fight against food insecurity and childhood hunger in our state," said First Lady Sandoval. "This grant award will greatly enhance Nevada's ongoing efforts to develop meaningful solutions to a serious problem that affects far too many Nevada families."

Likewise, DHHS has focused on eliminating hunger in Nevada and has a statewide food plan. "Receiving this grant is great news for Nevada," said Richard Whitley, DHHS Interim Director, "and will help us address the Governor's and his wife's priority that no child lives in hunger."

The USDA established \$40 million to produce and evaluate innovative projects aimed at nutritiously reducing childhood hunger and food insecurity. The other grant recipients include Virginia, Kentucky, the Chickasaw Nation, and the Navajo Nation.

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