



UTAH FOOD
SECURITY COUNCILTM

COMMUNICATIONS

Sub-committee designated to communicate the Food Security Council initiatives and resources to legislators, state and local government, community organizations, and those in need.

Sub-Committee Members

Lead: Frank Vega

Jennifer Bateman

Ellie Brownstein

Kurt Clodfelter

Heather Crockett

Jocelin Gibson

Caroline Hargraves

LaCee Jimenez

Natalie McHale

Maria Fernanda Rivera

Shelly Scoresby

PAST

WORK



**Food Security
Website
Improvements**

**Food Security
Press Release &
Media**

**Food Security
Council 2023
Annual Report**

**Leadership
Shift**



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Food Security Website Improvements

We've revamped the website and made it more user friendly for the two differing audiences.

(1) Hunger fighting agencies and the council itself can more easily find the upcoming meeting schedule, previous meeting notes, subcommittee projects, upcoming events, agency highlights, contact information, etc.

(2) Utah public seeking help can more easily find emergency food sites, free nutrition and food preparation education, and a collection of the various public resources to people in need.



Emergency Food Sites

If you or someone you know is experiencing food insecurity, the sites below are available to help.

Utah 211	https://utah211.org/
FeedUt	https://feedut.org/
Mobile Food Pantry (Utah Food Bank)	https://www.utahfoodbank.org/programs/mobile-pantry/map/
Find a Pantry (Utah Food Bank)	https://www.utahfoodbank.org/find-a-pantry/
USU SNAC (Student Nutrition Access Center)	https://www.usu.edu/snac/
U of U Feed U Pantry	https://union.utah.edu/resources-spaces/feed-u-pantry/hours-about-us/
Utah Food Pantries	https://www.foodpantries.org/st/utah



No Cost Public Nutrition Education

	Create Better Health Utah SNAP-Ed Program
	Create Better Health Online Utah SNAP-Ed Online Self-paced Course
	Create Better Health en español Online Curso en línea de Create Better Health
	EFNEP Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program
	Extension UtahStateUniversity
	USU Extension Nutrition Utah State University Extension Nutrition Program



UTAH FOOD SECURITY COUNCIL™


The Utah Food Security Council (FSC) was established through Senate Bill 133. The goal of the council is to provide recommendations at a policy level to make sure more Utah families, especially those with children, have access to food. The council aims to coordinate statewide efforts in addressing food security by developing goals and messaging for nutrition education, ensuring consistency in federally funded programs, promoting healthy eating and active lifestyles, advancing Utah food products, and disseminating messaging to state agencies.

“ One in 10 Utah households experience food insecurity and more than 102,000 Utah families do not have the resources to buy enough food. ”
— Palak Gupta, PhD., Food Security Council Lead, USU Assistant Professor

“ We want to support our local growers. I want them to be the ones feeding our families. ”
— Utah State Senator Luz Escamilla, Minority Leader, Chief Sponsor Bill 133

” ”

 Get the Facts	 Get Involved	 Get Help
An essential part of fighting hunger is understanding the terms and language used to discuss food security. It is also beneficial to have up-to-date data regarding the issue.	Food insecurity is a solvable problem. Partners in all sectors across the state of Utah are coming together to share knowledge, best practices, and resources. We invite you to join us.	Utah provides a number of resources for free food and evidence-based education to help people experiencing food shortage.
Hunger Definitions & Terminology Utah Hunger Statistics	Next Council Meeting Agenda Council Meeting Schedule	Emergency Food Sites Public Education Programs



Council Subcommittees

<p>Communications</p> <p>Objective: Clearly communicate the Food Security Council initiatives and resources to legislators, state and local government, community organizations, and those in need.</p> <p>Committee Lead: Frank Vega</p> <p>Members: Natalie McHale, Caroline Hargraves, Ellie Brownstein, Heather Crockett, Jennifer Bateman, Kurt Clodfelter, LaCee Jimenez, Maria Fernanda Rivera, Shelly Scoresby, Jocelin Gibson</p> <p>Ongoing Projects: Public website improvement, annual report, social media, collect subcommittee information, statewide data on food and nutrition security, quarterly press releases.</p> <p>For more information, please contact Frank Vega at fvega@utah.gov.</p>	<p>Food Recovery</p> <p>Objective: Facilitate the collaboration of food recovery efforts in Utah and ways to reduce the need for food recovery.</p> <p>Committee Lead: Carrie Durward, PhD.</p> <p>Members: Carrie Durward, Sean Damitz, Laura Holtrop Kohl, Adel Pincock, Dana Williamsen, Tina Murray, Megan Fitzklein, Jennifer Garner, Nelda Ault-Dyslin, Sarah Elizabeth Garza-Levitt, Suzanne Lewis, Karlee Kump</p> <p>Ongoing Projects: Collaborate around food waste reduction efforts to address food insecurity; share best practices for food waste reduction; maximize and leverage member expertise around food waste to address food insecurity; collaborate as a statewide coalition of partners to be more competitive in large-scale funding opportunities.</p> <p>For more information, please contact Carrie Durward at carrie.durward@usu.edu.</p>	<p>Homelessness</p> <p>Objective: Connect stakeholders and programs for housing and nutrition support to streamline resource promotion for individuals facing insecurity in both areas, also to gain understanding of the needs for those experiencing housing and nutrition insecurity to provide informed recommendations to the Food Security Council.</p> <p>Committee Leads: Lea Palmer, Peggy Green</p> <p>Members: Katie Mazzie, Jonathon Walters, Gina Cornia, Karen McCandless, Kristin Hoch, Palak Gupta</p> <p>Ongoing Projects: develop statewide goals and messaging related to food security and nutrition education; coordinate statewide efforts to address food security; ensure that any state programs receiving federal funds from the United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service provide consistent and coordinated nutrition education messaging; promote programs and activities that contribute to healthy eating and active lifestyles; promote programs and activities that advance Utah food products; and disseminate the statewide goals and messaging developed under Subsection (2) to state agencies.</p> <p>For more information, please contact Lea Palmer at lea.palmer@usu.edu or Peggy Green at peggy.green@usu.edu</p>
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Food Security Press Release & Media

We've shared important Food Security Council information with the media and public.

Nineteen publications are currently posted on the Food Security Council Website.

Utah Public Radio | By Anna Johnson
Published November 28, 2023 at 2:46 PM MST

Food Rescue Workgroup gives strategies to save food from landfills

Utah State University's Hunger Solutions Institute recently created a Food Recovery Workgroup focused on preventing food waste. Carrie Durward, a nutrition specialist with USU Extension, is part of the workgroup.

Utah Food Security Council In the News

TOPIC	SITE	DATE
Food Rescue Workgroup Gives Strategies to Save Food From Landfills	Utah Public Radio	November 28, 2023
Utah's Food Security Council Forms Workgroup to Reduce Food Waste	Utah State University Extension News	November 10, 2023
Extension Education Highlight: Nutrition Security	Utah Public Radio	July 13, 2023
Ask an Expert: Reduce Food Waste, Reduce Hunger in Utah	The Times - Independent	June 15, 2023
Ask an Expert: Reduce Food Waste at Home to Help Reduce Hunger in Utah	Utah State Today	June 12, 2023
Ask an Expert: Reduce Food Waste at Home to Help Reduce Hunger in Utah	Cache Valley Daily	June 11, 2023
Ask a Specialist: The Importance of Healthy Food Options	Box Elder News Journal	May 24, 2023
Ask an Expert: The Importance of Healthy Options for Utah's Vulnerable	The Daily Herald	May 17, 2023
Ask an Expert: Food Security and Nutrition Security	ETV News	May 16, 2023
Ask an Expert: Food Security and Nutrition Security	Utah Public Radio	May 15, 2023
New Utah Food Security Council Based at USU	Utah Farm Bureau	February 6, 2023
New Food Security Council Based at USU	Farm Progress	February 1, 2023
New Council at USU Works to Combat Food Insecurity in Utah	ABC4 News	January 20, 2023
Food Security Bill Gets Buzz on Capitol Hill During Legislative Session	KSL	January 19, 2023
USU Home to New Food Security Council	The Herald Journal News	January 19, 2023
New Utah Food Security Council Based at USU	ETV News	January 19, 2023
New Food Security Council Ready to Combat Hunger in Utah	2KUTV	January 18, 2023
Food Security Council Begins Work as More Utah Families Face Hunger	2KUTV	November 15, 2022

Food Security Council 2023 Annual Report



Utah Food Security Council

2023 Annual Report

Ensuring the nutritional needs of all Utahns are met.

Utah Food Security Council (FSC) is the result of Senate Bill 133: Food Security Amendments. This bill creates a FSC to coordinate state efforts in addressing food security and is actively sponsored by Senator Luz Escamilla and Representative Ryan Wilcox.

Council Chairperson



Gina Cornia
Utahns Against Hunger

Highlights

- News coverage of the Food Security Council Kick Off Press Conference on January 18, 2023.
- 2023 meetings have fostered connection and collaboration between community partners, including the Veterans Association, Double Up Food Bucks, Wasteless Solutions, Community Senior Food Program and more. Full list of partnerships.
- Developing recommendations to address gaps in food access in Utah communities.
- First Food Security Council press release is planned for Fall 2023.
- Utilization of the Food Security Council website to share goals, meeting minutes and resources.

Membership

15 Council Members 51 Community Members

Work Groups



To learn more about the Food Security Council, visit:
extension.usu.edu/hsi/utahfoodsecuritycouncil



Hunger Solutions Institute
UtahStateUniversity

Utah State University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution and is committed to a learning and working environment free from discrimination, including harassment. For USU's non-discrimination notice, see <https://www.usu.edu/equity/non-discrimination>.

Leadership Shift

Despite Paul retiring, the committee has continued to meet on a regular schedule and the leadership transitioned with zero interruption to Frank Vega.

New Meeting Schedule

3rd Thursday of each month

3-4pm

Google Meet



UPCOMING PLANS



Website Highlights

Continue to collect and showcase an agency highlight each month on the website landing page.

- June - Commodity Supplemental Food Program for Seniors (CSFP)
- July - TBD



Press Releases

Communicate Food Security Council subcommittee projects and information regarding food insecurity in Utah.

Currently finalizing press release about Chef Kurt Clodfelter and his new role with the Hunger Solutions Institute at Utah State University.



Other Website Updates

Update the website with subcommittee work, toolkits, public and agency tools as they develop.



C o m m u n i c a t i o n S u b c o m m i t t e e

COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES

Our role is not to create content, but rather to disseminate and bring attention to the work of the other subcommittees.

We will coordinate with the Hunger Solutions Institute social media account rep to share Food Security Council information across all social platforms. If your agencies have social media accounts and would like to share FSC efforts, please let us know.

C o m m u n i c a t i o n S u b C o m m i t t e e

SUPPORT NEEDED

CONSTANT COMMUNICATION

We should be in constant communication with the subcommittee leads so we can get the word out when there are events, partnership opportunities, collaborations, or work being done where the public can participate or benefit.

After subcommittees achieve a goal or develop a tool, please notify Frank, so he can work to spread the information to the target audience (partners/government agencies or food insecure Utahns).

MONTHLY UPDATE AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

Each month, during the Food Security Council Meeting, Frank will ask what news the subcommittees have to share. If subcommittee leads would come prepared to respond, then the Communications Subcommittee can do their part. Please consider:


- What advancements have been made? (Press release, social media post)
- What successes have occurred? (Press release, social media post)
- What tools have been developed? (Website addition)
- Are new materials available? (Website addition)
- What needs to be shared out and to whom? (Website addition, social media post)



A close-up photograph of a young child with dark hair and bright blue eyes. The child is holding a white ceramic bowl up to their mouth, as if about to drink or eat. The background is softly blurred, showing what appears to be a wooden chair. The overall mood is one of innocence and focus.

**“THE WAR AGAINST HUNGER
IS TRULY MANKIND’S WAR
OF LIBERATION.”**

-JOHN F. KENNEDY

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