

FY2025



FOOD BANK
OF NORTHERN NEVADA

IMPACT REPORT



Your Community.



Your Food Bank.

Together, We're Making a Powerful Impact

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our community, we faced a year of growing need with determination – and we even surprised ourselves a bit with all we were able to accomplish together. ***Hunger in our region has reached extraordinary levels.*** Each month, we helped an average of 160,000 people. That's 5,000 more than last year, and a staggering 76% increase compared to pre-pandemic numbers in 2019.

We met this need head-on by distributing **23.1 million meals** to our neighbors throughout the year. This was only possible because of our amazing network of more than 140 partner agencies working throughout our 90,000-square-mile service area. Of the 26.8 million pounds of food distributed, **21.6 million pounds went directly to families through these partners. And we're proud that 32% of this food was fresh produce, keeping nutrition at the heart of our mission.**

But the challenges are far from over. Cuts to federal commodity programs mean we expect to receive 2 to 3 million fewer pounds of food in FY2026. Additional reductions to SNAP and Medicaid will likely increase the number of families turning to us for help.

Still, our commitment remains strong. With your continued support, we are planning, preparing, and staying ready to meet the need – no matter what comes next. ***Thank you for being a vital part of this work. You make hope possible.***

Healthy Food. Every Person. ***Every Day.***

Neighbors Share Food Access Challenges and Needs

Toward the end of FY2025, the Food Bank began conducting listening sessions with neighbors from across our service area. These sessions were designed as intentional spaces to engage deeply with community members, ensuring that their voices, perspectives, and lived experiences inform how we approach food access and related services. Food Bank staff wanted to better understand needs and barriers around food insecurity and access and to more clearly identify the root causes of food insecurity.

Through open dialogue, participants shared both the practical challenges they face—such as transportation, language barriers, limited access to fresh and culturally relevant foods, and inconsistent pantry hours—as well as the emotional impact of navigating food insecurity. Importantly, these conversations revealed instances where neighbors felt welcomed and supported but also highlighted gaps in services and areas where equity, dignity, and accessibility are lacking.

The insights gathered are now helping guide our Service Area Assessment, ensuring that any future adjustments to programs, partnerships, or resource distributions are community-informed and responsive to actual needs.



The Food Bank Embarks on Strategic Planning Process

The Food Bank initiated a strategic planning process the last half of FY2025 to set the direction for the organization for the next 5-10 years. After a comprehensive RFP and selection process, CoSpero was selected to lead the planning process because of their exemplary work with Feeding America on the network strategic framework and strategic planning with other food banks and nonprofit organizations. The initial phase of the planning, which began at the end of FY2025, includes gathering input from staff, board, partner agencies, neighbors, donors, and other community stakeholders. A new strategic plan will emerge along with a plan for execution and accountability in FY2026.

Retail Rescue – Perfect Partnerships

Everyone can agree, with increases in food insecurity, there is nothing more heartbreaking than food going to waste. The Food Bank of Northern Nevada is battling declining food donations and increasing families needing help with a comprehensive food resourcing strategy that maximizes food to the community while minimizing food waste.

A very bright star in this strategy is the tremendous growth and success of the Retail Rescue Program. This program connects grocery stores and other retail food donors with Food Bank of Northern Nevada partner agencies. Last year, 6.1 million pounds of food was picked up and rescued by partner agencies, and distributed in our communities. This represents 26% more food that was rescued for our community than during the prior year. There are 45 partner agencies picking up food on a regular basis and 13 new donors have also joined the program.

The Retail Rescue Program is realized by bringing donors and partners together to make use of this wonderful food. One impressive story of impact is through the Salvation Army in Susanville, California. This busy pantry has rescued 119,474 lbs. of food since joining the program in December of 2023. The partnerships have brought vital protein, produce and pre-made meals to members of the community. These dedicated hunger warriors also traveled over 3 hours to rescue food at a Dollar General in Portola during a wildfire near Quincy making the trip longer and more dangerous. Their commitment to the community is a testament to the power of partnership and the shared mission to serve our neighbors.

New Initiatives Address Needs of Neighbors

Thanks to a grant from the Nevada Department of Agriculture, the Food Bank purchased a building in Elko to serve as a hub for more efficient and expanded food distribution to partner agencies in rural, northeastern Nevada to improve food access for neighbors. The project entered the design phase the last half of FY2025, and it's expected to be operational by late 2026.

The Food Bank also continued moving forward on the "The Oddie Project," a partnership project with The Children's Cabinet, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization addressing the unmet needs of Nevada children and families. The Oddie Project will serve as a community resource center, providing programs and services to the Oddie corridor neighborhood and surrounding areas. Plans are underway to renovate the building to include high-quality, early-learning childcare, a choice market pantry, culinary kitchen and training program, and space for other training and services.

Food As Medicine: The Prescription Pantry Program

We know that access to nutritious foods is important for the health of families and our community. We also understand how the value of partnership and collaboration helps us to make an even more substantial impact in our communities. The Prescription Pantry Program is a great example of that collaboration combining health providers, food pantries and the Food Bank of Northern Nevada to address food insecurity and its impact on health. The program provides food insecurity screenings, food prescriptions, and program referrals to increase access to foods low in sodium and sugar for people with chronic health issues, such as diabetes and high blood pressure. All participating food pantries are open at least once per week, and they utilize the Supporting Wellness At Pantries (SWAP) system to address food insecurity and the health needs of our shared patients and clients. This critical program encourages healthy eating habits. While FY25 results are not available yet, this program has shown great sustained results over time with 81,490 people served last year and 58% of all patients with two or more A1C draws showed a downward trend when they visited the pantry 4 or more times during the year. In last fiscal year, we expanded a partnership with Access to Healthcare Network, the Pyramid Lake pantry and clinic to the program, and were awarded additional funding from Northern Nevada Public Health and Renown for the additional projects. These expansions and additional partnerships continue to strengthen the program and demonstrate the value of access to nutritious food in our communities.

"They go out of their way to make sure you're getting what you need. You don't feel embarrassed or intimidated. We talk, we laugh – it feels like community. Everyone's just trying to help each other through."
-Tara (pictured on cover)

A Community That Cares

When Tara's husband's work hours were cut, her family of four suddenly had to make a tighter budget stretch even further. That's when she discovered the Pyramid Lake Food Pantry.

With a growing toddler at home and her teenage niece recently coming to live with Tara's family, groceries add up quickly. "The pantry really helps us make meals go further," Tara said. "Fresh fruit, eggs, and meat. It all makes a big difference."

For Tara, the pantry has meant more than just food on the table. It's offered breathing room, relief, and the reassurance that her community cares.

Thanks to support from neighbors across our region, families like Tara's can find not only nutritious food, but also kindness, dignity, and hope.

United Hand in Hand Against Hunger

Together, we're building a future where everyone has access to nourishing food.
Thank you for standing with us and fueling this mission.
Because of your support, last year we...

Delivered **23.1 million meals** through
partner agencies and direct service programs,
serving an average of 160,000 people each month.



2.6 million meals of fresh food to more than
48 neighborhoods through Mobile Harvest

455,132 meals
through
SNAP Outreach

32% of all food
distributed was
fresh produce.



Supported children
with 797,008 meals
through school
pantries and
Kids Cafe Meals

193,277 meals
were provided through
Prescription Pantry

1.45 million meals to seniors through
Senior Nutrition & Wellness and
Produce on Wheels Programs

3,976 Volunteers dedicated 22,700
hours of their time - the equivalent of
nearly 11 full-time employees.



FOOD BANK OF NORTHERN NEVADA

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