

Dear Nutrition Partners,

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to supporting child and family well-being for all North Carolinians. Recognizing that access to nutritious food is foundational to health and well-being for children, families, and older adults, NCDHHS is committed to decreasing the number of North Carolinians who experience food insecurity. In support of that goal, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services [today released](#) the [North Carolina Department of Health & Human Services State Action Plan for Nutrition Security](#), outlining an innovative, multi-pronged strategy that NCDHHS is taking to reduce food insecurity in NC.

The cross-cutting strategies of the NCDHHS State Action Plan for Nutrition Security, aligned with our efforts to advance equity throughout the state, are as follows:

- Increase the reach of NCDHHS's nutrition programs so that more eligible North Carolinians receive Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and so that the participant and casework experience is strengthened.
- Build connections between NCDHHS' health care and nutrition supports to ensure that North Carolinians are receiving vital nutrition supports and benefits in order to address their food security needs, improve health care outcomes, and reduce health care spending.
- Increase breastfeeding support and rates so that families have support to breastfeed and more infants can receive this beneficial and healthy source of nutrition.

Over 18 months from 2023-2024, the plan will guide implementation of initiatives that will increase enrollment in FNS, WIC and Medicaid; improve the participant and staff experience in the FNS and WIC programs; leverage North Carolina's robust network of community partners who connect residents to services; and provide breastfeeding training to WIC staff and stand up a statewide breastfeeding hotline. These activities are grounded in metrics and milestones designed to move the needle on nutrition security in North Carolina.

The action plan leverages programs like FNS, WIC, and Medicaid to cohesively support whole-person health, brings together efforts by various divisions across NCDHHS, and builds upon significant initiatives already implemented by NCDHHS and partners during the pandemic. As the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency will end on May 11, NCDHHS is acting to ensure eligible families can enroll and remain enrolled in programs that support nutrition and overall well-being. Guided by the action plan, NCDHHS is moving with urgency to address nutrition security for all North Carolinians at this critical time.

To create the action plan, NCDHHS worked closely with Benefits Data Trust (BDT), a national nonprofit that improves health and financial security by harnessing the power of data, technology and policy to provide eligible families and individuals with efficient access to assistance.

Thank you for your continued partnership and we look forward to working with you all to increase nutrition security for all North Carolinians.

Sincerely,  
Madhu

**Madhu Vulimiri, MPP**

Deputy Director

Division of Child and Family Well-Being

[NC Department of Health and Human Services](#)