



Food Security Council

September 28, 2023

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

Healthy People. **Healthy Communities.**

Agenda

- Welcome
- Progress Update
- Definition Discussion
- Presentations + Discussion
- Additional Proviso
- Next Steps



South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
Healthy People. Healthy Communities.

Welcome

Edward Simmer, MD, MPH, DFAPA
Director, DHEC

Progress Update



Convene Council + Establish Goals

August 2023

Review proviso requirements, establish goals, and determine timeline.



Inventory + Other Resources Feedback

September 2023

Each agency to provide feedback on current state of existing services, and any other relevant information. DHEC to provide document.



Draft Recommendations

October 2023

Council discusses and drafts recommendations.



Final Recommendations + Draft Report

November 2023

Council votes on final recommendations. DHEC begins drafting report.



Final Review

December 2023

Each agency provides final feedback on draft report. DHEC will incorporate and finalize report.



Final Report Submitted to Legislature

January 2024

Report containing final recommendations submitted by January 31, 2024.



Definitions

Food Security	Nutrition Security
High Food Security ¹ – no reported indications of food-access problems or limitations.	Nutrition Security ¹ – All Americans have consistent and equitable access to healthy, safe, affordable foods essential to optimal health and well-being.
Marginal Food Security ¹ – One or two reported indications – typically of anxiety over food sufficiency or shortage of food in the house. Little or no indication of changes in diets or food intake.	Food and Nutrition Security ² – Having reliable access to enough high-quality food to avoid hunger and stay healthy. Improving access to nutritious food supports overall health, reduces chronic diseases, and helps people avoid unnecessary health care.
Low Food Security ¹ – Reports of reduced quality, variety, or desirability of diet. Little or no indication of reduced food intake.	
Very Low Food Security ¹ – Reports of multiple indications of disrupted eating patterns and reduced food intake.	

¹ <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-u-s/definitions-of-food-security/>

² <https://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/healthequity/sdoh-and-chronic-disease/nccdphp-and-social-determinants-of-health/food-and-nutrition-security>

Presentations

- **Clemson Extension** – Weatherly Thomas + Michelle Altman
- **Clemson/DHEC Statewide Food Map** – Keisha Long (DHEC)
- **SC Food Policy Council** – Allisa Duncan
- **SC State Nutrition Action Coalition** – Kate Gerweck

Additional Proviso

Proviso 1.68 of H.4300 – Student Meals (Department of Education):

- School districts to conduct updated analysis to identify students in poverty
- Increase access to free school meals for identified students
- Local board of trustees of district in which all schools are eligible to receive free federal reimbursement rate for all reimbursable breakfasts and lunches shall adopt resolution indicating participation
 - If district unable to participate because of financial hardship, resolution shall be adopted demonstrating that hardship
- School districts to ensure parents or guardians of eligible students receive necessary applications and instructions and receive assistance with completing paperwork upon request.
- Schools shall not publicly identify or penalize students who are unable to pay for meals or accrue meal debt.

Discussion

- Are there any follow-up questions for today's presenters?
- What does a draft report and recommendations look like?
- What additional information is needed?
- How can we best support Council members?
- How would the Council like to move forward?

Next Steps

Next meeting -

- October 16th-20th
- Inventory completion
- Be prepared to discuss gaps + provide recommendations to address those gaps



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