



What has the pandemic revealed
about Idaho's food security?



2021 FINAL REPORT

In 2020, the SARS-CoV-2 virus changed the lives of many Idahoans as we watched the world respond to the pandemic. Businesses suffered and our healthcare system became overwhelmed. Supply chains were disrupted leading to a shortage in essential supplies, including food.

COVID-19 is estimated to have dramatically increased the number of people facing food insecurity. Feeding America projects that, due to the pandemic, approximately 1 in 9 Idahoans will experience food insecurity in 2021. Additionally, approximately 58,000 children (1 in 8) could be living with hunger.

Together, leaders from business, government, faith communities, tribal organizations and nonprofits can make a difference in the lives of Idahoans. Those in attendance at the 2021 Summit on Idaho Hunger and Food Security have developed actionable goals aimed at decreasing hunger with focuses on Childhood Nutrition, Culturally Relevant Food Systems, Healthcare Partnerships, and Senior Nutrition.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Dr. Dariush Mozaffarian
Dean, Friedman School of Nutrition
Tufts University

Dariush Mozaffarian is a cardiologist, Dean, and Jean Mayer Professor at the Tufts Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, and Professor of Medicine at Tufts School of Medicine. His work aims to create a food system that is nutritious, equitable, and sustainable. Dr. Mozaffarian has authored more than 450 scientific publications on dietary priorities for obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular diseases, and on evidence-based policy approaches and innovations to reduce these burdens in the US and globally. He has served in numerous advisory roles, and his work has been featured in a wide array of media outlets. Thomson Reuters has named him as one of the World's Most Influential Scientific Minds.

PANELISTS



Becky Elmore
Director of School Nutrition
Post Falls School District

Becky Elmore is the current President of the Idaho School Nutrition Association and represents its membership of nearly 600 school nutrition professionals from around the state of Idaho. She is the director of School Nutrition for the Post Falls School District. She holds a BS in Food and Nutrition from the University of Idaho and is SNS credentialed (School Nutrition Specialist) through the School Nutrition Association. Although her career has included working in clinical settings and with adult and geriatric age groups, she has truly found her passion in working with school-aged children. Nourishing the minds and bodies of the students that she serves is a task that she holds dear to her heart. A lifelong Idahoan, she resides in Coeur d'Alene with her husband of 26 years and has two adult sons.



Angie Gribble
Community Health Director
St. Luke's Health system

In Angie's full-time role as Community Health Director for St. Luke's Health System, she provides leadership on Community Health Needs Assessments, implementation plans, community partnerships, community grants, and investments, and Community Board works across Southwest and Southcentral Idaho. The goal of Angie's work is to implement programs, policies, and practices that create community and clinical environments supportive of individual, family, and community wellness and resilience. This goal can be achieved through multidisciplinary, well-rounded, and evidence-based approaches.

Angie holds a B.S. in Mathematics and Exercise Science from the College of Idaho, and a Masters of Health Science, with an emphasis in Health Services Leadership from Boise State University.

PANELISTS



Dolores Vega
Resource and Advocacy Supervisor
The Hunger Coalition

My name is Dolores Vega and I am the Resource and Advocacy Supervisor at The Hunger Coalition. My role is to be a voice for the ones who are needing it so we can share in the food, but most of all to listen when no words are spoken. Food is a way of showing love to others and the way to keep communication with one another as humans.

The Hunger Coalition builds a healthy community through access to good food and addresses the root cause of food insecurity in collaboration with key partners. The Hunger Coalition envisions a community where everyone has access to good food regardless of economic circumstances, where human connections grow, and all are empowered to speak up and be heard.



Grant Jones
Chief Executive Officer
Metro Meals on Wheels

Grant Jones is the CEO of Metro Meals on Wheels. He and his staff tackle food insecurity among seniors head-on each weekday. Mirroring our rapid senior population growth, Metro serves and delivers 1,500 meals each weekday, up 300 meals a day since pre-COVID. Despite staffing, infrastructure, financial, and other limitations, Metro is always open and willing to combat senior food insecurity. What started as an Ada County-centric program, Metro now also serves seniors in Emmett, Middleton, Marsing, and part of Caldwell. Under his leadership, Metro has adopted the "More Than a Meal" mantra. The program focuses on nutrition, but also a daily safety check, socialization, and independence for seniors. Grant has been a longtime participant in the annual Summit on Idaho Hunger & Food Security.



CHILDHOOD NUTRITION

Goal 1: Assist communities and schools to assess their continuum of food access and program availability.

Goal 2: Programs exist - participants are not taking advantage of resources available. Close the gap and increase use.

Goal 3: Increase "Community School" programs across Idaho.



CULTURALLY RELEVANT FOOD SYSTEMS

Goal 1: Train food bank and pantry staff to support and provide culturally-relevant food options with the goal of increasing interest and use throughout communities. Provide educational materials supporting the use of translators to food banks.

Goal 2: Expand Veggie RX programs in partnership with local communities. Utilize paid translation services to promote the programs within those communities.

Goal 3: Support statewide efforts to pass legislation that grant undocumented or DACAmented individuals with identification so that ID is never a barrier to food access. Build awareness campaigns in multiple languages to educate on the effort.



HEALTHCARE PARTNERSHIPS

Goal 1: Expand funding and reimbursement of food and nutrition security programs by collecting and sharing aggregate health data with Idaho's key decision-makers to demonstrate positive Return on Investment.

Goal 2: Reduce food and nutrition insecurity within Idaho's under-resourced populations by expanding the Community Health Worker framework, and connecting individuals to available community resources.



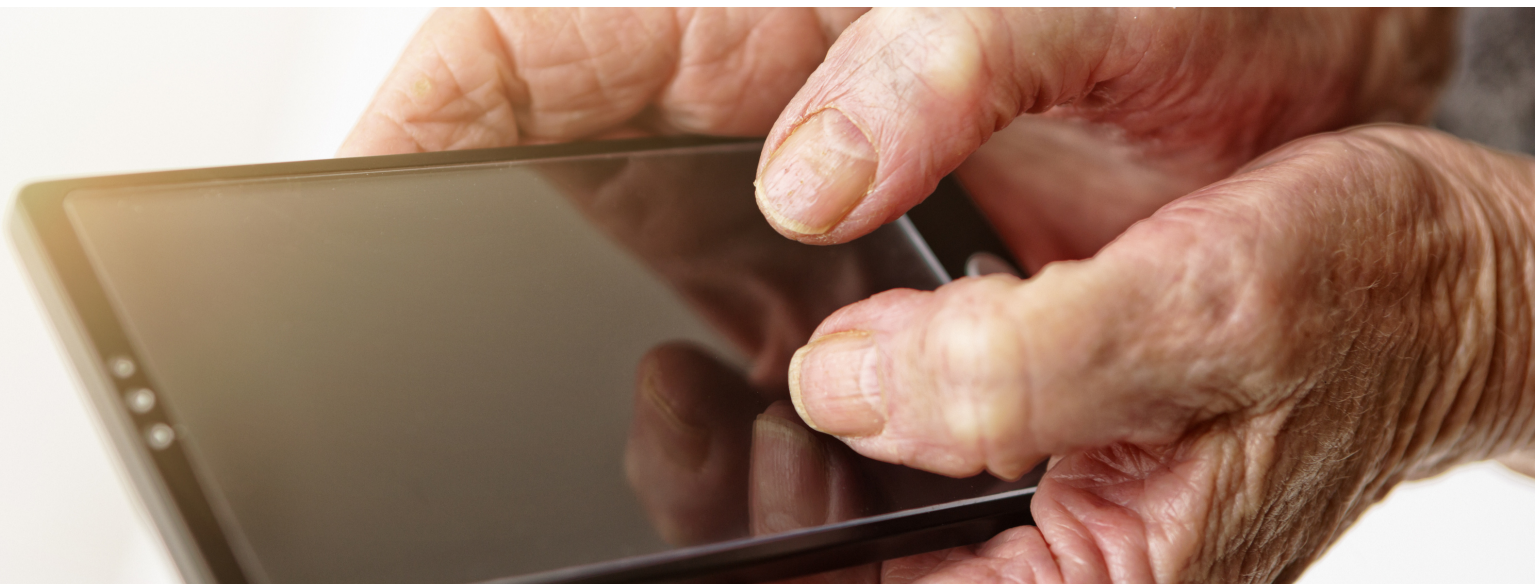
SENIOR NUTRITION

Goal 1: Coordinate a panel or focus group to create a new Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia Program focused on Brain Health at the Idaho Department of Health & Welfare.

Goal 2: Offer "Successful Aging in Technology" education by advocating for funding, partnering with private industry, applying for nutrition education, and providing virtual services to seniors.

Goal 3: Offer a series of webinars and training in partnership with the Area Agencies on Aging and national experts focused on reimagining Senior Centers in Idaho.

Goal 4: Support and expand the existing Community Calendar with Spanish translations and through partnerships with the Area Agencies on Aging and other local organizations.





ABOUT THE IDAHO HUNGER RELIEF TASK FORCE

In October of 2006, the first statewide Summit on Hunger and Food Security was held in Boise. This first Summit brought together faith leaders, charitable emergency food providers, state and local government, health providers, advocacy groups, business and industry, and community members to learn about and identify appropriate Idaho solutions. One of the first 'next steps' was the creation of a statewide hunger relief task force meant to work as a collaboration of public and private agencies and organizations from many different sectors to work together to promote food security.

The Idaho Hunger Relief Task Force was established in 2008 with a vision that in a state as abundant as Idaho, hunger will not exist. The mission is to put public and private resources into action statewide to eliminate hunger and provide food security for all Idahoans.

The 2021 Summit on Idaho Hunger and Food Security marks 13 years since the inception of the Task Force and the eighth statewide Summit on Idaho Hunger and Food Security.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

