








STUDENT NUTRITION ACCESS CENTER (SNAC)








The Challenge

Food insecurity among college students has been recognized nationally as a growing problem. According to data collected in 2021, over 37% of USU students surveyed (n=896) experienced food insecurity within the previous year.¹ Food insecurity refers to inconsistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life.

Students at risk of food insecurity include²:

-  Those with dependents
-  First-generation students
-  Racial or ethnic minorities
-  International or military-connected students
-  Students who have a disability
-  Non-traditional aged students
-  Gender-nonconforming or transgendered students

Food insecurity among college students is associated with²:

-  Worse academic performance, including lower GPA
-  Increase in mental health concerns
-  Increased risk for leaving higher education
-  Decreased social engagement
-  Poorer self-rated general health



College of Agriculture & Applied Sciences
UtahStateUniversity

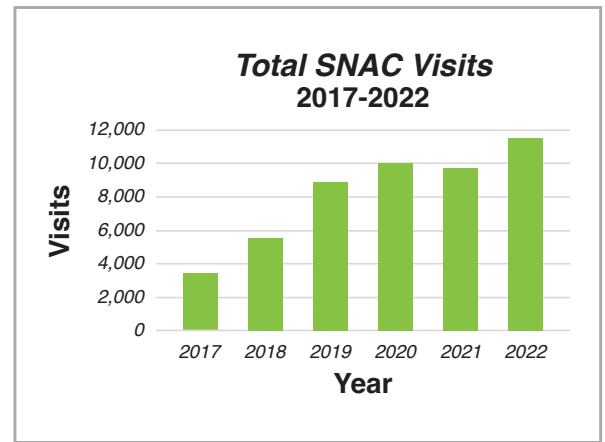
Nutrition, Dietetics and Food Sciences

Donate today to support SNAC's mission and services.



The Response

To reduce food insecurity on the Logan Campus, Utah State University's Center for Community Engagement (CCE) opened the Student Nutrition Access Center (SNAC) in 2010. CCE worked diligently to expand SNAC services to over 1,900 students in 2022. In 2023, oversight of SNAC transitioned to the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences (CAAS) and the Department of Nutrition, Dietetics and Food Sciences (NDFS). With support from CCE, CAAS and NDFS are committed to the continued growth and impact of SNAC by providing funding, department support, and faculty oversight.



SNAC's mission is to:

- 1 Reduce food insecurity by increasing access to nutritious foods
- 2 Educate students about basic needs and available resources
- 3 Reduce food waste by recovering food

Resources provided to students by SNAC include:



Variety of non-perishable foods



Produce gleaned from the community



Personal hygiene products



Foods recovered from USU Dining Services and local restaurants



Nutrition and food preparation education

Academic and experiential opportunities provided to undergraduate and graduate students include:



Work-study



Staff positions



Internships



Service/volunteer hours

2022 Impact

11,500+
pantry visits,
serving
1,950+
individuals

Recovered and distributed
20,000+ LBS
of campus and local restaurant
surplus food that otherwise
would have gone to the landfill

Distributed
5,000+ LBS
of community gleaned
fruits and vegetables

Partnered with
16
campus, community,
and state organizations
to provide services

The Future

SNAC needs **\$150,000** in funding to operate each year. We currently need an additional **\$75,000** to help fund student workers through Americorps, work-study and other positions. Funds will also be used to purchase kitchen and food recovery supplies, fresh produce and items for people with unique dietary needs for the 2023-2024 school year. Your generosity will help us reach our goal of continuing to improve food security for USU students.

To learn how you can help, contact Casey Coombs at casey.coombs@usu.edu.

References:

1. Quintana Y, French-Fuller K, Anderson A, Makela K. Food security survey of higher SSNAC education students in Utah, 2021: Utah State University report. Weber State University: Center for Community Engaged Learning-Community Research Extension. 2022.
2. Savoie Roskos MR, Hood LB, Hagedorn-Hatfield RL, et al. Creating a culture that supports food security and health equity at higher education institutions. Public Health Nutr. 2022;1-7. doi:10.1017/S1368980022002294