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. Food insecurity refers to inconsistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life.

Students at risk of food insecurity include:

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

Food insecurity among college students is associated with:

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

Donate today to support SNAC’s mission and services.
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**

With increases in cost of living in Utah, the number of food insecure students at USU will rise. CAAS and NDFS are committed to identifying comprehensive solutions, including expanding the reach and impact of SNAC, to ensure all students have access to adequate, nourishing food to support a healthy and successful experience at Utah State.

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

**References:**