

Los Angeles County Food Rx Collaborative

CalFresh Healthy Living Partnership Overview

Food Insecurity Background

Food insecurity, defined as the limited access to enough food to live an active, healthy lifestyle is a growing public health problem in Los Angeles County. According to survey data collected in October 2024 from the University of Southern California's Understanding America Study, 25% of Los Angeles County residents experienced food insecurity in the past year.¹ Families and individuals living in food insecure households often have poor diets because they resort to buying less expensive foods that are high in calories but lacking in nutritional value. With a poor nutritional intake over a prolonged period, many food insecure households are at an increased risk for diet-related chronic diseases, including high blood pressure, obesity, type 2 diabetes, heart disease, and stroke.

CalFresh Healthy Living

The Department of Public Health (DPH) receives state administered federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-Ed) funding, known in California as CalFresh Healthy Living (CFHL). The goal of CFHL is to improve healthy food access for those at risk for experiencing food insecurity by implementing policy, systems, and environmental change strategies that increases the availability, accessibility, and affordability of healthy foods. DPH collaborates with 18 partners across Los Angeles County, ranging from schools to healthcare partners, to implement these strategies in addition to providing nutrition education and physical activity classes. A subset of these CFHL partners help improve access to healthy food by redistributing surplus produce to both CalFresh Healthy Living funded partners and community-based partners.

Board Motions

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors adopted two board motions in December 2017² and February 2019³ to address food insecurity by 1) screening all patients for food insecurity at Department of Health Services (DHS) and DPH clinics and referring

¹ Food Insecurity in Los Angeles County, October 2024. USC Dornsife. Public Exchange. Published December 2023. Accessed December 23, 2024. Accessed February 14, 2025. Available: https://publicexchange.usc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/FoodInsecurityinLACounty_ResearchBrief_October2024_Final.pdf

² Food Insecurity Screening in Clinics. Motion by Supervisor Hilda L. Solis and Chair Sheila Kuehl. County of Los Angeles Statement of Proceedings and Minutes, Board Motion. December 5, 2017. Accessed January 26, 2023. <http://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/118487.pdf>

³ Reducing Both Food Waste and Food Insecurity in Los Angeles County. Motion by Supervisor Janice Hahn. County of Los Angeles Statement of Proceedings and Minutes, Board Motion. February 19, 2019. Accessed January 26, 2023. <http://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/133178.pdf>

those patients to food resources (e.g., CalFresh), and 2) identify opportunities to redistribute food in community hub settings, such as clinics.

Los Angeles County Food Rx Collaborative

Given the alignment of the adopted Board motions with CalFresh Healthy Living, DPH's Nutrition and Physical Activity Program collaborated with DHS's Population Health Management to establish the Los Angeles Food Rx Collaborative (Food Rx Collaborative) in March 2021. Comprising of DHS and DPH clinics, the Food Rx Collaborative aims to create a cohesive County-wide system in implementing produce distributions, nutrition education activities, and food insecurity screening and referrals. Additionally, the Collaborative aims to reduce diet-related chronic diseases by increasing access to healthy food in healthcare settings.

Table 1 lists the DHS and DPH healthcare clinics that are members of the Food Rx Collaborative as of June 2024.

Table 1: DHS and DPH Collaborative Members

Department of Health Services	Department of Public Health
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Edward R. Roybal Comprehensive Health Center• H. Claude Hudson Comprehensive Health Center• Harbor-UCLA Medical Center• Hubert Humphrey Comprehensive Health Center• LA General Medical Center• Martin Luther King, Jr. Outpatient Center• Olive View-UCLA Medical Center• Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center• San Fernando Valley Health Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Antelope Valley Health Center/AV Wellness Center• Curtis Tucker Health Center• Hollywood-Wilshire Wellness Center• Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Public Health• Pomona Wellness Community• Whittier Health Center• Zev Yaroslavsky Family Support Center