

# Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Food and Nutrition Security Profile

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## Purpose

The purpose of the Food and Nutrition Security Profile (Profile) is to provide an overview of territorial and regional efforts and infrastructure to advance food and nutrition security. Although not exhaustive, the Profile serves as a resource to support greater collaboration across disciplines and sectors to improve equitable access to food. The intended audience includes public health practitioners, food policy councils, community-based organizations, food banks and pantries, school district wellness councils, food sovereignty organizations including Indigenous groups and coalitions, and others with a mission to improve food and nutrition security.

The Profile serves as a companion to the [National Food and Nutrition Security Profile](#) and will be reviewed and updated biennially. If you have any questions or comments about your Profile, please contact the Center for Advancing Healthy Communities at [CAHCinfo@chronicdisease.org](mailto:CAHCinfo@chronicdisease.org).

## Food Banks, Pantries and Feeding Programs

- [Marianas Food Bank](#) serves all of CNMI.

## Select Food and Nutrition Security Programs

### **Community Nutrition Programs**

- [Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program](#) (EFNEP)
  - The implementing agency is Northern Marianas College.
- [Nutrition Assistance Program](#) (NAP)
  - The CNMI [Department of Community and Cultural Affairs](#) administers the NAP program.

### **Micro-Grant Food Security Program**

- Administered by the CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources, the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service [Micro-Grant Food Security Program](#) awards grants to eligible applicants to increase the quantity of locally grown food through small scale farming and livestock operations in communities that have significant levels of food insecurity and import a significant quantity of food.

### **Senior Nutrition Programs**

- [Elderly Nutrition Program](#) led by the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Office on Aging.

## **Child Nutrition Programs**

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Child Nutrition Programs contacts for implementing agencies of programs listed below:

- Child and Adult Care Food Program
- National School Lunch Program
- School Breakfast Program
- Summer Food Service Program (SUN Meals)

## **Emergency Food Response**

- USDA Food and Nutrition Service State/Territory COVID-19 Waivers and Flexibilities
- CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management
- Federal Emergency Management Agency Regional Contact – Region 9

## **Other Key Food and Nutrition Security Organizations**

- Marianas Producers Association strives to enhance food security, promotes innovative farming practices and cultivates a thriving agricultural ecosystem that nurtures the land and its people.
- CNMI Nutrition Council manages the Biba Healthy Restaurant Program to encourage local restaurants to offer fresh, clearly-marked healthy menu options.

## **Data Sources and Resources**

- Child Nutrition Programs Dashboard – USDA
- Regional Demographic & Economic Profile – Children’s Healthy Living Center

## **Public Health Contacts for Food and Nutrition Security**

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, Health Promotion and Intervention  
Amber Lynn Mendiola, Bureau Administrator | [amber.mendiola@chcc.health](mailto:amber.mendiola@chcc.health)

### Maternal and Child Health

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### Women, Infants and Children

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For additional information or questions about this Profile, please contact the Center for Advancing Healthy Communities at [CAHCinfo@chronicdisease.org](mailto:CAHCinfo@chronicdisease.org).

The Improving Food Security, Access to Safe Physical Activity, and Social Connectedness project, commonly known as Building Resilient Inclusive Communities (BRIC), was a national project of the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors that was supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Cooperative Agreement #OT18-1802, Strengthening Public Health Systems and Services through National Partnerships to Improve and Protect the Nation’s Health, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The contents of this profile are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by, CDC/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

The National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) and its more than 7,000 Members seek to strengthen state-based leadership and expertise for chronic disease prevention and control in states and nationally. For more information, visit [chronicdisease.org](http://chronicdisease.org).