

Safe and Abundant Nutrition Alliance (SANA)

Safe and Abundant Nutrition Alliance (SANA) was established to make the local food system more equitable and accessible, particularly for Latino communities in the Roaring Fork and Colorado River Valleys, which spans Pitkin, Garfield, and Western Eagle Counties. SANA uses community-driven approaches to foster more welcoming food distribution sites and empower the community to actively address food access challenges.



Octavio Maese, director of nutrition services, speaking with parents and community leaders about school meal and budget challenges

SANA formed in response to a 2020 community needs survey. This survey was completed by over 300 community members and identified 11 local challenges to food access. SANA shared these findings with local food distribution partners LIFT-UP and Food Bank of the Rockies to prioritize four issues for immediate action.

SANA's four priorities to increase food access are:

- Communication and information sharing
- Culturally relevant food distribution
- Mobile delivery for residents with special needs
- Information dissemination and registration for SNAP and WIC food assistance

SANA has developed a 50-member volunteer network to support the work of its food distribution partners. One notable program implemented by this network is daily mobile food distribution across five sites. For these efforts:

- SANA supplies volunteers to package, select, and deliver food
- Food Bank of the Rockies provides food
- LIFT-UP coordinates logistics, including locations, schedules, and intakes

These efforts increase access to healthy, culturally appropriate food across the region.

Centering the Latino Community to Foster Equity

SANA centers the Latino community in its approaches and structure. The alliance's Latino-led structure demonstrates its focus on making the local food system more accessible to Latino communities. SANA also centers Latino residents by prioritizing community-identified needs from the 2020 survey. This approach holds the food system accountable to the changes most important to Latino communities. SANA also empowers Latino leaders to influence change in the local food system through trainings and leadership development.



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Building the Capacity of the Latino Community to Advocate

SANA has made intentional efforts to recruit Latino staff in order to create culturally affirmative distribution of food. The director, food benefits program manager, SNAP navigator, and volunteer team are all Latino. This support has improved communication with Latino families, increased their access to free food, and expanded SANA's advocacy into school districts with:

- 50 leaders completing the short- and long-form Civil Rights training
- 8 leaders serving on school committees to advocate for healthy school meals

In collaboration with a local lawyer, SANA launched an awareness campaign to reduce the stigma and fear associated with public food assistance programs. The campaign had over 1,772 views and was shared by Hunger Free Colorado.



Latino leaders at the capitol to speak with state representatives

In the next few years, SANA hopes to:

- Conduct a community impact assessment to evaluate the alliance's effectiveness
- Cultivate Latino leadership to support policy and systems change in the school and food sectors
- Advocate for increased SNAP acceptance at retailers



STAY CONNECTED TO SAFE AND ABUNDANT NUTRITION ALLIANCE

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Partnering to Increase Healthy School Meals Statewide

Hunger Free Colorado partnered with SANA to engage marginalized communities in policy advocacy to address the root causes of food insecurity. In this partnership, SANA educated the community about the importance of voting for Proposition FF, which supports Healthy School Meals for All. SANA hosted listening sessions for parents and three trainings on diversity, equity, and inclusion. Once it was passed, SANA supported policy implementation by:

- Ensuring that providers were local and offered healthy options
- Engaging parents in decision-making
- Educating the community about Governor Polis's Summer EBT program