

MARCH 2022

MALNUTRITION CONNECTION

Providing Malnutrition Awareness and Advocacy Information to Share

New Toolkit Available for Federal Advocacy on Nutrition Care and Healthy Aging

The causes of malnutrition are multiple and complex, and the solutions require collaboration among many groups. To support advocacy for funding and benefits, Defeat Malnutrition Today and Women In Government released a new [Federal Advocacy Toolkit for Nutrition Care and Healthy Aging](#).^{*} The toolkit outlines strategies for integrating malnutrition policy proposals into upcoming federal legislative and public health policy to help ensure quality malnutrition care.

The toolkit organizes the many recommendations for improving malnutrition care into four goals:

- Improve quality of malnutrition care practices: this starts at the top, including recognition of the need for quality malnutrition care in national population health and chronic disease reports and action plans.
- Improve access to high-quality malnutrition care and nutrition services: the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' adoption of a global malnutrition composite score measure in the hospital would help accelerate this. In addition, passing the Medical Nutrition Therapy Act could help improve access.
- Generate clinical research on malnutrition quality of care: increasing research on older adult nutrition needs and the impact of malnutrition on health outcomes and equity provides better data to improve programs.
- Advance public health efforts to improve malnutrition quality of care: currently, there are no federal public health goals, such as Healthy People 2030, that address malnutrition. Malnutrition screening and monitoring questions could be added to national surveys of older adults and reported as a key health indicator for older adults.

This new federal toolkit joins a [state toolkit](#) released in 2021.

Share the federal and state toolkits on your social media accounts:

One in two older adults is at risk of #malnutrition, a number which continues to grow with the #COVID19 pandemic.

Advocate for older adult nutrition with your federal policymakers.

➔ Follow this link for a toolkit to help! <https://bit.ly/3tkfNNX>

*A [new federal toolkit](#) is also available for policymakers.



Note: newsletter content pulled from the [article](#) "Advancing Health Nutrition and Aging with New Resources for Federal Advocacy," written by Meredith Ponder Whitmire and Laura Borth and published by the American Society on Aging on February 15, 2022.