



JUNE 2022

MALNUTRITION CONNECTION

Providing Malnutrition Awareness and Advocacy Information to Share

“Malnutrition in Older Adults”

A Memorandum Released by the Congressional Research Service (CRS)

“ It is important for policymakers to understand the risk factors associated with malnutrition to effectively address it. ” – conclusion of the CRS Memorandum “Malnutrition in Older Adults”

The Congressional Research Service (CRS) has released a new, comprehensive [memorandum](#) on older adult malnutrition that points to opportunities for a federal policy response. A federal legislative branch agency located within the Library of Congress, the CRS provides Congress with research and analysis to support their legislative, oversight, and representational duties.

The “Malnutrition in Older Adults” memorandum raises several public policy issues important to federal policymakers including how malnutrition relates to income security, public health, social services, and health care financing/delivery.

One policy priority highlighted in the memorandum is already rapidly moving toward implementation. The draft [Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment System \(IPPS\) rule](#) for Fiscal Year 2023 – recently proposed by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) – includes the [Global Malnutrition Composite Score](#) measure as an optional measure. The Global Malnutrition Composite Score measure is a compelling and comprehensive tool for assessing quality hospital care for older patients (aged 65+) at risk of malnutrition and can help to both [advance](#) health equity and better [quantify](#) nutrition care. If included in the CMS final IPPS rule, the measure would be the first nutrition-focused quality measure included in any CMS payment program.

Another identified policy priority that has advanced involves the Senior Nutrition Services Program, authorized under the Older Americans Act (OAA). The most recent reauthorization of the OAA explicitly included reducing malnutrition as a stated purpose of the Senior Nutrition Services Program. Although OAA funding is intended to help address malnutrition in older adults, among other purposes, further partnerships and coordination with the broader health care financing and delivery system are likely still needed.

Check out the CRS [memorandum](#) for further insights into the older adult malnutrition issue and find policy resources and solutions in the Defeat Malnutrition Today’s [federal](#) and [state](#) toolkits.

ADVOCACY ALERT:

Share your ideas, experience, and input to help inform the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health to be held in September 2022!

Why share your opinions

The White House needs to hear from a wide variety of stakeholders on what the government should do to reach their goals of ending hunger and increasing healthy eating and physical activity in the US for all by 2030. We need to ensure Conference recommendations and outcomes include a focus on healthy aging and the unique nutritional needs of older adults.

How to make comments

- 1) Defeat Malnutrition Today is hosting a virtual convening via Zoom on **Wednesday, June 29th from 1:30-3:30pm ET**. Register [here](#).
- 2) If you can't make the Zoom convening but want to send your ideas to DMT for inclusion in our final comments, fill out this [survey](#) by July 7th. All comments from the virtual convening and written survey will be anonymous.
- 3) You can also submit personal stories and ideas directly to the White House Conference website [here](#).