

defeat **malnutrition** today

2022 Federal Policy Priorities – Defeat Malnutrition Today

First and foremost, we will be continuing our work to advocate for inclusion of the Global Malnutrition Composite Score in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting Program.

We will also be advocating for further funding for federal nutrition programs impacting older adults, including the Older Americans Act nutrition programs and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs, through regular federal appropriations and through the upcoming Build Back Better Act. We will also advocate for funding for federal nutrition research, including a designated institute in NIH on nutrition research, in conjunction with other organizations and coalitions.

We will also advocate for **introduction, consideration and passage** of federal legislation, including:

- Legislation authorizing a White House Conference on Food, Nutrition, Hunger and Health (consideration and passage)
- The Elder Justice Reauthorization and Modernization Act, which includes funding for programs addressing social isolation, a critical cause of malnutrition (consideration and passage)
- The Medical Nutrition Therapy Act (consideration and passage)
- Potential legislation that would add questions about food access and availability to the annual Medicare wellness visit and the initial Welcome to Medicare visit (introduction)
- Potential telehealth and nutrition legislation (introduction)
- Potential legislation that might develop addressing social determinants of health (introduction)
- Any additional new legislation on social isolation (introduction)

We will also generally monitor the implementation of recommendations from the 2019 Government Accountability Office report on federal nutrition programs serving older adults, seek partnerships with the USDA, and disseminate and react to an upcoming Congressional Research Service report on malnutrition.

Finally, we will be working with the Administration for Community Living (ACL) on several projects, including:

- Celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Older Americans Act in March
- Continuing to implement the 2020 Older Americans Act reauthorization's malnutrition provisions at the local, state and federal levels
- Adding screening questions on malnutrition and food insecurity to the ACL National Survey of Older Americans Act Participants, including assessment of diet quality
- Working with the new Nutrition and Aging Resource Center to further disseminate coalition resources and integrate malnutrition into the Center's priorities
- Supporting the upcoming Dietary Guidelines' focus on older adult nutrition