

# 6-month update White House Conference of Hunger, Nutrition, and Health

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**defeat malnutrition today**



# Welcome

- Hello and Thank you
- Delighted to have these two organizations, NANASP and Defeat Malnutrition Today cohost this webinar.
- Both were involved in the pre-conference work, Bob Blancato was an invited participant in the conference, and we are both deeply involved in the post conference work.
- Just last week we passed a milestone in the WHC history

# A Historic Conference



WHITE HOUSE  
CONFERENCE ON  
**HUNGER,  
NUTRITION,  
& HEALTH**

- Held September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- First one since 1969, which produced the WIC and SNAP programs
- Goal is to end hunger and improve nutrition by 2030
- “Meeting our bold goals requires ... a whole-of-government approach and a whole-of-society effort.” President Biden

# HISTORY

- Authorized under final FY 2022 funding bill
- 4 Congressional champions throughout, three spoke at the conference
  - Senator Booker (D-NJ), Senator Braun (R-IN), and Rep. McGovern (D-MA)
  - The Late Rep. Jackie Walorski (R-IN)
- Other strong supporters were Sen. Stabenow, chairman of Senate Agriculture (overseeing farm bill) and DeLauro, ranking members of Appropriations (funding)
- Nearly 500 attendees



# Organized around Five Pillars

01

Improve food  
access and  
affordability

02

Integrate nutrition  
and health

03

Empower all  
consumers to make  
and have access to  
healthy choices

04

Support physical  
activity for all

05

Enhance nutrition  
and food security  
research

# Recommendations Included Older Adult Issues

- Increasing funding for Older Americans Act (OAA) nutrition programs
- Universal screening for food insecurity in federal health care systems as well as incentivizing other payors and providers to screen for food insecurity and other social determinants of health
- Leveraging federal nutrition programs to promote healthy habits and nutrition education
- Expanding access to nutrition counseling
- Regular updates to the Dietary Guidelines for Americans with detailed national nutrition education campaigns
- Modifying a current law that inhibits SNAP retailers from stocking a variety of healthy foods as a requirement to participate in the SNAP program

# Resulted in \$8 billion package of private and public sector commitments

- Organizations donating meals and cash to food banks and mobile food pantries in 2023
- Pledges to strengthen health professional' education in nutrition
- Healthcare systems expanding screening for food insecurity, food is medicine, and teaching kitchens
- AARP will expand research on older adults' access to SNAP (results coming 2024)
- Door Dash to partner with 18 cities to address transportation barriers to healthy food (community credits and Project DASH)
- Many more...

# Progress

01

Improve food  
access and  
affordability

- More stores accepting SNAP as payment for online grocery orders
  - \$5 million grant to National Grocers Assoc. Foundation helping smaller stores to participate
- Meijer allowed almost 1 million SNAP beneficiaries to purchase fruits and vegetables at 10% discount
- President Biden's FY24 budget increases OAA nutrition funding by 62%. If agreed to, would be largest in program history



# Progress

02

Integrate nutrition  
and health

- CMS Food as Medicine pilot program to cover medically tailored meals in Medicaid 1115 waivers
  - Already in Arkansas, Oregon, and Massachusetts
  - New Jersey approved this month to cover housing, nutrition support/medically tailored meals/30 days of groceries
- CMS asking for feedback on nutrition coverage in Medicare (DMT submitted comments)
- President Biden's Budget included nutrition counseling for Medicare
- Medical Nutrition Therapy Act introduced in previous Congress, hopefully will be reintroduced

# Progress

03

Empower all consumers to make and have access to healthy choices

- New bill introduced by Sen. Casey (D-PA)
  - to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to streamline nutrition access for older adults and adults with disabilities, and for other purposes (S.1036) AKA Senior Hunger Prevention Act of 2023
- New bill introduced to repeal able-bodied work requirement in SNAP (H.R. 1510, Lee (D-Ca))
- Sen. Casey bipartisan task force bill in development
- Potential for Farm Bill actions
  - Senator Booker held “Food as Medicine: Current efforts and potential opportunities” last Congress
  - Hearings are ongoing

# Progress

04

Support physical  
activity for all

- Co-chairs announced of President's Council on Sports, Fitness, and Nutrition:
  - Chef José Andrés and Elena Delle Donne

# Progress

05

Enhance nutrition  
and food security  
research

- USDA National Summit on Nutrition Security and Healthcare
  - “Come to the Table” Seven regional summits on intersections between healthcare and nutrition security with USDA, ProMedica, The Root Cause Coalition
- Instacart launching four new studies in next 6 months
- Presidential budget includes funding for nutrition research

# New Challenge issued March 2023



- Nationwide call-to-action to stakeholders across all of society to make bold commitments
  - will announce Challenge participants in the fall of 2023
- Announced two government actions
  - Guidance on using Dietary Guidance Statements on food labels
  - Proposed rule from the FDA on allowing more foods to use salt substitutes (affects 140 standardized foods)

# Looking Forward

- Farm bill will be key to moving elements of national strategy forward
- Concern over end of pandemic-era enhanced SNAP payments
- FY 24 budget: Many Unknowns
  - What will Republican's budget look like? Will it contain anything from Biden's budget? Reduce to FY 22 levels? Will spending cuts be tied to debt ceiling?
- New OAA regulations might be released this year
- Expansion of coverage for medically tailored meals?
- Medical Nutrition Therapy and the fate of the MNT Act?

# What about malnutrition?

- Screening recommendation could also be tied to malnutrition since food insecurity tied to malnutrition. (Advocacy needed here)
- Dietary Guidelines for America and older adults
  - Remembering one in two older adults are at risk for, or have malnutrition
- Updating the GAO report “Nutrition Assistance Programs: Agencies Could Do More to Help Address the Nutritional Needs of Older Adults”
  - DMT originally requested this
  - Hasn’t been updated with Global Malnutrition Composite Score Measure
- MNT Act

# How you can get involved

- Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack said in his opening remarks at a recent Nutrition Security summit, “Hunger and diet-related diseases are almost entirely preventable....but (we) can’t fight this battle alone.” Meaning that advocacy at all levels important
- Farm bill determined by Agriculture Committee:
  - Senate side : Chair Stabenow (D-MI), Ranking Member Boozman (R-AR)
    - Subcommittee on Nutrition: Fetterman (D-PA), RM Braun (R-IN)
  - House side: Chair Thompson (R-PA) RM David Scott (D-GA)
    - Communicate your priorities to your own members of congress
- Medical Nutrition Therapy
- Push for implementation of state level recommendations, including implementing SNAP waivers, increasing funding for OAA programs, and requesting Medicaid waivers for nutrition demos
- Support efforts to change paradigm on food pricing – government subsidy changes, etc.



# DMT and NANASP Farm Bill Priorities

- Supported by The Senior Hunger Prevention Act of 2023

## **For older adults and adults with disabilities:**

- Extends the SNAP certification period from 24 months to 36 months
- Streamline and standardize medical expense deduction
- Increases the monthly SNAP benefit amount from 8% to 33% of the cost of the Thrifty Food Plan to one-third (would raise minimum for one person household from \$23 to \$95)
- Streamline application and certification process for SNAP if all adult household members are elderly or disabled and have no earned income
- Establish a pilot program to provide grants to raise awareness of SNAP
- Public-private partnerships between USDA, authorized SNAP retailers, and community-based organizations to support free or low-cost food delivery
- Increase funding for Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) and Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program

# Nutrition Security

- **The goal should be nutrition security in our nation**
- Having consistent access, availability and affordability of foods and beverages that promote well being and prevent disease and conditions like malnutrition
- By following strategies proposed at the historic White House Conference, we can shift from subsidizing poor nutrition to allowing good nutritious food to just as affordable and accessible
- And while our focus is on further investment for older adult nutrition, the overall policy goal is **promoting good nutrition throughout the lifespan**

# Resources

- Farm Bill
  - Come to our Farm Bill Webinar! Monday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 1pm ET
  - [Congressional hearings on Farm Bill](#)
  - [The Senior Hunger Prevention Act of 2023](#)
- How to Contact your Representatives
  - [Enter your address to find representatives](#)
- White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health
  - [National Strategy](#)
  - [Fall 2022 Commitments](#)
  - [Spring 2023 Commitments](#)
- Get Involved
  - [Defeat Malnutrition Today](#)
  - [NANASP](#)
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