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Summary for Human Services: Biden-Harris National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health

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The [Biden-Harris National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health](#) was released in coordination with the [White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health](#). The first of its kind in over 50 years, the Conference is tasked with crafting a whole-of-government approach to reduce hunger and diet-related health disparities. With this newly unveiled National Strategy, the Biden-Harris Administration lays out proposed actions for the Administration, Congress, and non-profit, philanthropic, state, local, and Tribal partners to take to achieve the goal of ending hunger and increasing healthy eating and physical activity by 2030.

This document summarizes the recommended actions from the National Strategy that are most relevant to human services agencies, organized by the five pillars that guide the Strategy. The proposed actions outlined by the Administration will require a combination of statutory and regulatory changes at the federal level and shifts in policies and practices within the administration of nutrition programs. The American Public Human Services Association (APHSA) is committed to working with its members to advance shared values and objectives in the National Strategy that state and local human services agencies can work toward to eliminate hunger and improve health and well-being.

PILLAR 1: IMPROVE FOOD ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY: *End hunger by making it easier for everyone—including individuals in urban, suburban, rural, and Tribal communities, and territories—to access and afford food*

PILLAR 2: INTEGRATE NUTRITION AND HEALTH: *Prioritize the role of nutrition and food security in overall health—including disease prevention and management—and ensure that our health care system addresses the nutrition needs of all people*

PILLAR 3: EMPOWER ALL CONSUMERS TO MAKE AND HAVE ACCESS TO HEALTHY CHOICES: *Foster environments that enable all people to easily make informed, healthy choices, increase access to healthy food, encourage healthy workplace and school policies, and invest in public education campaigns that are culturally appropriate and resonate with specific communities*

PILLAR 4: SUPPORT PHYSICAL ACTIVITY FOR ALL: *Make it easier for people to be more physically active—in part by ensuring that everyone has access to safe places to be active—increase awareness of the benefits of physical activity, and conduct research on and measure physical activity*

PILLAR 5: ENHANCE NUTRITION AND FOOD SECURITY RESEARCH: *Improve nutrition metrics, data collection, and research to inform nutrition and food security policy, particularly on issues of equity, access, and disparities*

American Public Human Services Association advances the well-being of all people by influencing modern approaches to sound policy, building the capacity of public agencies to enable healthy families and communities, and connecting leaders to accelerate learning and generate practical solutions together.

INFLUENCE. BUILD. CONNECT.

| Pillar | Proposed Steps |
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| IMPROVE FOOD ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY | |
| <i>Help more individuals experiencing food insecurity benefit from federal assistance programs</i> | <p>Expand the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) program</p> <p>Expand Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) eligibility for individuals who have been formerly incarcerated, college students, youth who have aged out of foster care and families providing kinship care, those experiencing time limits associated with work requirements, and for the United States territories</p> |
| | <p>Update regulations to make online SNAP purchasing a permanent option and continue to add new eligible online retailers for SNAP, as well as expand online purchasing in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC).</p> |
| | <p>Modernize SNAP by making it easier to utilize benefits, such as being able to use SNAP to purchase prepared foods</p> <p>Make it easier for eligible individuals to access federal food, human services, and health assistance programs (SNAP/WIC/Medicaid), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will help states identify individuals enrolled in one program (such as SNAP, WIC, and Medicaid) who appear eligible for others but are not yet enrolled • The USDA will partner with other federal agencies to increase outreach and awareness of SNAP, including college students, older adults, individuals with disabilities, veterans, and households receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). • The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) will issue a model application and guide to help states develop improved applications and verification processes for child care subsidies and encourage collaboration between state child care agencies and state agencies administering food and nutrition programs |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACF will disseminate best practices on how partnerships between TANF charitable organizations and food banks can fill critical nutrition gaps for families • ACF will leverage training and technical assistance resources to highlight best practices in state and local use of TANF emergency short-term cash assistance to provide direct cash support for families experiencing acute food shortages |
| <i>Invest in community and economic development to increase access to food</i> | <p>Leverage housing and other community programs to increase food access, including issuing guidance to developing communication materials to help grant recipients maximize Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), TANF, and Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood funds to strengthen anti-hunger efforts; and develop a website that will disseminate case studies and best practices on anti-hunger and nutrition programs within the CSBG network</p> <p>Improve access to emergency food such as during natural disasters, which includes the USDA pursuing rulemaking to improve access and equity (such as through more culturally appropriate food options), and simplify The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) requirements for state and local program operators</p> |
| <i>Calls to Action</i> | <p>Increase support to families through TANF cash assistance, Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit, and other economic supports</p> <p>Work across agencies to achieve a 95 percent cross-enrollment rate of eligible people in SNAP, Medicaid, and other federal programs</p> <p>Aim to process all SNAP applications within one week</p> |
| INTEGRATE NUTRITION AND HEALTH | |
| <i>Provide greater access to nutrition services to better prevent, manage, and treat diet-related diseases</i> | <p>Expand Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries' access to "food is medicine" interventions, such as by better understanding the possible uses of 1115 demonstration waivers for nutrition interventions, and further expanding them through legislation</p> |
| <i>Calls to Action</i> | <p>Leverage all available federal authorities to expand coverage of "food as medicine" interventions</p> <p>Collaborate with non-profit or community-based organizations to establish a state-funded produce prescription program for individuals and families with low-income</p> |

EMPOWER ALL CONSUMERS TO MAKE AND HAVE ACCESS TO HEALTHY CHOICES

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| <i>Create healthier food environments and a healthier food supply so the healthier choice is the easier choice</i> | <p>Expand incentives for fruits and vegetables in SNAP, such as by increasing the reach and impact of the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP)</p> <p>Create healthier food retail, restaurant, and college campus environments by setting stronger standards for SNAP retailers stocking requirements</p> |
| <i>Support robust and tailored nutrition education</i> | <p>Develop tailored nutrition education such as by including MyPlate materials that are culturally appropriate and translated into a variety of languages</p> <p>Leverage Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) to promote healthy foods by promoting MyPlate's Shop Simple digital tool and refreshing and expanding SNAP-Ed Connection (a database of nutrition education and physical activity resources)</p> |
| <i>Calls to Action</i> | <p>Provide nutrition incentives to SNAP participants to purchase healthy food such as increasing the purchasing power of SNAP beneficiaries at farmers markets, and encourage retailers to market more nutritious food in store and online</p> |

ENHANCE NUTRITION AND FOOD SECURITY RESEARCH

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| <i>Enhance Nutrition and Food Security Research</i> | <p>Evaluate federal assistance programs and innovative models to understand impact and areas for improvement and scalability, including more effectively measuring equity within programs, including across tribes and people with disabilities, and build evidence for the impact of these programs on food insecurity, nutrition, and health</p> <p>Research the intersection of climate change, food security, and nutrition</p> |
| <i>Calls to Action</i> | <p>Support nutrition and food security research at universities and colleges, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), and Tribal Colleges and Universities.</p> |

To further discuss this summary or ways for human services to take action, please reach out to Chloe Green, Policy Associate for Food and Nutrition Services, at cgreen@aphsa.org.