Founded Health and Nutrition Supports:
White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health Presents Opportunity
APHSA Special Statement - September 28, 2022

Today, the Biden-Harris Administration hosted a historical event. The White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health was the first of its kind in over 50 years with the goal to end hunger in America and increase healthy eating and physical activity by 2030. To meet this goal, the Administration announced new external partner commitments as part of its call to action and released its National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health in coordination with the conference that highlights key proposed actions across policy and practice. You can read APHSA’s summary of key provisions for human services agencies here.

Hunger, health, and nutrition are multi-faceted issues that cannot be solved alone. Through this conference, the White House has called on government at all levels, alongside community and philanthropic partners, to act together to support our communities in accessing the resources they need to thrive. State and local human services leaders are critical partners in developing, implementing, and expanding upon initiatives that work to reduce hunger and improve health outcomes.

To reach these goals, we must consider the whole of human services supports that help address the root causes of hunger and poverty. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is a key tool to help families and individuals have access to nutritious, desirable, and culturally appropriate foods, but SNAP alone cannot address the systemic and structural barriers of food access that have taken place over generations. As the Biden-Harris National Strategy outlines, we must look to connect individuals and families across human services programs in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Medicaid, energy assistance, housing, and more. We must act on the lessons learned across human services delivery to continue to increase accessibility, eliminate administrative roadblocks, and invest in the system capacity to better respond to people’s needs and assure families have access to foundational health and nutrition supports.

The proposed actions within the National Strategy, which include a variety of ways to expand access to SNAP and other human services programs, 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. APHSA is committed to working with its members and continuing to partner with the Administration to advance shared values and objectives that state and local human services agencies can work toward to eliminate hunger and improve health and well-being in our country.