

Next Steps in Nutrition & Food Security: Reflections on the White House Hunger Conference

Webinar Summary and Call to Action



Webinar Focus

The Partners for Advancing Health Equity Collaborative hosted the webinar, *Next Steps in Nutrition & Food Security: Reflections on the White House Hunger Conference* on October 25, 2022.

Panelists discussed the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health. Panelists highlighted critical importance of implementing the White House Strategy overviewed by the conference. This report provides a synthesis of key takeaways, solutions, and action steps identified from the webinar.

Webinar Voices

› **Diego Rose**, Nutrition Program Director, [Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine](#)

› **Elisa Muñoz-Miller**, Executive Director, [New Orleans Food Policy Action Council](#)

› **Dr. Jasmine R. Jackson**, Co-Executive Director, [National Black Food and Justice Alliance \(NBFJA\)](#)

› **Alexandra Payne**, Senior Associate, [Rockefeller Foundation's Food Initiative](#)

Key Resources

- [Food Equity](#)
- [White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health](#)
- [USDA Farm Bill](#)

Your Voice

P4HE values collaboration. If there is a resource on this topic that you would like to share with us, provide it [here](#).

Key Takeaways

Despite the tremendous progress the nation has made in nutrition and food security over the last few decades, there are still significant rates of food insecurity, or a lack of access to food due to economic or resource constraints. [In 2021, 10% of households in the United States experienced food insecurity.](#) [Diet-related diseases](#) – such as heart disease, cancer, stroke, and diabetes – are some of the [leading causes of death and disability in the U.S.](#) Hunger and diet-related disease are critical components of health equity. These challenges disproportionately affect [communities of color, those with disabilities, and those with low resources.](#)

Solutions discussed at the 2022 White House Conference, and those presented in the accompanying [National Strategy](#), focused on policies, programs, systems, and environmental changes to address these issues.

Call To Action

Improving food access and affordability, integrating nutrition and health, and empowering consumers calls for moving strategy into implementation. By building on the White House National Strategy and the White House Conference, we can “[turn strategy into reality.](#)” Diego Rose, Nutrition Program Director, Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine

[Below we've summarized immediate steps needed to be taken to address food equity.](#)

Growing from Strategy to Solutions



THE WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL STRATEGY

Focusing on pillars 1–3 of the White House National Strategy allows for a concentrated approach to addressing systemic and process-level issues that contribute to inequalities in food access and adequate nutrition across the United States.

STRATEGIC FUNDING

Funding is essential to expand current grass-roots efforts, create new programs and conduct research that provides evidence about the impact of initiatives related to equitable nutrition and food security. Funding allocations can, and should, be written into legislation like the Farm Bill.

COLLABORATION AND LOCAL MOVEMENTS

Implement change at a local level by creating partnerships that leverage individual and organizational differences and strengths. Work collaboratively to fill one another's gaps while advocating for long-term change.

LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS

Long term solutions build off well-built strategy with long-term funding, research backing, and input from individuals with lived experience. Sustainable solutions take into account the needs of the community they serve and individualize programs to work effectively in those spaces.

> Ensure strategies are funded regardless of who holds political power.



“What happens to the strategy when there is no money behind it? There may be a shelf life on that strategy and what we do with it next.”

Diego Rose, Nutrition Program Director, Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine

Panelists highlighted the critical importance of funding which lasts a minimum of 10 years to drive lasting change. To ensure funding outlasts turbulent election cycles, it needs to be written into policies like the [Farm Bill](#), the [Justice for Black Farmers Act](#), and [Child Nutrition Reauthorization](#).

“Strategies that are unfunded are strategies that are often destined to fail. Especially at a Federal level.” Eliza Muñoz-Miller, Executive Director, New Orleans Food Policy Action Council

Advocate for funding local [solutions to food apartheid](#), such as access to retail grocery, by supporting local programs that need money to organize and scale-up. Allocate funding dollars for research, technical assistance, and scaling up value chains for wholesale production.

> Use your voice to amplify the voices of others and develop locally appropriate solutions.

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“If local people are not involved in [developing solutions], then we’re not co-creating. What is the point of what we are doing if we not co-creating? We are never going to solve the problem that way.” Alexandra Payne, Senior Associate, Rockefeller Foundation’s Food Initiative

Advocate for food equity at the local level. Work within your community to provide opportunities to those who do not normally get to participate in discussions about solutions and policy. Raise up their voices through partnerships and collaboration with grassroots organizations. Frequently question what is talked about in conversations relating to food equity and who defines what those topics mean.



“The federal government is obviously important, but they are not the only player here. Every place is a little bit different, and we can tailor strategies and policies to local conditions.” Diego Rose, Nutrition Program Director, Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine

> Develop shared understanding to encourage self-advocacy among community members.

Work to understand, and help others understand, the White House Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health. This understanding will provide context for opportunities for advocacy at both local and federal levels. Make sure that community advocates understand their local contexts so that they can have meaningful discussions about what is not working and possible solutions at the local level. *“Ask, what are the workarounds if the Federal Government isn’t doing it?”* Eliza Muñoz-Miller, Executive Director, New Orleans Food Policy Action Council

Make sure that implementation plans for areas defined in the National Strategy are comprehensive and address all stages of the food chain, not just the retail end. Create shared definitions, such as those in the National Black Food and Justice Alliance’s *Black Food Justice Glossary*. Shared definitions provide people with the language needed to discuss topics such as nutrition, food insecurity, [food apartheid](#), [food sovereignty](#), [stewardship](#), and [values-based food systems](#).

> Invest time to develop equitable partnerships with communities.



“If you want to go fast, you go alone. But, if you want to go far, you go together. Moving at the speed of trust happens slow, and it happens at people’s time and capacity. Give grace to others, ensure they’re supported, and develop leaders.” Dr. Jasmine R. Jackson, Co-Executive Director, National Black Food and Justice Alliance (NBFJA)

Develop trusting relationships with communities to work for local solutions. Provide spaces for people to react, collaborate, and have their voices heard such as a [local food policy council](#). Build

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partnerships with community organizations and [local colleges](#). Maintain relationships by being intentional about partnerships with individuals who have lived experience and acknowledge and value their time.



“We really need people from the community to help us but are we paying them to help us? Are we feeding them dinner? Are we providing transportation for them? Are we actually treating them like partners and not in an extractive way of needing their voice for a

grant?” Eliza Muñoz-Miller, Executive Director, New Orleans Food Policy Action Council

> Mobilize the political influence of the National Strategy to affect national legislation.

Use the momentum from the national strategy to re-evaluate federal-level supports that are already in place such as the [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\)](#). Advocate to broaden who they support and the way this support contributes to [food sovereignty](#) and [food equity](#). Initiatives such as [SNAP match programs](#), and considerations for [Point-of-Sale \(POS\) reform](#) would enable the use of SNAP benefits for the purchase of values-based foods. Permanently expanding SNAP eligibility could provide more equitable access better serve [students](#), and [citizens returning from incarceration](#).

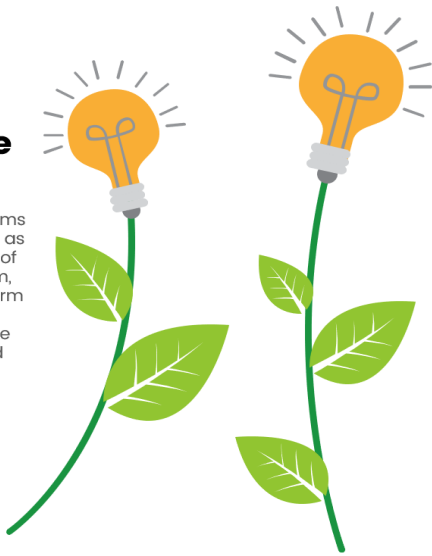


“Encourage all levels of government to work within existing grassroots organizations to ensure that the research is based in actual community needs and possible solutions.” Dr. Jasmine R. Jackson, Co-Executive

Director, National Black Food and Justice Alliance (NBFJA)

Leverage SNAP

SNAP-related programs and initiatives such as SNAP Match, Point of Sale (POS) Reform, and Eligibility Reform are all key components in the reduction of food insecurity.



Buy Values-Based Food

Support values-based food chains by buying food that comes from local markets with a focus on stewardship and equity across the supply chain.

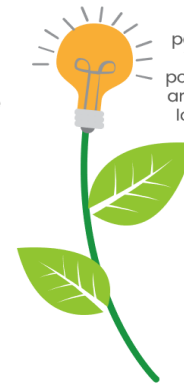
Use Your Voice

Use your voice to advocate for others and lift up and amplify voices with lived experience.



Influence Policy

Influence policy by voting in local elections and participating in local initiatives such as policy councils. If your area does not have a local policy council, form one.



State of the Science

The White House National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition and Health.

The White House National Strategy focuses on five pillars related to nutrition, health, and physical activity. This includes: 1) Improving food access and affordability; 2) Integrating nutrition and health; 3) Empowering all consumers to make and have access to healthy choices; 4) Supporting physical activity for all; and 5) Enhancing nutrition and food security research. The strategy calls on stakeholders in “the private sector, state, Tribal, local, and territory governments, academia, and non-profit and community groups”¹ to work collectively to increase healthy eating and physical activity in the United States by 2030.

Diet-Related Disease and Food as Medicine.

Diet-related diseases are a major contributor to the health of Americans across the United States. [Nearly half of adults in the country have hypertension](#), which is a key risk factor for heart disease and stroke. [Nineteen states have obesity rates at or above 35%, more than double the number of states from 2018. One in 10 Americans have diabetes.](#) Nutrition is a huge driver of health, the idea that food can be used as a form of [preventive medicine](#) is gaining momentum. More research on [novel approaches to providing nutritious food](#), such as [food prescriptions](#), is needed for continued buy-in and funding.

¹ [White House National Strategy on Hunger Nutrition and Health \(whitehouse.gov\)](https://www.whitehouse.gov/2021/01/20/white-house-national-strategy-on-hunger-nutrition-and-health/)

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The Proof Points.

Current research examines the [true cost of the food system in the United States](#), the effects of government policies and regulations on [dietary choices](#), and [food supply chains](#), and the [economic factors affecting food security](#). Additional research is needed to assess program implementation and provide evidence on the costs and benefits of initiatives. These proof points can help make solutions actionable and sustainable through securing funding. This type of support allows successful local programs to scale up and elevate to a policy level for lasting impact and replication.

About P4HE

The P4HE Collaborative harmonizes goals, advances learning, and facilitates collaboration to improve health equity. It is led by the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine and is part of the Tulane Institute for Innovations in Health Equity. Support for this program is provided by ICF. Funding is provided by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.



Foster

the co-creation and spread of knowledge.



Sharpen

our research tools to focus on solutions; facts and stories.



Disrupt

traditional research approaches.



Harmonize

our voices.



Challenge

the status quo.



Shine

light on practices that are indefensible, irrational and inconsistent.

To learn more about these issues, or Partners for Health Equity's calls to action, a resource library including a full recording of this, and all previous P4HE Webinars, can be found on the P4HE [website](#).