



## **White House Conference on Hunger, Health, and Nutrition Anti-Hunger Advocates Toolkit**

In September 2022, the White House will convene a long overdue Conference on Hunger, Health, and Nutrition. The last conference of its kind, held more than 50 years ago, helped elevate hunger as a national priority and sparked major improvements and expansions to the federal nutrition programs—food stamps (now SNAP), school meals, and WIC—paving the way to significant reductions in food insecurity for millions of individuals and families. But we still have a long way to go.

Now is the time to demonstrate with policy change and other actions that ending hunger in America must be a national priority.

Anti-hunger advocates are encouraged to use this toolkit to be active participants in the lead up to the conference, including lifting up stories of lived or living experiences with hunger or poverty and sharing recommendations on how to solve hunger and its root causes.

### **Table of Contents**

#### **I. Q&A: What is the White House Conference on Hunger, Health, and Nutrition?**

- a. National Anti-Hunger Organizations' Priorities for White House Conference
- b. FRAC's White House Conference Webpage
- c. FRAC's Testimony to Rules Committee

#### **II. Hunger in America**

- a. Role of Federal Nutrition Programs
- b. Addressing Root Causes

#### **III. Be Part of the Solution: Let Your Voice Be Heard!**

- a. Host Your Own Listening Session
- b. Share Your Story
- c. Submit a Comment

#### **IV. Spread the Word**

- a. Get Vocal on Social: Tag & Tell the White House to #EndHungerNow
- b. Send an Email to Your Colleagues, Family, and Friends

## I. Q&A

### **Q. What is the White House Conference on Hunger, Health, and Nutrition?**

A. The Biden-Harris administration has announced that the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health will be sometime in September 2022. Work on the conference is starting this summer, with the hope to release a national strategy to end hunger and increase healthy eating and physical activity in the U.S. by 2030.

- See [National Anti-Hunger Organizations' Priorities](#) for the Conference.
- Bookmark [FRAC's White House Conference webpage](#).
- Read [FRAC's testimony to the Rules Committee](#).

### **Q. When was the last White House Conference on Hunger, Health, and Nutrition?**

A. More than 50 years have passed since the White House convened a conference that helped elevate hunger as a national priority and sparked major improvements and expansions to the federal nutrition programs—food stamps (now SNAP), school meals, and WIC—paving the way to significant reductions in food insecurity for millions of individuals and families.

### **Q. Why is it important that addressing hunger be the “North Star” of the conference?**

A. The COVID-19 pandemic has only deepened America’s hunger crisis. The nation cannot effectively recover from the fall out of the public health and economic crisis without prioritizing ending hunger. The time is now to implement bold, innovative, and multisector solutions to end hunger and food insecurity in this country.

### **Q. How can I or my organization be a part of the White House Conference?**

A. It is important that the White House hear from a wide variety of stakeholders on what the government must do to end hunger in this country. The White House Conference is an opportunity for advocates, the private sector, local, state, U.S. territorial and Tribal governments, and people with lived experience with hunger or poverty to share their ideas for how we can build upon the critical gains and lessons learned over the last five decades since the last conference, to further strengthen the food security safety net and eradicate poverty-related hunger in the United States.

You can lend your voice through listening sessions and by sharing your story, submitting a comment, and getting vocal on social media. See how below.



## II. Hunger in America: Did You Know ... ?

- The COVID-19 pandemic only deepened America's hunger crisis. Today, 1 in 9 adults report not having enough to eat
- The pandemic has shone a spotlight on the disparities that have existed for far too long. Over 1 in 5 Black households with children and 1 in 4 Latinx households with children reported they sometimes or often did not have enough to eat in April 2022, more than double that of White households.
- More needs to be done to address unprecedented food insecurity and the racial and economic disparities in food and economic security.
- Addressing hunger in the U.S. must promote equity, including by and focusing on populations struggling disproportionately, including, among others, children, women, people with disabilities, Black and Latinx households, immigrants, older adults, LGBTQ people, returning citizens, and people experiencing homelessness.
- Hunger hurts us all. Eliminating hunger would save the nation billions of dollars in doctor and hospital bills, special education costs, and lost economic productivity.
- Polls have consistently found that voters do not think the government is doing enough to solve hunger.
- There are proven strategies to make progress:
  - The federal nutrition programs are among our nation's most important, proven, and cost-effective public interventions, and they must be bolstered as part of a comprehensive plan to end hunger with dignity.
  - For example, the child nutrition programs such as school meals, child care meals, and afterschool and summer meals are profoundly important programs with well-documented benefits to the health and well-being of children and families.
  - The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) helps millions of households put food on the table. Closing gaps in SNAP eligibility and increasing benefit amounts can bolster the program's positive impact further.
  - SNAP boosts local economies. Each \$1 of SNAP benefits during an economic downturn generates between \$1.50 and \$1.80 in economic activity.
- Hunger is solvable. We just need the political will.

## III. Be Part of the Solution: Let Your Voice Be Heard!

There are several opportunities for you to raise your voice and weigh in on the national strategy the Biden-Harris Administration is creating to address hunger, nutrition, and health:

- **Host your own convening** to discuss strategies to end hunger by 2030. Share what was discussed via e-mail with the White House by July 15. Check out the [White House's toolkit](#) for more information. Please also let FRAC know of your convening by emailing [hungerstories@frac.org](mailto:hungerstories@frac.org) and we can help spread the word.



- **Share your story** about your lived or living experience with hunger. Be sure to also share your story with FRAC via [hungerstories@frac.org](mailto:hungerstories@frac.org).

### ***Guide to Share Your Story***

The deadline to submit your story on the [White House portal](#) is **July 15**. Your ideas and experiences with hunger will help inform a national strategy that will be announced at the White House Conference in September 2022. The potential for your story to touch and move others to take action to end hunger is great. Get inspired by these stories on [FRAC Chat](#).

### *Prompts to help tell your story:*

- How has the struggle against hunger created barriers to leading an active, healthy life?
  - What tough choices do you have to make when there is not enough food available for you or your family?
  - What do you think would surprise people about your experience with hunger?
  - How have federal nutrition programs like SNAP, WIC, and school meals helped ensure you and your family get the nutrition you need?
  - Why do you think the government should invest more in these and other federal nutrition programs to make them better?
  - How would more adequate wages, better job opportunities, more affordable housing and health care help you and your family put food on the table?
  - What are 3–5 things you think the government should do to end hunger in America?
  - Consider including the following [priorities that are supported by FRAC and other national anti-hunger organizations](#) in your submission. It is critical to hear from a range of people about the importance of these comprehensive priorities so that the conference is centered on addressing poverty-related hunger.
- **Share your recommendations** for ending hunger with the White House by **July 15**. You can submit via the [web portal](#) or via [e-mail](#) if you have a document you want to share.

### *Prompts to submit a comment:*

- Share facts about the reality of hunger in America. (See above)
- Highlight solutions for ending hunger:
  - Share prosperity by creating good jobs and better wages and benefits.
  - Invest in safe and affordable housing and access to quality affordable health care.
  - Increase SNAP benefit amounts so families can better afford to put food on the table.
  - Ensure every child has access to free school meals to support their health and learning
  - Expand the reach of child care food and afterschool and summer meals to fuel children’s growth and development.



- Reach more mothers, babies, and young children with WIC.
- Improve access to healthy food, such as full-service grocery stores in every community, to make it possible for families to stave off hunger and stay healthy.
- Encourage state and local governments, nonprofits, and private-sector stakeholders to increase public education and outreach efforts for nutrition programs.
- Eliminate structural racism and remove other barriers that create inequities.
- Address the root causes of hunger such as lack of adequate wages, affordable housing, and health care.
- Build on lessons learned during pandemic, such as free school meals for all children no matter household income, boosts to SNAP benefits, and accessing WIC benefits remotely.
- Create streamlined access to nutrition programs and other public benefits so that people experiencing hunger can readily get help.
- Consider including the following [priorities that are supported by FRAC and other national anti-hunger organizations](#) in your submission. It is critical to hear from a range of people about the importance of these comprehensive priorities so that the conference is centered on addressing poverty-related hunger.

#### IV. Spread the Word

Use **#MyHungerSolution** to share your ideas to **#endhungernow** with the **@WhiteHouse** and encourage others to do so. FRAC will compile all the solutions tagged with **#myhungersolution** and share with the White House. Be sure to also tag **@fractweets**!

You may also share these [graphics](#).

*Get vocal on social: Tag and tell the White House to #EndHungerNow:  
(Click to Tweet)*

- [After more than half a century, there will finally be a second White House Conference in September focused on how to #EndHungerNow in America! Help @fractweets and other advocates elevate hunger as a priority by sharing #myhungersolution. <https://frac.org/white-house-conference>](#)
- [It will take all of us to #EndHungerNow in America! Share #myhungersolution with @fractweets and other advocates. <https://frac.org/white-house-conference>](#)
- [Tag and tell the @WhiteHouse on how the Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health can help #EndHungerNow. Share #MyHungerSolution that you would like to see featured at this conference. <https://frac.org/white-house-conference>](#)



*Use the model text below to send an email to your colleagues, family, and friends:*

Join me in helping end hunger in America!

The Biden-Harris administration has announced that the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health will be sometime in September. Leading up to the conference, the White House is collecting ideas and experiences to inform a national strategy that will be released at the conference.

Take action now. Share your story or submit a comment on the [White House Conference portal](#) by **July 15**.

Spread the word:

- [After more than half a century, there will finally be a second White House Conference focused on how to #EndHungerNow in America Help @fractweets and other advocates elevate hunger as a priority by sharing #myhungersolution. https://frac.org/white-house-conference](https://frac.org/white-house-conference)

To learn more, check out the [Food Research & Action Center's White House Conference webpage](#).

Together, we can help build a nation free from hunger.