

## **Freedom from Hunger: An Achievable Goal for the United States of America**

### **Recommendations of the National Commission on Hunger to Congress and the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture 2015**

#### **I. Make Improvements to SNAP that Promote Work, Improve Nutrition, and Enhance Wellbeing**

1. Encourage a greater focus on job placement, job training, and career development among SNAP recipients, and ensure necessary supports and infrastructure to facilitate finding work.
2. Ensure SNAP eligibility incentivizes work by improving responsiveness to earned-income fluctuations.
3. Encourage the use of financial incentives to SNAP recipients to facilitate the purchase of fruits, vegetables, high-quality proteins, whole grains, and other healthy foods.
4. Exclude a carefully defined class of sugar-sweetened beverages from the list of allowable purchases with SNAP benefits.
5. Use evidence-based product placement strategies that encourage purchase of healthy products with SNAP benefits, and tie it to SNAP eligibility for stores.
6. Reform SNAP Nutrition Education (SNAP-Ed) to ensure that efforts are likely to lead to measurable improvements in the health of SNAP recipients.
7. Continue to promote and facilitate greater coordination of means- tested programs across federal and state agencies and provide state incentives for establishing a “no wrong door” approach between SNAP and non-nutrition family support programs.
8. The USDA should use its current flexibility to the greatest extent possible to support state innovations that would help clients to become more food secure and more self-sufficient, and should approve or disapprove these requests

within 90 days of submission.

9. Create mechanisms for improved training for front-line SNAP caseworkers to maintain a customer service perspective that facilitates best practices of case management.
10. Support the wellbeing of families that have members who serve or have served in the U.S. Military.

## **II. Make improvements to child nutrition programs**

1. Improve access to summer feeding programs and congregate meals by reconsidering requirements for rural areas.
2. Change area eligibility for reimbursement of summer feeding from 50% of children eligible for free or reduced price school meals to 40% to help reach children in rural and suburban areas.
3. Make the summer electronic benefit transfer option available by creating a mechanism that allows communities to apply for it if they can clearly demonstrate a barrier to congregate feeding related to remoteness, climate, or safety.
4. Streamline and simplify administrative processes among the child nutrition programs.

## **III. Improve nutrition assistance options for people who are disabled or medically at risk**

1. Expand Medicare managed care plans to include coverage for meal delivery for seniors with physician recommendation.
2. Expand Medicaid managed care plans to include coverage, with a physician recommendation, for meal delivery for individuals who are too young for Medicare, but who are at serious medical risk or have a disability.

**IV. Fund pilot programs to test the effectiveness of strategic interventions to reduce and eliminate hunger**

1. Congress should allot funds to the USDA to implement, evaluate, and disseminate results of multiple pilot programs to assess their effectiveness on reducing hunger.

**V. Incentivize and expand corporate, nonprofit, and public partnerships to address hunger in civil society**

1. Incentivize and expand civic engagement efforts on reducing and eliminating hunger.

**VI. Create a White House Leadership Council to End Hunger**

1. Establish a mechanism for cross-agency collaboration to facilitate improved public assistance programming and evaluation through enhanced technology, data sharing, and coordinated funding streams that protect effective programs and encourage coordinated efforts to address larger issues of poverty.
2. The White House Leadership Council to End Hunger and its members should monitor hunger at the federal and state level, with a specific emphasis on the following at-risk populations:
  - a) seniors,
  - b) single parent households with young children,
  - c) people with disabilities,
  - d) veterans and active duty military,
  - e) American Indians,
  - f) those reentering society from prison,
  - g) survivors of violence, abuse, and neglect, and
  - h) immigrants (including documented and undocumented, asylum seekers and refugees).