

White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health

NACDS' Recommendations & Commitments

NACDS' RECOMMENDATIONS

NACDS worked with retailer and supplier members to develop recommendations for the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health and for the policy agenda of the Biden Administration and Congress. NACDS submitted the following recommendations in July 2022.

Further empower pharmacists' and other healthcare professionals' ability to deliver health and wellness care services, including for example, point-of-care testing to inform prevention and management efforts for diet-related conditions. Pharmacies are the most accessible healthcare destination. Located within five miles of 90% of Americans, pharmacies exist as key community access points for the public to receive various care interventions related to the linkage between nutrition and health. This accessibility offers a vital opportunity to improve care and foster equity to support nutrition and promote better overall health.

Pass the bipartisan *Equitable Community Access to Pharmacist Services Act (H.R. 7213)* to support Medicare Part B beneficiary access to clinical care delivered by pharmacists. Pharmacies have a crucial role to play in meeting the health and wellness needs of Americans and in addressing social determinants of health and inequities. Passage of H.R. 7213 would help ensure the continuity of accessible pharmacy-based care, during public health emergencies and every day. The Future of Pharmacy Care Coalition, of which NACDS serves on the Executive Committee, continues to aggressively advocate and build support for this legislation.

Incentivize payers to cover health and wellness programs to support better public access to healthcare professionals – such as dietitians and pharmacists – who can provide preventive and management support for diet-related conditions and mental health. Providing patients with holistic care, including nutrition and wellness services, can help improve health outcomes – especially for those with diet-related diseases such as diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, heart disease and chronic kidney disease. Better coordination with health plans would improve patients' access to care and support the prevention, management and education of nutrition and diet-related conditions.

Leverage the accessibility and clinical expertise of pharmacists, pharmacies and other healthcare providers, to participate in existing national prevention programs for conditions including diabetes (Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program) and cardiovascular disease (Million Hearts Initiative) – in addition to future programs. Research continues to support the ability of pharmacists to improve prevention and management of diet-related diseases, especially cardiovascular disease and diabetes, among others. Pharmacies can help close access gaps and promote health equity if they are better integrated into such programs and if barriers are removed to facilitate the role of pharmacists and pharmacies in these programs.

Expand eligibility for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). Good nutrition is critical both for disease prevention and management – yet many Americans face challenges to accessing foods to meet their specific health and nutrition needs. To address these barriers, the White House should modernize the SNAP and WIC programs to incentivize and support access to more nutritious foods — so that lower income individuals who qualify for these programs have greater access to better nutrition.



Complete Recommendations

NACDS' COMMITMENTS

NACDS made the following commitment in collaboration with the White House Conference on Hunger and Nutrition. NACDS' commitment was highlighted at the White House Conference.

Launch a health status public education campaign. NACDS commits to undertaking a nationwide public education campaign focused on equitably amplifying the importance of preventive screenings and raising nutritional awareness as a part of lifestyle changes to improve outcomes for diet-related conditions including diabetes and hypertension. The goal of this campaign is to improve public awareness of the importance of preventive screenings with reach to millions of Americans in all 50 states, including rural and underserved populations, and to improve uptake of preventive screenings by 15% for diet-related conditions with emphasis in areas with moderate to high social vulnerability. This campaign will be built with message-tested approaches to maximize receptivity among key target audiences. This campaign also will leverage the fact that pharmacists are among the most trusted health and wellness professionals. A national poll found that 79% of Americans support pharmacists helping patients prevent chronic disease such as heart disease and diabetes, and 79% support pharmacists helping patients understand their nutritional choices.

Support better public access to preventive screenings at pharmacies. In tandem with our public education campaign, NACDS commits to supporting the nation's more than 55,000 community pharmacies to provide improved access to preventive screenings at pharmacies across diverse communities nationwide. Pharmacies are well positioned to improve needed access to preventive screenings including in vulnerable and underserved communities given that patients visit pharmacies ten times more frequently than they see other healthcare providers and the fact that 90% of Americans live within five miles of a pharmacy. NACDS will support expanded access to preventive screenings by working to modernize the existing operational and sustainability barriers that currently prevent broader public access. NACDS also commits to uncovering creative and sustainable solutions, through collaboration of stakeholders, to help clear operational and sustainability barriers that otherwise prevent pharmacies from offering additional screenings that examine social determinants of health including hunger and food insecurity, for example.

Expand resource sharing & educational awareness. NACDS commits to forming proactive partnerships with at least two national patient advocate organizations and collaboratively distribute relevant educational resources on nutrition and diet-related diseases among community pharmacies, in addition to hosting at least two programmatic sessions on diet-related disease and nutrition concepts across NACDS meetings next year.

Continue to engage the NACDS membership in support of the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health and execution of the forthcoming National Strategy. In advance of the White House Conference and forthcoming National Strategy, NACDS strategically engaged its vast membership through listening sessions. These interactive listening sessions informed the recommendations that NACDS submitted to the White House on July 15, 2022.

Aim to support the nation’s health and wellness goals considering the following key issues:

- *Leverage scope expansion of pharmacists, the pharmacy, and the whole store in alignment with the Conference goals. Optimize sustainable delivery of pharmacy care services that can help move the needle on hunger, nutrition, and health.*
- *Amplify the need for broader coverage of health and wellness programs to support better public access to healthcare professionals such as dieticians and pharmacists. These clinicians can help provide preventive care and management support for diet-related conditions, including through existing national programs for conditions such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease, in addition to future programs.*
- *Further leverage pharmacies as healthcare access destinations in coordination with the potential expanded eligibility of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC).*

Commit to amplifying our more than seven-year collaboration with the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) to address hunger for our neighbors locally:

- *Maintain corporate partnership with AFAC with a minimum of two events per year. These partnership opportunities include the sponsorship of donated food and contributions to AFAC hosted-events.*
- *Opportunity given to 100% of NACDS staff team members to volunteer at events each season. NACDS commits to hosting a minimum of four well-doing events each year, which can include food drives, gleaning produce at local farms, assisting at the AFAC warehouse, and participating in Hunger Action Month. At the time of the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health, NACDS staff will package 5,000+ pounds of produce to support local families through AFAC.*



Featured Partner

For more than seven years, NACDS has engaged with AFAC to support its mission of serving the people of Arlington, Virginia - which is home to NACDS’ headquarters office. Please join in supporting AFAC’s work.