



White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health

Wednesday, September 28, 2022

Livestream Notes

Executive Summary

Building on the Biden-Harris Administration's [National Strategy](#), the White House hosted the first in 50-year Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health. The day's events included individuals from the highest levels of government, including President Biden, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra, Senators Braun and Booker, Representatives McGovern, DeLauro, Stabenow - and more.

From main stage plenaries to breakout sessions, the conference speakers called for a whole of government and whole of society approach to end hunger and increase healthy eating and physical activity by 2030, so that fewer Americans experience diet-related diseases like diabetes, obesity, and hypertension. Throughout the day-long event, there were calls for specific administrative agency actions, pushes for Congress to pass legislation (particularly universal school meals), and recommendations for the private sector and philanthropic groups. Processed and animal foods were criticized, and specific demands were made of the packaged and prepared food industry to reformulate food products, specifically by reducing sugar and sodium.

As part of this event, the White House announced more than \$8 billion in [commitments](#) across the [five pillars](#) from the private sector and philanthropy to help achieve the goals set forth in the National Strategy. Overall, the White House did not address plans or a timeline for the implementation of recommendations outlined in the National Strategy.

**These notes do not include the in-person small group working group sessions discussions or coverage of pillar 4 (support physical activity for all).*

[Opening Plenary](#)

Welcome remarks and an overview of the National Strategy by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, Remarks by President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Ambassador Susan E. Rice in conversation with Chairman Jim McGovern, Senator Cory Booker, and Senator Mike Braun, the bipartisan sponsors of the Conference.

- ***Welcome remarks and an overview of the National Strategy by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack***
 - Food and nutrition security are central to our national security and to our economic future.
 - Food and nutrition insecurity still remains unacceptably high. There's been progress - food security among households with children is at its lowest point in two decades.
 - We face a rising prevalence of diet-related diseases which disproportionately impact underserved communities.

FOOD

The logo for 'FOOD DIRECTIONS' features the word 'FOOD' in a large, bold, sans-serif font. The letter 'O' is replaced by a circular icon containing a stylized fork and knife. Below 'FOOD' is the word 'DIRECTIONS' in a smaller, all-caps, sans-serif font.

DIRECTIONS

- Brief National Strategy Overview:
 - Pillar 1 - ensure all American are economically secure (including through a child tax credit)
 - Pillar 2 - how can we better integrate nutrition and healthcare? We are elevating the role of nutrition and food security in healthcare.
 - Pillar 3 - seeks to empower customers to make healthy choices by making those choices more accessible, like SNAP.
 - Pillar 4 - reminds us of the important role physical activity plays.
 - Pillar 5 - bolsters funding for nutrition research.
- USDA modernized the Thrifty Food Plan and announced \$2billion for purchase of American Grown Foods. Last week launched the new \$100 million initiative called the healthy meals incentives initiative to improve the nutritional quality of our school meals.
- We also are funding training for schools to cook meals from scratch and making it easier for them to prepare local foods.
- **Remarks by President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.**
 - It's been 50 years since Nixon convened the last conference. Since that time, we know so much more about nutrition and health.
 - We can achieve ambitious goals if we work together. This strategy has three key principles
 - Help more Americans access the food that will keep their families nourished and healthy.
 - Give folks the option they need to make healthy dietary choices.
 - Help more Americans be physically active.
 - The American Rescue Plan helped put food on the table and helped our economy create 10 million new jobs.
 - My National Strategy calls on Congress to expand the child tax credit permanently, would provide free school meals, allow schools to purchase more food locally from farmers and ranchers and strengthen rural economics.
 - We have to give families the tools to keep them healthy - heart disease leading cause of death in US...expand nutrition and obesity counseling, healthcare professionals need to be trained, know which food is high in trans fats and sodium so you know what food is good for you
 - Bi-partisan infrastructure law has ability to transform systems that are overworked.
 - We know that healthier foods cost more - expand incentives to purchase fruits and veg for low income families (SNAP). Until recently, this was not updated. Now people get \$36/month for SNAP.
 - Are working with Congress to increase access to National Parks, etc. Investing in climate and public health in the inflation reduction act. CDC will help summer schools include PE as well as after school programs.
 - Meeting the bold goals requires a whole-of-government approach and a whole-of-society effort.

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DIRECTIONS

- Certain diseases are affected by intake. Thanks to the American Rescue Plan, food security is down but 1-in-10 American households still don't have access to enough food.
- Everyone has an important role to play (private sector, academia)
- Announcing over \$8 billion in commitments from over 100 different organizations to help reach our goals.
- We believe that the work ahead should be bipartisan.
- The work on hunger, nutrition and physical activity is critical to address mental health and wellness.
- Last week, I discussed commitments the US is making to tackle food security worldwide
- There is a need for us to restore the soul of America, treat people with respect...In America, no child should go to bed hungry. No parent should die of disease that can be prevented. When we are at our best, the US thinks BIG. This could be a gigantic step. There is nothing beyond our capacity if we work together.

Ambassador Susan E. Rice in conversation with Chairman Jim McGovern, Senator Cory Booker, and Senator Mike Braun, the bipartisan sponsors of the Conference.

- Senator Mike Brau (R-IN):
 - The agriculture committee is the least Partisan in the U.S. Senate. Discussed his climate caucus and the importance of sustainability. This is the biggest forum where we need to talk about food.
- Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ):
 - Thank you. Half of the population is diabetic or prediabetic.
 - Blacks are 77% more likely to get diabetes and twice as likely to die of it. Almost 1 out of every 3 of government dollars is not being spent on education, or science and research, it's being spent on healthcare. 80% of our healthcare issues are preventable - because we have a food system that is doing the wrong thing.
 - **“We need to put the F back into the FDA” - giving families access to healthy food, information, FOP labeling on packaging that tells us that these ingredients are related to diet-related diseases, ensuring we put limits on how much sodium and sugar that is put in these massively processed foods.”**

What do you hope will be the legacy of this conference?

- Chairman Jim McGovern (D-MA):
 - We all need to be in a room together to make this possible - not just the federal government, it is the nonprofit world, the faith-based community, it is the business community, private-sector, etc.
 - We need to leave here with an assignment for tomorrow and the weeks after. We all have to step up and we all need to do our part.
 - I've spent years traveling the U.S. looking at successful models that are working to promote nutrition, hospitals that are models for the rest of the country, look we don't need to reinvent the wheel, we need to uplift best practices.
 - We need to leave here with an assignment for tomorrow!

Panel Session A — 11:20AM ET

Pillar 1 – Nourishing Brighter Futures: Ensuring affordable food for all children and families:

Mike Curtin, Jr. moderates a conversation with Shavana Howard, Donna Martin, Mark Ramos, and Shannon Razsadin on supporting children and families in accessing affordable food in schools and at home.

Opening remarks

- Mike Curtin, Jr., CEO, DC Central Kitchen (moderator)
 - Shared DC Central Kitchen shared challenges and opportunities to making sure families have access to healthy foods
- Mark Ramos, President, United Food and Commercial Workers International Union Local 1428
 - Found during pandemic that many people working at grocery stores were going home hungry
 - Child care tax credit needs to be made permanent
 - Industry has a role to play
- Donna Martin, Director of School Nutrition Programs, Burke County Public Schools (GA)
 - Huge stigma attached with free meals
 - Reimbursement rates don't adequately cover costs
 - We have issues with kitchen equipment
- Shannon Razsadin, President and Executive Director, Military Family Advisory Network
 - Food insecurity in military identified as a problem in 2007 and we are working to fix that ever since
- Shavana Howard, Assistant Secretary of Family Support, Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services
 - Working with United Way to roll out a unidos platform to address needs outside of federal feeding like childcare and housing
 - Providing resources and support during disasters- virtual DSNAP was helpful

What would moon shot be to improve access to health and nutrition?

- Mark Ramos, President, United Food and Commercial Workers International Union Local 1428
 - Need to level playing field by enacting Pro act to support families
- Donna Martin, Director of School Nutrition Programs, Burke County Public Schools (GA)
 - Universal school meals
 - Pass Healthy school meals for all
 - If we did that we could finally have time to do nutrition education
- Shannon Razsadin, President and Executive Director, Military Family Advisory Network
 - Universal school meals
 - Level playing field for military families who have to move and resources change
- Mike Curtin, Jr., CEO, DC Central Kitchen
 - 36,000 square foot facility to serve as community hub- culinary job training program, healthy corners program that bring healthy foods to corner stores

What is the takeaway for how people can be part of this?

- Mark Ramos, President, United Food and Commercial Workers International Union Local 1428
 - CA doing 2 school meals a day so excited about that
 - It's about bipartisanship
- Shavana Howard, Assistant Secretary of Family Support, Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services
 - Need to address race equity inclusion belonging
 - Rural and urban different
- Donna Martin, Director of School Nutrition Programs, Burke County Public Schools (GA)
 - Football team won state championship after adding supper to meals program

How can we help college students?

- Shavana Howard, Assistant Secretary of Family Support, Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services
 - Lack of awareness
 - Need to work with student unions who run food banks on campus
 - Need to make steps clear on how to apply
- Mark Ramos, President, United Food and Commercial Workers International Union Local 1428
 - Online courses free so people can focus on housing and food costs
- Mike Curtin, Jr., CEO, DC Central Kitchen
 - Need to summon political will to make ending hunger possible

Pillar 2 – Food is Medicine: Bringing nutrition out of the health care shadows: *Dr. Rajiv Shah in conversation with Dr. Kofi Essel, Dr. Sachin Jain, and Karen Pearl on the integration of nutrition into health care training, coverage, and delivery.*

- Dr. Rajiv Shah, President, Rockefeller Foundation (moderator)
 - Data has told us, according to Tufts University that a 30% subsidy for fruits and vegetables purchased via Medicare and Medicaid would prevent nearly 2 million cardiovascular disease events and more than 300,000 premature deaths from cardiovascular disease alone. It would also save our health system 400 billion dollars in healthcare costs.
 - Announced that starting next year, the Rockefeller Foundation and the American Heart Association along with anagural partner Kroger, plans to mobilize \$250 million to build a national food is medicine research initiative.

Can you speak to the basic dignity of feeding every American?

- Karen Pearl, President and CEO, God's Love We Deliver
 - Spoke to God's Love We Deliver, a food distribution center, and believes that food is love and food is medicine.

You are involved in feeding your patients, customers and beneficiaries, at what scale do you do this and why is important to you as a CEO of such a big and important healthcare provider company?

- Dr. Sachin Jain, President and CEO, SCAN Group and Health Plan

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- We need to think beyond just healthcare to keep people healthy and independent.
- Last year we delivered over 500,000 meals to older adults.
- We need to rethink how we think about our healthcare spending in this country and start paying for things that actually keep people healthy and healthy meals are an important part of that.

You're a doctor, what do we need to know about the way patients in your work informs this food is medicine movement?

- Dr. Kofi Essel, Pediatrician, Children's National Health System and Director, The George Washington University Culinary Medicine Program
 - Understanding the lived-experience of families informs my work everyday. There can be toxic stress of food insecurity with an increased anxiety and stress in the home.

What are some of the best examples of success you've seen and what should we take from that in how we scale that up so fewer people are food insecurity and families have access to foods that prevent disease?

- Karen Pearl, President and CEO, God's Love We Deliver
 - Patients need food that is tailored to their particular circumstances, best practices is that with our RD nutritionists, we are clear about what those clinical guidelines should be.
 - Ensuring that our practices meet the nutritional needs of our clients so they receive tailored meals that are also delicious and ensuring they are culturally sensitive to reach all communities at risk.

You provide 500,00 meals to your beneficiaries, are you focused on targeting those to higher risk individuals, how do you know how to do that? How do you think we get there?

- Dr. Sachin Jain, President and CEO, SCAN Group and Health Plan
 - We focus on people who are particularly vulnerable. We have a benefit that provides up to 81 meals (or a month of meals) for someone who is going through an exacerbation of a chronic disease that needs to be better managed.
 - We have an opportunity to build an innovation ecosystem around food.

What do you need as a clinician to meet the needs in the community?

- Dr. Kofi Essel, Pediatrician, Children's National Health System and Director, The George Washington University Culinary Medicine Program
 - The American Academy of Pediatrics put together a toolkit for pediatric providers.
 - Needs to be a combination of partnerships, not just clinicians

We spend a lot of money in American Healthcare but we do not spend a lot of money on reimbursing for these types of interventions. What do we do to get payers to pay for this?

- Karen Pearl, President and CEO, God's Love We Deliver
 - There is a patchwork of programs like yours but very few. There is tons of data but what's missing is the actual policy that makes reimbursement for food is medicine for medically tailored meals a fully reimbursable benefit. The whole system needs to get aligned with food is medicine.
- Dr. Sachin Jain, President and CEO, SCAN Group and Health Plan
 - We need more coordination across agencies.

Pillar 3 – Look Locally: Growing partnerships to expand local food options: Chuck Conner leads a discussion with Charlene McGee, Tara Roberts-Turner, Sherrie Tussler, and Phoebe Wong on bolstering local food systems to offer nutritious food, strengthen local economies, and support farmers and ranchers.

How can we bolster local food systems to expand access to nutritious food and strengthen these local economies that you are a part of?

- Tara Roberts-Turner, Founding Farmer and General Manager, Wisconsin Food Hub Cooperative
 - My parents pushed us off the farm. Over time. I kept getting pulled back to the farm. Moved back to the farm and started a co-op.
- Sherrie Tussler, Executive Director, Hunger Task Force
 - We started building a box of food for people in Wisconsin – worked with small and medium sized producers. 19 distinct food hubs get this food box every month. We wanted to make sure we were supporting the small guys.

Local procurement strategies. Can you speak to the barriers more institutions face to procuring local food?

- Charlene McGee, Program Manager, Multnomah County Department of Health (OR)
 - We strive to lead our work using community wisdom. Contracting with government entities is one of the challenges. Challenges around requirements for different insurance, climate change.
 - What we know works, we need to implement and stop trying to plow through. We do work around breastfeeding in terms of initiation and duration. What does it look like to offer lactating moms \$1,000. How do we standardize food as medicine? How does that become part of Medicaid? How do we make sure that farmers are being paid value rates.

What can Vilsack do to promote participation for farmers of color? Are credit programs serving in what they intended to do?

- Charlene McGee, Program Manager, Multnomah County Department of Health (OR)
 - Access to land is important
 - No, credit programs are not serving their purpose. There have been a lot of recommendations- now is the time to put those into practice.

Successful initiative that have leveraged partnerships to expand local programs:

- Phoebe Wong, Student, College of the Holy Cross
 - Student education when it comes to food is so important.
 - It should be easier for farmers to supply to schools.

How does a food hub expand capacity?

- Tara Roberts-Turner, Founding Farmer and General Manager, Wisconsin Food Hub Cooperative
 - It helps small farmers put together their resources

What makes local food procurement so difficult?

- Charlene McGee, Program Manager, Multnomah County Department of Health (OR)

- Government entities in Oregon have a minimum threshold established \$50,000 that you can partner with vendors without a contract. This is a great practice.
- All policies that we relax during covid should be permanent.

Pillar 5 – Evidence to Action: Using research to guide policy and scale pilots

Senator Bill Frist in conversation with Swati Chandra, Angela Odoms-Young, and Ross Wilson on leveraging research and data to expand pilot programs and inform policy.

- Senator Bill Frist, Former Senate Majority Leader (moderator)
 - As a former legislator, I've focused my career on health equity, particularly on population health. This panel is focused on using evidence-based research to scale up research to address food insecurity and diet-related disease. The foundation of good policy is good evidence. Health equity will be the filter through which we will be discussing today.
 - Goals for today: Help pilots create an opportunity to innovate and be creative, the importance of cross-sector partnerships, how to scale pilots that work and how we can apply an equity lens across all of our work.
- Dr. Angela Odoms-Young, Associate Professor of Maternal and Child Nutrition, Cornell University
 - One innovative project that I work on is Imani Village - a planned community development to look at the effective approaches to address the SDOH.
- Ross Wilson, Executive Director, Shah Family Foundation
 - Discussion about school food - was a kindergarten teacher - it wasn't until he left the school system when he asked, "why do we serve plastic wrapped food to our kids?" - well that's just the way it is. Ross and his colleague started to visit fast casual restaurants and saw that they could then give the children a voice and a choice in their food and give them dignity and show that we love them by feeding them real, good food. We now have My Way Cafe in Boston public schools, 125 schools, other school systems are modeling this idea of feeding kids real food, food is medicine.
- Swati Chandra, Director, Los Angeles County Food Equity Roundtable
 - There are a couple projects that came out of covid, Great Plates Delivered - designed around covid for local restaurants to prepare and deliver food to seniors. Second project is the Food Equity Roundtable - a coordinated approach to look at the food system, funded through philanthropy to identify solutions to address the needs of these segments.

How has local communities innovated to meet needs among the pandemic?

- Dr. Angela Odoms-Young, Associate Professor of Maternal and Child Nutrition, Cornell University
 - We saw pandemic EBT, WIC pivot with its cash-value benefit, Telehealth, waivers, and school meals have innovated to serve families. If we have effective policy that can pivot, and those pivots stay permanent, it is important to keep the momentum going. WIC retention has been an issue, we've seen with a lot of these waivers and increase in the food package, increase in the cash-value benefit, resulting in an increase in WIC participation and retention.

- Ross Wilson, Executive Director, Shah Family Foundation
 - There has been so much innovation that came out of the pandemic. What we did in Boston schools, we provided not-nutritionally sound food. We were able to pivot and partner with local restaurants and with the USDA flexibility to have restaurants cook food for our communities. We started a program called Local Lunch Box, where restaurants sponsored by the YMCA offered local lunch box specials, where any student or parent can ask for the local lunch box special and they would receive the same food that the person who is paying next to them received. Millions of meals that have been served with strong nutritional value and ethically-sound meals.

Can you all discuss the role of cross-sector partnerships?

- Swati Chandra, Director, Los Angeles County Food Equity Roundtable
 - A cross-sector partnership we are working on is a NSF funded project, led by University of California partners to look at mapping out food locations by neighborhood (in LA) looking at a dynamic portal which would be tracking all the food distribution sites and food retail in a neighborhood and getting the data from Yelp. Asking the question, why do we have food deserts? Helps us to predict and see the dynamic change in demographics in neighborhoods to ensure that it doesn't become another food desert.
- Ross Wilson, Executive Director, Shah Family Foundation
 - Believes that partnering with the government is the best way to leverage philanthropic dollars. We need to bring in the private sector, nonprofits and others to help the government take risks, measure their investments and scale projects.

How do we ensure that our work reaches higher and further?

- Ross Wilson, Executive Director, Shah Family Foundation
 - Treat pilots like pilots and get rid of it if it doesn't work. We need to be comfortable taking risks and partnering with others to find out if what we are doing is truly working.
- Dr. Angela Odoms-Young, Associate Professor of Maternal and Child Nutrition, Cornell University
 - When we talk about bringing something to scale, it's not only just reaching people, but it has to be implemented and ensure we understand what works, what does not work and what resources we need to make sure it's effective. One size doesn't fit all, if you don't have the voice of people in the community at the table, then you won't understand what's effective to scale.
- Swati Chandra, Director, Los Angeles County Food Equity Roundtable
 - Academics is the core of thinking that pushes us beyond who we are today. How effectively you execute an idea is where success lies.
 - Consistent innovation and validation of a pilot is needed to be successful.
- Dr. Angela Odoms-Young, Associate Professor of Maternal and Child Nutrition, Cornell University
 - We have to have programs that are effective, and ensure they close gaps. It's critical to innovate, think about boots on the ground, and think about people in communities and families to change the lives of everyone.

Panel Session B — 12:10PM ET

Pillar 1 – Public-Private Partnerships: Collaborating to increase affordable food options in underserved communities

Erin Fitzgerald leads a discussion with Mary Blackford, Diana Tellefson Torres, and Kamau Witherspoon on working together to make it easier for everyone to access affordable foods.

- *Link was having technical issues - no notes available at this current time.*

Pillar 2 – Breaking Barriers: Bridging the gap between nutrition and health

Dr. Shereef Elnahal in conversation with Dr. Thea James, Walter Murillo, and Denise Scott on cultivating community development and advancing health equity to improve nutrition and health.

- Dr. Thea James, Vice President of Mission, Boston Medical Center
 - Food pantry offers food to patients every year.
 - Grow clinic for kids with failure to thrive.
 - Do it with multi sector partners.
- Denise Scott, President, Local Initiatives Support Corporation
 - We have resources but not necessarily infrastructure, access, capacity of community to do work.
- Walter Murillo, CEO, Native Health
 - Need to change the system to make sure everyone feels welcome and builds trust.
- Dr. Shereef Elnahal, Under Secretary for Health, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
 - Healthcare providers need to earn trust.

Pillar 3 – Making Healthy Choices Easy: Why improving food environments matters -

Lazarus Lynch moderates a discussion with Kaster Dee Garrett-Adimora, Shane Grant, Dr. Susan Mayne, and Nadia Torney on enabling healthier choices where people shop, work, and play.

- Kaster Dee Garrett-Adimora, Senior Store Manager, Everytable
 - Accessibility is very important.
- Shane Grant, CEO, Danone North America
 - We think about access through what we sell and how we sell it.
 - People want to consume healthier food. The drivers of our business today are low sugar, high protein and probiotics. The more we can scale up those pieces of what we sell, the better it is for our business.
 - It's incumbent on industry to provide the right access points, a variety of different brands that cover the affordability spectrum including entry points to a number of categories that are really high quality at a reasonable price point. We need to be where people are.
- Dr. Susan Mayne, Director of the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, U.S. Food and Drug Administration
 - I think it's important to improve the food environment for everyone through the food supply. We have many tools to do that which includes food labeling like healthy claims, the nutrition facts label. When we put things on the label, it

empowers consumers with information. It also leads to many industries wanting to reformulate their products to make them healthier. In 20026, fda said that trans fat has to be on the nutrition facts label and we saw that trans fat consumption dropped by 80%. Consumers started avoiding foods with trans fat and the industry reformulated.

- **We are also proud of the work we are doing to lower sodium. The primary contributors of sodium are processed, prepared and packaged foods.** We have been trying to lower those gradually. As part of national strategy we are continuing to work on sodium and will be continuing to work on voluntary targets. We also are committed to developing a fop label on foods. We know that consumers make choices quickly and fop labeling as the potential to empower consumers with information.
- We are also working on the development of a healthy symbol.
- Nadia Casseus Torney, Administrator, Kimball Elementary School (Washington D.C)
 - My school partners with organizations to plant gardens on site.
 - There is no access to grocery stores in our communities. There are a lot of local carry outs, alcohol. To me, accessibility is having more nutritious food options available.

What is the importance of nutrition education?

- Dr. Susan Mayne
- FDA has a role in nutrition education, it's also important to educate physicians.
- Shane Grant, CEO, Danone North America
 - How do we use our scale to create a multiplier effect of information? When we think about the system, we think about partnership. How do we help with furthering knowledge? How do we expand the capacity of our systems through public/private partnerships? One concrete example here is the expansion of WIC, more products in WIC to make sure more people can access good food.
 - Healthcare professional networks - the multiplier impact of those leaders is enormous.
- Kaster Dee Garrett-Adimora, Senior Store Manager, Everytable
 - I also think it's very important to educate healthcare professionals.

How can we address issues around trauma and food?

- Lazarus Lynch, Chef and Host, Chopped U (moderator)
 - There is a lot of trauma around food, especially for those who went hungry when they were young.
- Nadia Casseus Torney, Administrator, Kimball Elementary School (Washington D.C)
 - A child who is at school hungry is visibly different. We want to feed every child that walks through our door.
- Dr. Susan Mayne, Director of the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, U.S. Food and Drug Administration
 - These are multifaceted issues. Today is an inspirational start to all the work we still have to do.
- Shane Grant, CEO, Danone North America

- All of our kids should have access to good food. Types of products and availability really matters. We have a program in Canada called the Breakfast clubs of Canada that provides a lot of Canadians access to yogurt.
- Kaster Dee Garrett-Adimora, Senior Store Manager, Everytable
 - We have a pay it forward program where customers can come in and buy a meal for someone else. We also work with a mobile food bank. Everyone needs to do their part to stop hunger.

Audience Questions: Would you say more about the responsibility of the food industry, not only to scale up healthy food products but also decrease sales of unhealthy products?

- Shane Grant, CEO, Danone North America
 - We're not perfect and I think a lot of food businesses are not perfect. 70% of our business is nutrient dense. We take that mission very seriously in what we sell. Yes, we have a responsibility for constant improvement and that coincides with where people are moving, towards a desire for healthier food. We are moving to low and no sugar options. We see a business, mission and societal opportunity here. Something that is a responsibility of the industry is to apply research capabilities that we have. We have the ability to make healthy food taste good.

What do we do?

- Nadia Casseus Torney, Administrator, Kimball Elementary School (Washington D.C)
 - We honor our commitment to children
- Dr. Susan Mayne, Director of the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, U.S. Food and Drug Administration
 - I agree with that. We look forward to hearing feedback on the National Strategy.
- Shane Grant, CEO, Danone North America
 - Growth in the right types of food in every community.
- Kaster Dee Garrett-Adimora, Senior Store Manager, Everytable
 - Everyone do what they can do!

Pillar 5 – Advancing Equitable Research: Developing innovative and inclusive policy

solutions: Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young speaks with Dr. Maribel Campos-Rivera, Jimmieka Mills, Mia Ives-Ruble, and Dr. Donald Warne on ensuring nutrition and food security research accounts for all communities and informs policies.

- Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young, Undersecretary for Research, Education, and Economics, U.S. Department of Agriculture (moderator)
 - At USDA we are bringing an equity lens to our research.

How have your experiences as a community college student demonstrate the barriers others face?

- Jimmieka Mills, Co-Founder, Equitable Spaces
 - I struggled with housing, food. When there are assumptions about what students need, we miss a mark. Researchers at the school were petitioned to do a food pilot and student shared barriers to access. We need to engage those who are directly impacted.

Can you talk about nutrition disparities affecting individuals with disabilities?

- Mia Ives-Rublee, Director of the Disability Justice Initiative, Center for American Progress
 - There are administrative barriers, have to go through requirements to prove you can't work.
- Dr. Donald Warne, Professor and Co-Director, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Center for American Indian Health
 - We need a diverse research workforce so we can ask the right questions. We started a PhD in Indigenous Health.

How can we address the gaps in data?

- Dr. Donald Warne, Professor and Co-Director, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Center for American Indian Health
 - Work with communities to develop what their priorities are.
- Dr. Maribel Campos-Rivera, Professor and Founder, University of Puerto Rico Center for Community Outreach and Health Across the Lifespan
 - Need to harmonize education messaging in WIC
- Jimmieka Mills, Co-Founder, Equitable Spaces
 - Who is asking these questions?
- Mia Ives-Rublee, Director of the Disability Justice Initiative, Center for American Progress
 - Its been important to include voices in disabilities, need to create a pipeline of researchers who come from those communities. We also discount qualitative data.

What is the most important thing for folks to take away from this summit?

- Dr. Donald Warne, Professor and Co-Director, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Center for American Indian Health
 - Our communities have a lot of strengths
- Dr. Maribel Campos-Rivera, Professor and Founder, University of Puerto Rico Center for Community Outreach and Health Across the Lifespan
 - Need real-time data
- Mia Ives-Rublee, Director of the Disability Justice Initiative, Center for American Progress
 - Understand that work does not equal worth and making a commitment to helping amplify voices that are not often heard.
- Jimmieka Mills, Co-Founder, Equitable Spaces
 - We are the data, these are people. We can not separate the two.

Afternoon Plenary — 2:05PM ET

Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra in conversation with Chairwoman Rosa DeLauro, Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow, and Mayor Eric Adams with a keynote address by Chef José Andrés.

- Secretary of Health and Human Services, Xavier Becerra:
 - Nutrition is health and food is medicine.

What must we do to ensure we bring all Americans in our work to reduce food insecurity, regardless of where they live...?

- Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow:
 - The opportunity is to ensure food is accessible and available for everyone regardless where you live.
 - “We’re not cutting SNAP.” Updating the Thrifty Food Plan - 21% increase in SNAP by just updating the thrifty food standard.
 - Double Up Food Bucks in SNAP was successful - this came from the community.
 - Good ideas come from the community, we want to build and grow in addressing what is a moral issue for all of us, everyone should have the opportunity to be as healthy as possible.

What do you see as the big opportunities for progress in the next 5 years?

- Chairwoman Rosa DeLauro:
 - Appropriated almost \$149 billion dollars in nutrition. Ensure we are making investments in nutrition and food - senior nutrition programs, child nutrition programs, WIC, SNAP, nutrition and diet-related diseases and more programs being discussed today and in the National Strategy.
 - Believes in extending WIC eligibility for children until age 6 or their first day of kindergarten, expand WIC benefits so they do not lapse, raise SNAP minimum benefit to at least \$30, expand to US territories, boost SNAP participation among older adults, expand free school meals to every single child, increase access to plant-based foods everywhere, increase research in alternative proteins, increasing research for diet-related diseases, look at the effect of nutrition on chronic illness, look into how to regulate food additives.
 - Let's look at how we are regulating food additives, expand food is medicine.
 - First pillar is one of the most important - promotes economic security.
 - No one, no child, no senior, no one should go to bed hungry.

How are you as a leader focused on driving solutions to some of these critical issues of hunger, nutrition and health?

- Mayor Eric Adams:
 - Shared weeks after converting to a whole-food plant-based diet, his vision, nerve damage, and high blood sugar improved.
 - We spend 80 cents on a dollar to treat food-related diseases - how do we reverse that? We must move our mindset from caloric consumption to nutritional consumption.
 - Over 50% of people who were defaulted to chef specials, they chose plant-based options - 95% stated they liked them. In our schools, we have for the first time, plant-based meatless Mondays, and plant-powered Fridays - building into our school curriculum. “Why is the Department of Health allowing the Department of Education to operate separately?”
 - It's time for us to not only heal our mothers and fathers, but let's heal mother Earth. Our food is destroying our planet, destroying our children, destroying our families, it's time to liberate ourselves again.

Rep. Jackie Walorski tribute video

- Chef José Andrés:
 - The most important source of energy in the U.S. - the food we eat.
 - Food is a national security priority.
 - Hunger and food-related sickness are the enemies of our lifetime.
 - We have to take action, the way our food system works is starting today. We need to diversify our food to survive the climate crisis and the next pandemic. We need to adapt our food to thrive in a highly competitive global economy.
 - Food is the fastest way to rebuild our sense of community.
 - It's much more than a plate of calories, it is a plate of hope for the hopeless, it's a voice for the voiceless, that's what a plate of food is.
 - We all must act on the National Strategy to pursue a whole-of-government transformation of our food system, ensuring all Americans will have access to fresh and nourishing food.
 - Areas where food can help to reunite our country:
 - Food can drive economic growth.
 - Creating food improvement districts to increase access to healthy food - no more food deserts.
 - Schools can improve the food health of our entire country, educate and feed simultaneously. Universal free breakfast and lunch for all children.
 - 89% of Americans agree that nobody should go hungry in this country.
 - 61% say that government assistance to address hunger and nutrition should be increased.
 - The nation cannot live with its conscience if these problems aren't solved.
 - Today is not the end of these efforts, it is the beginning. It is the launching pad for all the great ideas, a call to action for real solutions. If we are successful for years to come, we will not need to wait for a 3rd WH food conference to say we put an end to hunger and nutrition insecurity once and for all because we made it happen here today.

Closing Plenary: *Stories of action by community leaders and a conversation with young changemakers charting the path forward. We will hear from Kari Miller-Ortiz (Director of People and Culture, Move United) and Rebecca Onie and Rocco Perla (Co-Founders, The Health Initiative), followed by Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff and Ambassador Susan E. Rice in conversation with Joshua Williams (Founder, Joshua's Heart Foundation) and Avani Rai (Healthy Living Advocate, National 4-H Council).*

- Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff:
 - Everyone has worked so hard to pull this historic conference together! I've heard directly from families across the country of the impact of food security has had on them.
 - We are not just here to listen, we are here to take action.
 - I was at the USDA's farmers market a few weeks ago. We met with vendors. These farmers markets are helping to expand healthy options.

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- Im also proud of how the Administration is increasing food access and strengthening food systems
- The American rescue plan is helping to keep food on tables. It has delivered nutrition assistance to millions of Americans. It's going to take all of us working together to solve this issue. We need public-partnerships. We can reach more people.
- 45,000 restaurants have committed to meeting stronger nutrition standards for their kids meals and serving only water, milk or juice with those meals instead of soda.
- We've got the National Restaurant Association thats going to support these restaurants to design healthier kids menus and its going to create a public database to help parents find these healthier options across all participating restaurant brands.
- I want to recognize the University of California who has pledged to cut in half the percentage of students struggling with food security by 2030.
- *Kari Miller-Ortiz (Director of People and Culture, Move United)*
 - Created wounded warriors air force community programs - to make sure everyone feels welcomed.
 - The reality is that there is not a lot of representation for kids of color or kids in rural areas.
 - I work every day to expand access to the same opportunities that change my life.
- *Rebecca Onie and Rocco Perla (Co-Founders, The Health Initiative)*
 - *Rebecca Onie*
 - 25 years ago I asked physicians what is the one thing you need for your patients to be healthy? It shouldn't be so hard to design our healthcare system around things that make people healthy.
 - Today, 50 years after Dr. Geiger wrote those first prescriptions for food, its time to change the rules to bridge healthcare and health for all Americans at last.
 - *Rocco Perla*
 - In 2011 I was asked by the federal to fix the healthcare system and we struggled. After I left, I realized we never looked at food insecurity data. This year, physicians, insurance companies, etc. rallied to enable the centers for medicare services to create the first Federal Health Care measure that addresses whether a patient has access to food or any other basic resource.
 - What do people actually need to be hungry?
- Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff, and Ambassador Susan E. Rice in conversation with Joshua Williams (Founder, Joshua's Heart Foundation) and Avani Rai (Healthy Living Advocate, National 4-H Council).
 - Avani Rai (Healthy Living Advocate, National 4-H Council).
 - I first saw food insecurity when I was 8. Families like mine deal with hunger and have to deal as part of their lives. My experiences in 4H have

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allowed me to focus on feeding people and feeding people well in food drives. We have a quality problem in our country, not a quantity problem. We need to focus on improving food advocacy inclusively.

- Joshua Williams (Founder, Joshua's Heart Foundation)
 - It's important to empower youth and teach them about business

What is the top message you want everyone leading this conference to carry?

- Avani Rai (Healthy Living Advocate, National 4-H Council).
 - All of our attendees are dedicated but we cannot do it alone.
 - Americans should not be concerned about hunger.
- Joshua Williams (Founder, Joshua's Heart Foundation)
 - We need to support our youth!
- Ambassador Susan E. Rice
 - It's clear that together we can reduce diet-related disease.
- Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff
 - Your passion makes me want to get right back on the road. I will continue to work with organizers! We all need to come together.