



Improving Child Well-Being & Reducing Food Insecurity: An Action Plan for 2021

Academy Election 2020 Project Working Group: Foster Social Equity

Background

Food insecurity in children is a major challenge in the United States that has worsened during the Covid-19 pandemic. In 2019, the USDA estimated that 5.3 million children lived in food-insecure households and this is expected to grow due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Directing resources toward young children is a cost-effective way to improve life chances and is an effective strategy for promoting social equity. The federal government, through the establishment of multiple programs, recognizes its role in promoting food security but some additional adjustments will enhance the ability of these programs to promote social equity.

Recommendations for 2021

- 1. Establish a Cross-Agency Priority goal to improve child well-being** grounded in an evidence-based approach to measure trends in this area.
- 2. Increase Farm to School Funding** to improve the ratio of demand for grants to funding availability and create an accountability tracking system to measure progress towards a more equitable food system.
- 3. Prioritize program goals that leverage resources for children Ages 5 and under** such as the Farm to School grant program and ECE sites and tribal community projects.
- 4. Increase SNAP benefits by 15% for eligible households to help pay for food during the Covid-19 crisis.**
- 5. Establish a coordinated effort described in the GAO-18-41SP Child Well-Being** to coordinate the effort among many federal agencies, track implementation of services and programs, and evaluate the impact in high priority areas.

Additional Resources

These resources provide additional information and recommendations in the line with the Election 2020 paper, *Improving Child Well-Being & Reducing Food Insecurity: An Action Plan for 2021*.

[The Academy: Election 2020: Improving Child Well-Being & Reducing Food Insecurity: Promoting Social Equity in an Evidence-Based Policy Environment](#)

[The Academy: A Social Equity Lens for Covid-19: Action: 10 Key Questions](#)

[The Academy: Roundtable on Social Equity](#)

[The Academy: Public Administrators and the Imperative for Social Equity](#)

[The Academy: Promoting Social Equity Through Civil Rights Education for Public Service: Miles' Law, Different Experiences, But Toward Common Action](#)

[The Academy: Virtual Social Equity Conference Addresses Social Justice Issues and Racial Disparities](#)

[GAO: Child Well-Being: Key Considerations for Policymakers, Including the Need for a Federal Cross-Agency Priority Goal](#)

The Challenge: Fostering Social Equity

Social equity—a key pillar of public administration alongside economy, efficiency, and effectiveness—addresses fairness, justice, and equity within a variety of public contexts. Although the United States has made significant progress in expanding access to opportunities to more of the nation's citizens and residents, we continue to struggle with ensuring the equitable design and implementation of public policies and programs that reduce or eliminate disparities, discrimination, and marginalization.





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