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: 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
Working Group

Margaret C. Simms, Working Group Chair, Non Resident Fellow, Labor, Human Services and Populations, Urban Institute

RaJade M. Berry-James, Evaluator, Center for Environmental Farming Systems, North Carolina State University

Gary Glickman, Former Managing Director, Health & Public Service Innovation, Accenture. Senior Policy Advisor, US Department of Treasury

Demetra Nightingale, Institute Fellow, Urban Institute

Academy Staff

Joseph P. Mitchell, III, Director of Strategic Initiatives and International Programs, National Academy of Public Administration.

James Higgins, Research Associate for Grand Challenges in Public Administration, National Academy of Public Administration.