

# Public Policy Priorities

2024–2026

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics is committed to improving the nation's health and advancing the profession of dietetics through research, education and advocacy.

Members of the Academy play a key role in shaping the public's food choices, improving people's nutritional status, and preventing and treating chronic disease. Academy members are valued for their expertise in translating science and evidence to empower consumers to make healthy choices through education, medical nutrition therapy and intensive behavior therapy.

## Vision:

A world where all people thrive through the transformative power of food and nutrition

## Mission:

Accelerate improvements in global health and well-being through food and nutrition

To achieve its vision, the Academy works with policy leaders at every level of government to promote health and reduce the burden of chronic disease through nutrition services and interventions. Every three years the Academy updates its public policy goals to align current advocacy strategies to the mission and vision of the organization. The goals advance the impact of the Academy in each of the following four strategic focus areas: **Well-Being and Prevention; Nutrition Security and Food Safety; Nutrition Care and Health Systems; and Diversity and Inclusion.**

## PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

### 1 Equitable access to nutrition services provided by qualified practitioners

- Modernize and create uniformity among nutrition and dietetics state licensure laws and regulations
- Enact the Dietitian Licensure Compact in seven key states and initiate steps to form the Compact Commission
- Advance MNT coverage and payment for preventive and chronic disease care

### 2 Federal programs that increase access to nutritious, safe, culturally relevant and affordable foods that improve health and well-being

- Support SNAP-Ed, nutrition incentives, and regular updates to the Thrifty Food Plan
- Advocate for no-cost healthy school meals for all children
- Strengthen sustainable food systems that foster access to and the availability of healthful foods

### 3 Evidence-informed inclusive *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* that embrace cultural and diverse dietary patterns

- Participate in the development, dissemination and implementation of the dietary guidelines
- Integrate the expertise of Academy members and groups into the scientific recommendations to the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee
- Support alignment of federal food and nutrition programs and services with *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* recommendations

### 4 Maximize funding for federal nutrition programs and services, workforce diversity initiatives and educational opportunities for health professions

- Advocate for programs, services, and grants whose funding is appropriated in federal agencies
- Lobby for increased reimbursement rates and payment defined by rules and regulations for federal nutrition programs and dietitian services

## PROCESS

The Academy's Legislative and Public Policy Committee conducts an environmental scan every three years to inform the development of the organization's policy goals. In addition to considering the legislative and regulatory landscape at the state and federal levels, internal groups including Dietetic Practice and Member Interest Groups, committees, and organizational units are encouraged to offer policy considerations as part of regularly scheduled convenings. Academy members provide input throughout the development process of the public policy goals in a variety of platforms, including during monthly advocacy affinity group meetings and House of Delegate listening sessions. Following review and feedback from the LPPC, the priorities are approved by the Academy's Board of Directors.