



Resources To End America's Child Hunger

in partnership with the



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Policy Briefings developed for the City of Boston Mayor's Office, Northeast Summit on Children, Health and Food Systems



CITY OF BOSTON
Thomas M. Menino
Mayor

Opportunities for the Northeast Region to Influence Child Nutrition Public Policy

THE OPPORTUNITY

The Northeast region can make a difference in child health status by promoting public policies that increase low income family's access to healthy foods. By supporting regional food systems and promoting federal, state and locally sponsored nutrition programs, we can reduce the incidence of both hunger and obesity and their associated health consequences for children, such as learning deficits and rising rates of chronic diseases.



THE PROGRAMS

Below are some of the most relevant federal programs that influence the nutritional status of children:

National School Lunch Program

School Breakfast Program

WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program

Child and Adult Care Food Program

WIC

Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program

Afterschool Snack and Meal Program

Special Milk Program

Summer Food Service Program

THE POLICIES

There are a number of anti-hunger, agricultural and public health organizations working on these issues. Some of the overlapping common public policies they advocate for are:

GENERAL

- Increasing funding for federal programs that provide nutritional supports for low-income children and their families
- Fully funding WIC, making it an entitlement program similar to food stamps
- Providing a new independent funding stream for the WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program
- Providing incentives to link regional farms and local schools, institutions and retail establishments

SCHOOLS, AFTERSCHOOL, SUMMER AND DAYCARE PROGRAMS

- Creating universal free school breakfast programs in high need communities, increasing reimbursement rates as well as funding for outreach
- Increasing school meal reimbursement rates for healthier foods and tying them to meal quality improvements
- Purchasing local foods for school meals and encouraging Farm to School programs
- Eliminating the .40¢ charge for a reduced-priced school lunch
- Monitoring, supporting and enforcing mandated school wellness policies
- Providing suppers in after-school programs in programs serving low income populations
- Establishing national nutrition standards for food and beverages sold outside of school meals
- Expanding summer food programs in low income communities, and increasing funds for outreach
- Increasing child care provider and after-school meal reimbursement rates
- Restore nutrition education and training for building healthy eating habits



THE STRATEGIES

Through a coalition of Mayors, and their child nutrition, anti-hunger and public health partners, educate influential leaders on the importance of sound and robust nutritional public policies:

- Organize and participate in legislative briefings.
- Raise awareness through joint letters to key leaders.
- Write and sign-on to Opinion Editorials in major newspapers.
- Issue press releases or sign on to join press releases.
- Join with your local, regional and national coalitions. (contacts below)

(These strategies can be pursued by individuals or small groups as well.)



REGIONAL LEADERS ON CHILD NUTRITION

ON CAPITOL HILL:

House

Education and Labor Committee, *subcommittee on Healthy Families and Communities*

Northeast Contacts:

George Miller, Chair	(202) 225-2095	Staff: Mark Zuckerman, Denise Forte
Carolyn McCarthy, NY*	(202) 225-5516	Staff: Phil Putter, Kim Zarish-Becknell
<i>(subcommittee chair*)</i>		
Jason Altmire, PA	(202) 225-2565	Staff: Cora Toman
Yvette Clark NY	(202) 225-6231	Staff: Bridgett Dehart
Carol Shea-Porter, NH	(202) 225-5456	Staff: Chris Hilleseim
Paul Tonko, NY	(202) 225-5076	Staff: Becky Cornell
Todd Russell Platts	(202) 225-5836	Staff: Rebecca Wolfkiel
Glenn Thompson, PA	(202) 225-5121	Staff: Matthew Brennan
Representative		
James P. McGovern, MA	(202) 225-6101	Staff: Cindy Buhl (not on committee)

Senate

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee, *subcommittee on Hunger, Nutrition and Family Farms*

Northeast Committee Members:

Tom Harkin, Chair	(202) 224-3254	Staff: Mark Halverson, Derek Miller
Senator Patrick Leahy, VT	(202) 224-4242	Staff: Kathryn Toomajian, Brian Baenig
Robert Casey, PA	(202) 224-6324	Staff: Kasey Gillette
Kristen Gillibrand, NY	(202) 224-4451	Staff: Syane Roy

Administration

Robert Gordon, Associate Director of OMB for Education, Income Maintenance, and Labor	(202) 395-3080
Martha Coven, Special Assistant to the President serving on the Domestic Policy Council	(202) 456-3246

SOURCES and RESOURCES

Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) offers more detailed contact information and advice on strategies through their legislative action center.

www.frac.org/Legislative/action_center/index.html

National Alliance for Nutrition & Activity (NANA) offers model policies to promote food and fitness health and lists of advocacy organizations by state.

www.cspinet.org/nutritionpolicy/nana.html

National Farm to School Network

www.farmtoschool.org

Northeast contact:

Vermont FEED

1611 Harbor Road

Shelburne, VT 05482

(802) 985-0381

Northeast Region Anti-Hunger Network (NERAHN)

www.nerahn.org

Contact:

Connie Rizoli

(617) 239-2508

School Nutrition Association

www.schoolnutrition.org

Northeast contact:

Cindy Brooks

(703) 739-3900

Community Food Security Coalition

www.foodsecurity.org

Contact:

Megan Elsener

megan@foodsecurity.org

School Food Focus

www.SchoolFoodFOCUS.org

Contact:

Sheilah Davidson

SDavidson@SchoolFoodFOCUS.org