



2016-2017 Priority Issues

These priority issues help the association decide how to use its resources. This is an internal document. The issues are organized into three sections. The issues are not listed in order of priority.

Who we are - these are priorities that define us and position us as experts in the field of nutrition.

- **Organizational Infrastructure**
Support the association operations and have the capacity to achieve the mission and pursue the vision.
- **National Policy**
Provide a strong, proactive voice to advance national policies, initiatives, resources and programs that help states and localities effectively address issues related to nutrition and physical activity.
- **Public Health Nutritionist**
Promote the role and value of the public health nutritionist.

What we do – these are priorities that identify the work we need to accomplish and they are issues that are most inclusive to all states.

- **Policy, Systems, and Environmental Change**
To make sure the healthy choice is the easy choice, elevate systems, policy and environmental change (e.g. behavioral economic strategies) as statewide and local strategies that promote nutrition and physical activity and prevent disease.
- **Maternal and Child Health**
Achieve optimal well-being through healthy eating and active living among the maternal, infant, child and adolescent population, including those served by Title V/MCH Block Grant.
- **Health Equity**
Work to achieve health equity by making health equity a priority in programs.
- **Resources**
Develop resources that facilitate state-to-state sharing and that enable State Health Agencies to provide effective, visible leadership for healthy eating and physical activity, especially in communities with high rates of chronic disease.
- **Workforce**
Develop a multi-disciplinary, culturally competent, diverse workforce to address public health nutrition issues, and support robust educational preparation of public health nutritionists.
- **Health Care Transformation**

Provide guidance to members to develop and implement nutrition programs and services as part of the Affordable Care Act.

- **Surveillance Systems**
Assure access to public health nutrition data to help assess nutritional health status of populations, track impact of interventions, identify early-emerging, nutrition-related health concerns, and identify populations who are disproportionately impacted by low food access and nutrition-related health concerns.
- **Accreditation**
Support the Public Health Accreditation Board and encourage members to get involved in state and local public health agency accreditation.

How we do it – these are the programmatic priorities that we want to support but they may or may not be a focus of all members.

- **Fruit and Vegetable Consumption**
Increase fruit and vegetable consumption, especially in communities with high rates of chronic disease.
- **Obesity prevention**
Promote health by preventing obesity, especially in communities with high rates of chronic disease.
- **Beverages**
Reduce access to sugar-sweetened beverages and increase access to water, especially in communities with high rates of chronic disease.
- **Breastfeeding**
Increase the incidence, exclusivity, and duration of breastfeeding.
- **Healthy Food Access**
Assure access to healthy food in all communities including the elimination of food insecurity and hunger and reduce food waste.
- **Physical Activity**
Increase physical activity and decrease physical inactivity, especially in communities with high rates of chronic disease.