



Nutrition Sector: Recommendations to Advance Social Connection



We envision a vibrant society where social connection is at the heart of public policy and how we live.

CALL TO ACTION

Join the movement to confront the growing crisis of social disconnection. Call for bold investments and policy reforms across health, education, employment, infrastructure, arts and culture, nutrition, and research to build a more connected, resilient, and thriving society for all.



OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

The Action Network believes in the accessibility of nutritious food while also addressing social isolation. It supports Medicaid and SNAP flexibility, promotes community food hubs and mobile pantries, and encourages programs that connect food access with mental health, education, and social connection. The goal is to reduce food insecurity, improve health outcomes, and use food as a tool to build stronger communities.



To address social isolation and loneliness and to engage social connection in the housing, transportation, and nutrition sectors, policymakers should:

Direct the FDA to set regulations requiring supermarkets and stores to offer a certain percentage of healthy, affordable food in areas deemed food deserts.



Support the Opportunity to Address College Hunger Act and similar legislation to promote awareness and access to social services for individuals enrolled in colleges, universities, and other institutes of higher education.



Establish or expand community food hubs, local food cooperatives, and farmers markets that not only provide affordable, nutritious food but also act as community gathering spaces, fostering social interaction.



Increase funding for the Older Americans Act (OAA) nutrition programs that address the impact of social isolation and loneliness.



Launch a public initiative on nutrition and social connection, targeting social support as a strategy for obesity reduction.



Expand the "Food is Medicine" initiative to allow Medicaid recipients to use benefits for home-delivered meals or food boxes that cater to specific health conditions (e.g., diabetes or hypertension).



Expand incentives like SNAP benefits at farmers markets and prioritize the placement of markets in communities that lack sufficient supply of fresh produce.



About Us

The Foundation for Social Connection Action Network (F4SCAN), formerly known as the Coalition to End Social Isolation and Loneliness (CESIL), has the mission to bring together a diverse set of national organizations, including consumer groups, health plans, healthcare providers, technology innovators, patient advocates, and more to develop and advocate for federal policy solutions to address the epidemic of social isolation and loneliness. Our efforts span a wide range of activities – developing and advocating for federal and state policy solutions, leading public awareness activations in Washington D.C. and across the nation, and incorporating the latest research into our policy platform. Our full 2025-2027 Policy Priorities can be found [here](#). Visit our website at www.endsocialisolation.org