



# AAP & SHARE OUR STRENGTH WHITE HOUSE COMMITMENT UPDATE

By 2030, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the anti-hunger nonprofit Share Our Strength commit to offering training to all 67,000 AAP member pediatricians on both screening for nutrition insecurity and referring patients to federal and community nutrition resources. AAP will also evaluate its training by tracking its members' comfort discussing food insecurity, members' screening rates for nutrition insecurity, and the outcomes of pediatrician referrals.

*American Academy of Pediatrics & Share Our Strength Commitment Highlighted by the White House at the 2nd Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health on September 28, 2022*

American Academy  
of Pediatrics



## IMPACT OF OUR COMMITMENT

Our collaborative work with our state WIC has helped us to identify not only barriers but also opportunities to improve system efficiencies. Our advocacy work helped to secure the state's proposition for a program that allows participating School Food Authorities to provide free meals to all students as well as funds to purchase food from local farmers and to increase wages for provide stipends for staff who prepare and serve school meals and has led to the momentum on a current project aimed at extending SNAP recertification periods.

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The ability to bring together representatives from multiple organizations to discuss the available resources to address food insecurity in our state was key to the success of this project. This collaboration and these conversations among the partners led to the development of the tools, resources, and educational materials created during the project. Each partner helped to identify other partners to bring into the conversation, allowing us to expand the group of experts involved.



## REAL CHANGE through Transformative Partnerships

### *DC AAP Chapter works to improve WIC utilization and enhanced stakeholder experiences*

For over four decades, research has shown that the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) is one of the nation's most successful and cost-effective nutrition intervention programs. Despite its benefits, WIC is highly underutilized; there has been a downward trend in WIC participation nationwide, particularly for children ages 1-4 years, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The AAP Washington, D.C., Chapter (DC AAP) examined the barriers to enrollment and retention of WIC benefits in the district, with support from the AAP Building Pediatrician Capacity to Address Food Insecurity Collective Impact. The chapter then used what it learned to collaborate on a health information technology (IT) framework to help pediatric providers refer families to WIC and communicate with the district's WIC staff.

The team chose the FindHelp online platform to facilitate secure referrals and communication between pediatric providers and DC WIC. The MedStar team built a health IT framework and workflows for referrals and tracking for a community pediatrics clinic. Plans are underway to train and educate DC AAP members to use the platform as well as to build awareness of WIC resources, eligibility and the importance of provider referrals.

**“Pediatricians are in a unique position to improve WIC enrollment, which can have a significant impact on child health outcomes,”** said DC AAP Secretary Janine A. Rethy, M.D., M.P.H., FAAP. **“This strong cross-sector collaboration between DC AAP, DC WIC, MedStar Georgetown and FindHelp has created a scalable health IT framework for sustainable, enhanced WIC utilization and stakeholder experiences.”**

## BY THE NUMBERS



Over 4,000 Pediatricians Trained



125,414 Individuals Reached (Families, Community-Based Orgs, State Agencies, and Other Allied Professionals) through dissemination of educational materials



107 Unique Educational Materials Created



79% of State Chapter Project Goals Achieved/Ongoing



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