



UNITED STATES OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT
Washington, DC 20415

The Director

September 13, 2022

MEMORANDUM FOR HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

FROM: Kiran A. Ahuja
Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kiran A. Ahuja".

SUBJECT: Federal Employees Support Health and Hunger Relief

Overview

Millions of Americans struggle with hunger. Millions more struggle with diet-related diseases—like heart disease and diabetes—which are some of the leading causes of death and disability in the U.S.

The toll of hunger and these diseases is not distributed equally, disproportionately impacting underserved communities, including Black, Hispanic, and Native Americans, low-income families, and rural Americans. Lack of access to healthy and affordable foods is one of many factors impacting hunger and diet-related diseases. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these challenges further.

Feds Feeds Families

Across the country, there continues to be a need to feed the hungry, particularly in the summer months, when there are shortages in food banks and an increased need among children who are out of school and not benefitting from school lunch programs. As you know, Feds Feed Families is a voluntary effort led by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and undertaken by Federal employees across the country, to collect and donate food and non-perishable items for food banks in their community. Over the years, we have witnessed the remarkable generosity of our Federal workforce in collecting millions of pounds of food and non-perishable items through the Feds Feed Families campaign. In Washington, DC, the Capital Area Food Bank receives collections and distributes them through their network of over 700 partner agencies. Outside of the Washington, DC metropolitan area, agencies support their communities by either coordinating through their Federal Executive Board, or by reaching out to their local area food banks.

White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health

The Biden-Harris Administration has set a goal of “End hunger and increasing healthy eating and physical activity in the U.S. by 2030, so that fewer Americans experience diet-related diseases like diabetes, obesity, and hypertension.” The [White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health](#) will be hosted in September 2022. The White House has defined the scope of the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health in the five pillars below which are meant to help identify actions that can be taken by all parts of society — including the Federal government; local, state, territory, and Tribal governments; nonprofit and community groups; and private companies.

White House Conference Pillars

- Improve food access and affordability: End hunger by making it easier for everyone — including urban, suburban, rural, and Tribal communities — to access and afford food. For example, expand eligibility for and increase participation in food assistance programs and improve transportation to places where food is available.
- Integrate nutrition and health: Prioritize the role of nutrition and food security in overall health, including disease prevention and management, and ensure that our health care system addresses the nutrition needs of all people.
- Empower all consumers to make and have access to healthy choices: Foster environments that enable all people to easily make informed healthy choices, increase access to healthy food, encourage healthy workplace and school policies, and invest in public messaging and education campaigns that are culturally appropriate and resonate with specific communities.
- Support physical activity for all: Make it easier for people to be more physically active (in part by ensuring that everyone has access to safe places to be active), increase awareness of the benefits of physical activity, and conduct research on and measure physical activity.
- Enhance nutrition and food security research: Improve nutrition metrics, data collection, and research to inform nutrition and food security policy, particularly on issues of equity, access, and disparities.

FedsWISH (Feds Walk In Support of Health and Hunger (Relief))

This year, as we continue to support our neighbors, families and communities across the Nation, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) sponsored annual [Feds Feed Families](#) (FFF) initiative, and in support of the White House efforts, the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is inviting agencies to join us in our “FedsWISH - Feds Walk in Support of Health and Hunger (Relief)” endeavor. Through a walk activity, FedsWISH champions nationwide efforts to address health challenges, and end hunger in communities across the country.

During the week of September 26th thru 30th, agencies and employees nation-wide are encouraged to participate in a 30-minute, walk (or wheelchair roll) from their work locations (to include teleworking and remote employees) and share their efforts using the hashtag “FedsWISH”. In addition, agencies and employees are encouraged to combine efforts and participate in an “all out” walk on September 29, 2022, between 10:30am and 12:30pm EST. Non-agency specific flyers are included to assist in further marketing of the FedsWISH effort.

Agencies are welcome to manage coordination of their efforts internally and may engage OPM for additional guidance and coordination support. To amplify the impact of this effort, the following ideas are provided:

- Agencies are asked to consider spotlighting efforts through posting of messages and pictures on agency websites and social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, etc., using the hashtag “#FedsWISH”
- Partner with agency Feds Feeds Families champion to engage in Food collection in the physical workplaces

- Encourage employees to donate non-perishable food items to local food banks and/or shelters and then record their donation on the [FFF HUB](#) website during the week of September 26th thru 30th
- Agencies are encouraged to grant 30 minutes of administrative leave (within prescribed limits) for the purpose of allowing employees to participate
- Encourage employees to wear the color orange (color for hunger awareness) during their walk (wheelchair roll) activity
- Encourage employees to share pictures of their efforts (walking, carrying/donating a food item, etc.) via the [FFF HUB](#) using the hashtag “#FedsWISH”
- Participants are encouraged to amplify their efforts on September 29th using the hashtag “#FedsWISH”

Agency Heads are encouraged to fully support their Feds Feeds Families Champion in promoting FedsWISH. Champions may engage with USDA and OPM for collaboration and assistance. In order to collect employee participation data to spotlight our collective efforts on an agency and enterprise scale, we request agency Champions provide this [FedsWISH Registration](#) link. Following the close of the Feds Feeds Families Campaign, OPM will provide agencies with their respective participation data, as well as highlight and spotlight agencies efforts.

OPM’s Work-Life staff are available to assist with any additional questions or inquiries. Please direct questions to worklife@opm.gov.

cc: Chief Human Capital Officers (CHCOs)
Deputy CHCOs
Human Resources Directors

Attachments: Marketing Flyers