

**Healthy  
Eating  
Research**



**NOPREN**  
Nutrition & Obesity  
POLICY RESEARCH & EVALUATION NETWORK

# Summer Speaker Series for Students 2023

# Getting Started!

- Type your name and institution into the chat box!
  - *Question of the day: What is your favorite food or meal to cook for someone?*
- Remember to keep yourself on mute.
- Type your questions into the chat box.

# Summer Speaker Series for Students

- Explore various public health topics related to:
  - Food and nutrition security
  - Federal nutrition assistance programs
  - COVID-19 implications
  - Nutrition equity
- This series is a collaborative effort of Healthy Eating Research (HER) and Nutrition and Obesity Policy Research and Evaluation Network (NOPREN).
  - Healthy Eating Research (HER) is a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
  - Nutrition and Obesity Policy Research and Evaluation Network (NOPREN) is a program of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

# NOPREN HER Summer Speaker Series for Students

## Schedule and Topics

- June 14: Improving Nutrition Security during Early Childhood
- June 28: Food is Medicine: What does it mean? Where are we going?
- July 12: WIC Policy: Behind the Curtain
- July 26: Making Water Win: Policies to Build Quality & Access
- August 9: COVID-19 Policy Implications for USDA Child Nutrition Programs & SNAP
- August 16: Student Presentations

**For more information or to register:**

<https://nopren.ucsf.edu/her-nopren-summer-speaker-series-students-2023>

The series takes place every-other  
Wednesday from 4:00 - 5:00 pm EST

# REMINDER!

## Apply to be a presenter at the Virtual Student Presentation and Poster Session on August 16!

Selected students will give a 5-10-minute presentation on a nutrition-related project or research they worked on over the summer. Students of all levels are encouraged to apply.

Applications due: Wednesday, July 19th at 5:00pm ET



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# Session 3: WIC Policy: Behind the Curtain

# WIC Research Learning Collaborative

The Work Group is a team of researchers, practitioners, and advocates committed to improving the health of women who are pregnant and lactating and infants and young children through improved research, policy and practice of the [USDA Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children \(WIC\)](#). The Collaborative falls under the work of the [Healthy Food Retail Working Group](#) and is building stronger collaborations with the [HER NOPREN Early Childhood Working Group](#).

Harry Zhang, Co-chair, [qzhang@odu.edu](mailto:qzhang@odu.edu)

Leslie Hodges, Co-chair, [leslie.hodges@usda.gov](mailto:leslie.hodges@usda.gov)

Cayley Ryan, Fellow, [cer5700@psu.edu](mailto:cer5700@psu.edu)

# Today's Presenters



Alison Hard, Chief Policy Officer,  
USDA, FNS



Meghan Maroney, Campaign Manager,  
Federal Child Nutrition Programs, CSPI



## Child Nutrition Act of 1966 Sec. 17(f)(11)

(C) REVIEW OF AVAILABLE SUPPLEMENTAL FOODS.—As frequently as determined by the Secretary to be necessary to reflect the most recent scientific knowledge, but not less than every 10 years, the Secretary shall— (i) conduct a scientific review of the supplemental foods available under the program; and (ii) amend the supplemental foods available, as necessary, to reflect nutrition science, public health concerns, and cultural eating patterns.

# WIC Rulemaking Process



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# WIC Rulemaking Process

## REVIEW OF WIC FOOD PACKAGES Improving Balance and Choice Final Report



The National Academies of  
SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE



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# The Role of Researchers in Policymaking

July 12, 2023

Meghan Maroney

Campaign Manager, Federal Child Nutrition  
Programs

Center for Science in the Public Interest

# Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI)

The Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI) is your food and health watchdog. CSPI envisions a healthy population with reduced impact and burden of preventable diseases and an equitable food system that makes healthy, sustainable food accessible to all. CSPI values independence, scientific rigor, and transparency.

CSPI is independent from food industry or government influence.

We have a healthletter called Nutrition Action:

[www.nutritionaction.com](http://www.nutritionaction.com)



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# Agenda

- Policy Advocacy 101
- Examples in Action
  - Revisions to the Food Package
  - WIC Community Innovation and Outreach Project
- Tips for Policy Relevant Research
- Research Needs
  - Innovation
  - Implementation
  - Evaluation (what works, what doesn't)
  - Revisions to the food package
  - Participant perceptions

# The Policy Process



Source:

CDC Policy Process

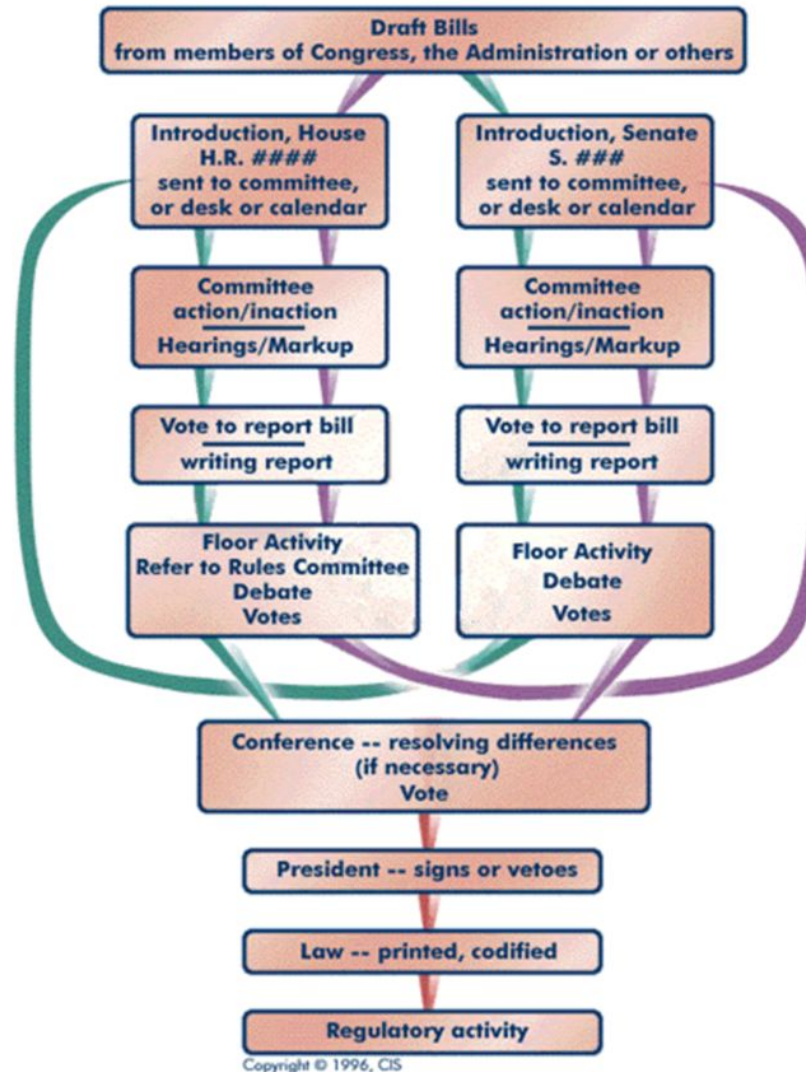
<https://www.cdc.gov/policy/paeo/process/docs/CDCPolicyProcess.pdf>

# Poll: True or False

Once a bill has been introduced, the opportunity to use research to inform the bill text has passed.

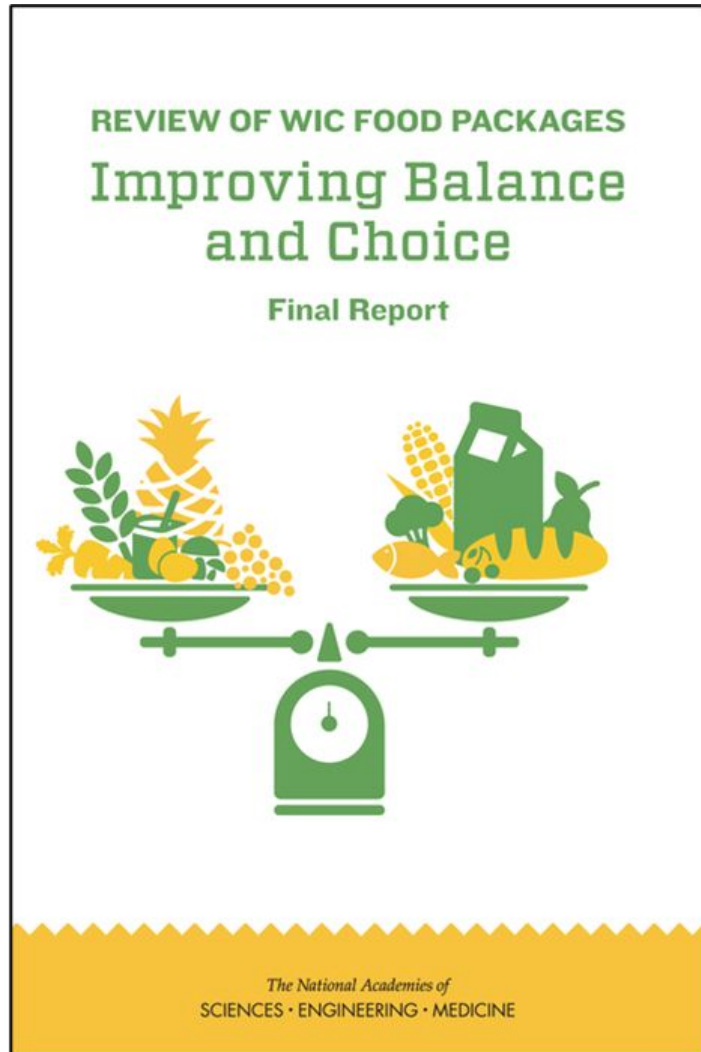


- Urge lawmakers not to pass the bill OR (especially if must-pass), do damage control
  - Counter misinformation
  - Use data to demonstrate harm the policy would do
  - Consider potential compromises
- Tactics
  - Educate the lawmaker
  - Educate and activate constituents
    - Action Alerts
  - Lobby
    - Work with office on bill text
  - Social media (tagging lawmakers)



- Advocate for bill intro, then garner support for and protect the bill
  - Educate MoC
  - Educate and activate constituents
  - Lobby
  - Inform bill text
  - Counter opposition or amendments

# Revisions to the WIC Food Package



National Academies of Sciences,



National WIC Association



# Tips for Making Your Research Advocacy-Friendly

Study sample: Generalizable (nationally representative is best!)

Peer-reviewed

Consider a policy relevance section in your manuscript (advocacy groups are happy to consult with you about this – nonpartisan is ideal)

When sharing with advocacy groups/listservs, consider a policy relevance discussion and sample social media posts that summarize your findings and the policy relevance

*Consider asking yourself:*

What do these findings tell us about how well WIC:

- Reaches underserved communities?
- Supports WIC's stated goals?
- Recruits and retains participants?
- Do these findings help us understand ways that WIC might be improved?



# WIC Community Innovation and Outreach Project



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Learn more at: [frac.org/wic-ciao](https://frac.org/wic-ciao)



# Thank you!

Meghan Maroney

[mmaroney@cspinet.org](mailto:mmaroney@cspinet.org)

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Q&A

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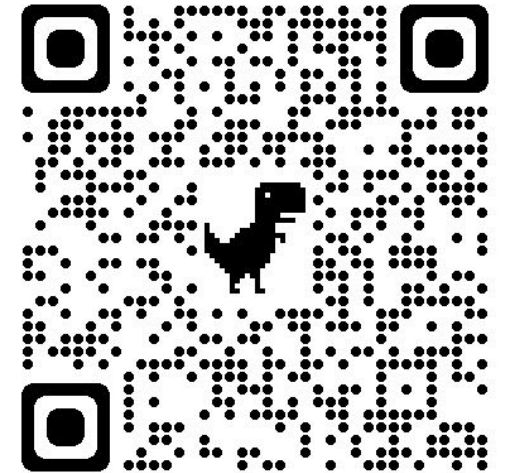
Breakout Rooms

# Announcements

**Scan the QR code to evaluate this session**

**Join us for the next session of the speaker series!**

- Wednesday, July 26 from 4:00 - 5:00 PM ET
- Making Water Win: Policies to Build Quality & Access



**Apply to be a presenter at the Virtual Student Presentation and Poster Session on August 16!**

**Application Opens: Wednesday, June 14**

**Applications Due: Wednesday, July 19 by 5pm EST**