

Healthy Eating Research:
*Building Evidence to Prevent Childhood
Obesity*



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Learning Collaborative:

Early Childhood Framework Discussion



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Early Childhood Learning Collaborative: Overview

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Early Childhood Learning Collaborative: Overview



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Nationwide Learning Collaborative that will focus on:

- Increasing Early Childhood professionals' effectiveness in addressing issues in the area of nutrition, physical activity, child development, and childhood obesity prevention research, policy and practice in Early Childhood by providing a platform for collaboration and information sharing.
- Foster creativity and innovation in research and advocacy efforts by utilizing shared, objective methods to evaluate outcomes, ensuring efforts are not being duplicated, and encouraging collaborations on research or advocacy projects.
- Advance knowledge-base and quality of Early Childhood research with special focus on low-income and racial/ethnic minority populations.

There is an expectation for everyone to PREPARE & PARTICIPATE in the calls!



Strengthening Families:

Promote social emotional well-being for children and families

Childhood Obesity:

All children at a healthy weight by 2025



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**Healthy Child,
Healthy Weight**



Two Key Principles

- All children need nurturing environments to grow up healthy
- All families should have the opportunity to provide those environments for their children



HER's Target Population

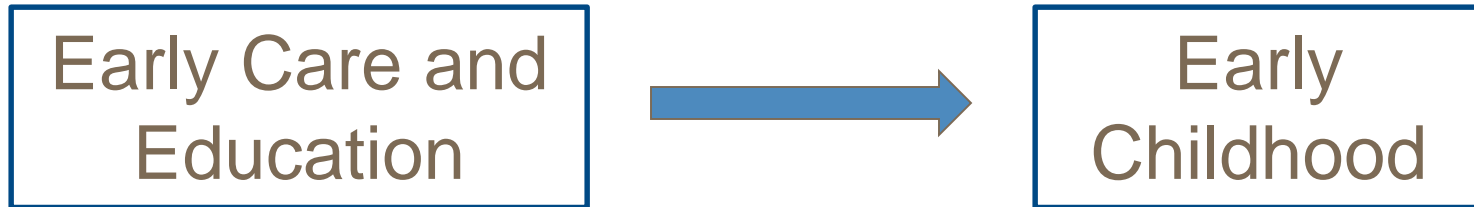
- **Prior to 2016:** Children (ages 2-18) and their families
- **Present:** *Pregnant women*, children (ages 0-18) and their families
- Emphasis on low-income and racial/ethnic groups most at risk of obesity will remain

Given this shift in focus...



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**We would like to propose changing the name
and focus of this working group....**





Framing HER's Focus Areas

Early childhood

- Child-care settings
- WIC
- Media/marketing
- Home visiting

School-age children and adolescents

- School setting: Federal Child Nutrition Programs, water access and safety, marketing, OST...
- Improving dietary patterns of adolescents
- Rural communities and schools

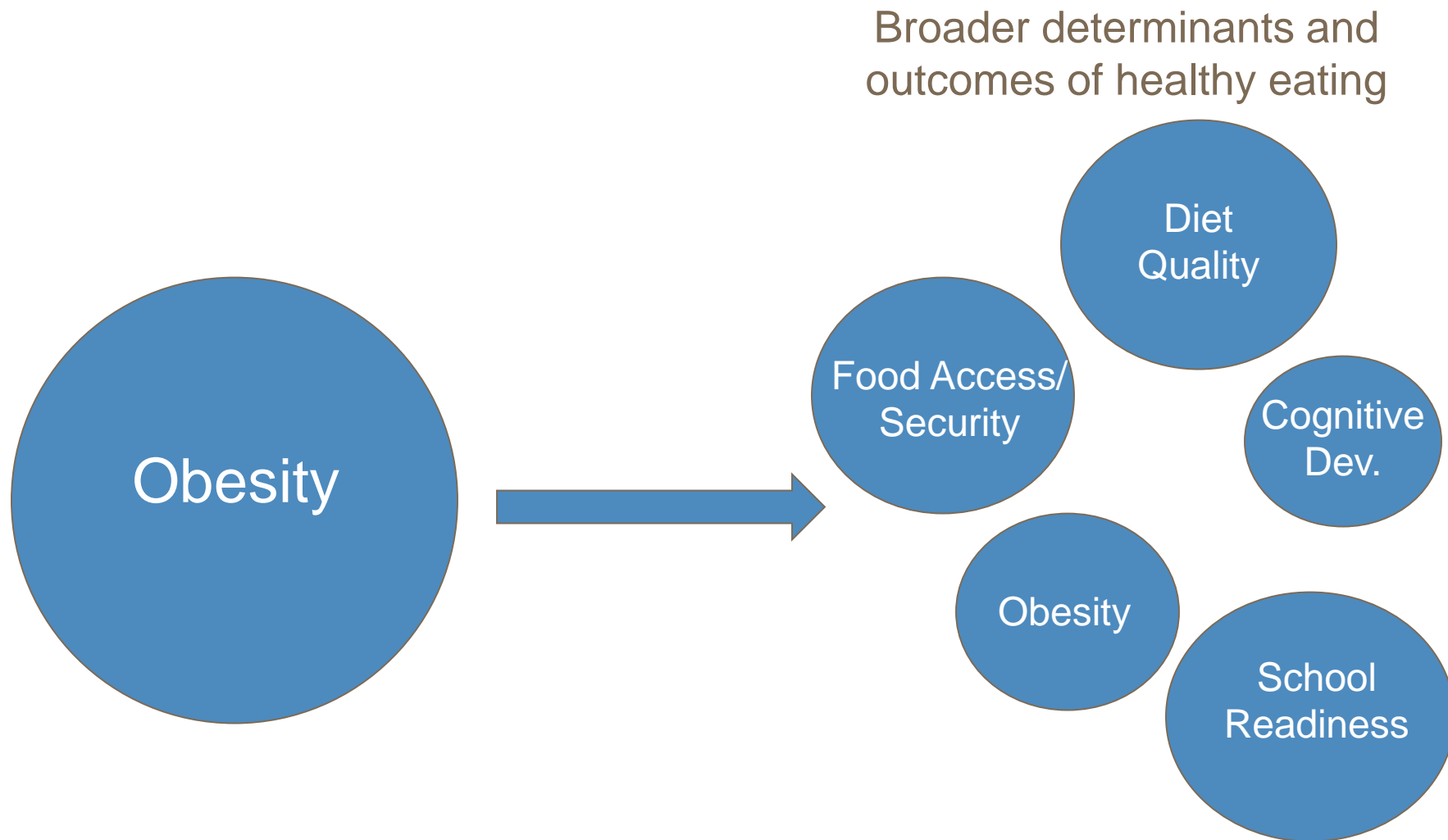
Supportive family policies

- SNAP
- CACFP
- Nutrition Facts Labels
- Paid family leave
- Marketing of infant/toddler food
- Minimum wage



Shift in Targeted Outcomes

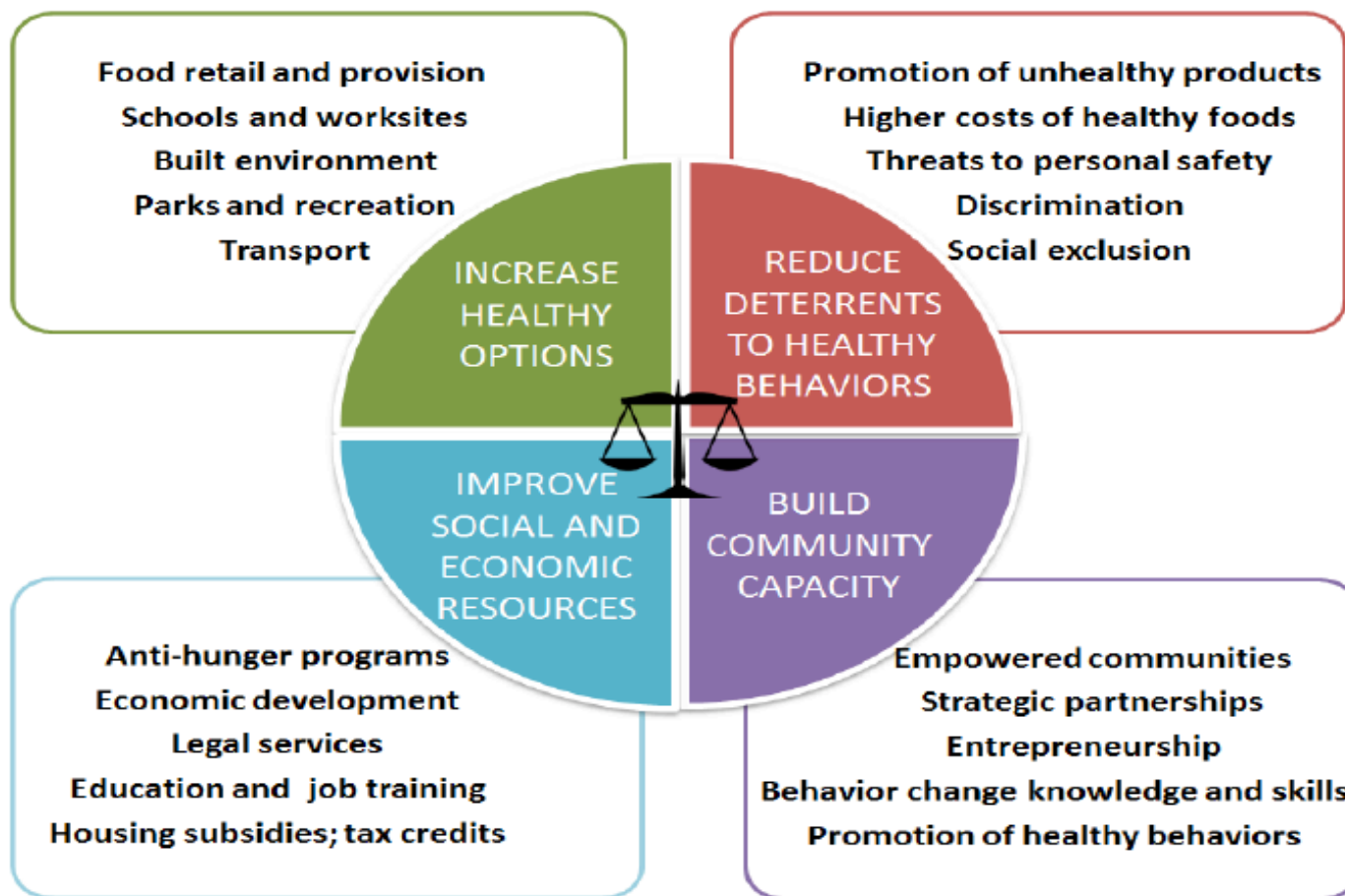
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Emphasis on Macroenvironments

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Examples of Potential Topics of Interest in Early Childhood



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Will Continue to Work On	Examples Under Consideration
WIC	Home visiting
CACFP	The role of fathers in early childhood nutrition
Family, Friend, and Neighbor Care	Universal Pre-K
Licensing and QRIS	Medicaid and CHIP
CCDBG	Paid family leave
Food and beverage marketing to young children	Breastfeeding and complementary feeding supports
Toxic Stress/ACEs	TANF/EITC/CTC
Healthy beverages in early childhood/water access	Baby friendly hospitals/infant formula marketing
	Links between WIC and clinical settings
	Maternal mental health
	Farm to Preschool

Given this list, what are the most timely topics?

Are there really important topics not listed here?



Discussion Questions

- Given all of the organizations and funders that work in the P-5 space, what do you see as HER's unique contribution to this space?
- Are there federal programs or federal funding mechanisms that are important to the P-5 age group that we have left out from our list?



Discussion Questions Cont.

- What are the big gaps with regards to HER's priority populations such as Asian Pacific Islanders and American Indian children and families?
- Along these same lines, are there policies or programs within the P-5 space that are particularly important or effective in rural populations?



Discussion Questions Cont.

- What are some examples of PSE strategies that could be pursued in the home environment (ex: HV programs)?
- What types of studies related to ROI are needed in the P-5 space? Are there particular policies or programs where this data would be particularly useful?



Discussion Questions Cont.

- Given the political environment, it will likely be increasingly important to focus on state and local policies – are there particular approaches or unique opportunities at the state and local level for P-5 policies or programs?
- Should we focus more on protecting improvements we have made in specific programs and documenting the negative impact of rolling these improvements back or should we be working on building evidence for future initiatives at the state and local level?



Do you have specific examples of topics or questions that fit into this kind of framework from projects that either your organization or partner organizations are doing?