

# Turning ideas into action after the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health



## About the Speakers and Respondents



**Alexis Bylander** joined FRAC in November 2020 as a Senior Child Nutrition Policy Analyst. In this role, she serves as a resource for state advocates lobbying on behalf of healthy school meals for all legislation. Alexis has extensive experience with grant management and advocacy campaigns, specifically around the federal nutrition programs and tobacco prevention. Alexis holds a B.A. in Political Science from Concordia College, an M.S. in Public Policy and Management from Carnegie Mellon University and served as a Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellow with the Congressional Hunger Center.



**Jessica Pino-Goodspeed**, LMSW serves as the Manager of School Meals Policy and Engagement at Hunger Solutions New York – a statewide nonprofit dedicated to alleviating hunger. In this role, Jessica co-leads the statewide policy campaign - Healthy School

Meals for All NY Kids - aimed to permanently establish free school meals for all NYS students. Her responsibilities include advocating for federal and state policies to improve access to school meals, managing statewide partnerships with key stakeholder school-based associations and systems, and serving as a program expert and policy analyst for the federal school meal programs, including the School Breakfast Program, National School Lunch Program, and Community Eligibility Provision. Beyond her focus on advocacy and engagement, Jessica also develops and leads strategic statewide work to target outreach and technical assistance to maximize school meals throughout New York State.



**Senator Zellnor Y. Myrie** Senator Zellnor Y. Myrie is a Brooklyn native, attorney, and affordable housing advocate serving the 20th Senate District. Since joining the Senate in 2019, Senator Myrie has served in leadership roles and won several

major legislative victories, including New York's strongest affordable housing and tenant protection laws in generations along with sweeping reforms to New York's criminal legal system. In 2021, as a rise in gun violence swept through communities of color across the country, Senator Myrie wrote the nation's first state gun industry liability law, taking aim at irresponsible dealers and manufacturers whose dangerous weapons end up on our streets. For this accomplishment, Senator Myrie was named Gun Sense Lawmaker of the Year by Everytown for Gun Safety. As Chair of the Elections Committee, Senator Myrie presided over historic election reforms including early voting, closing the LLC loophole, and simplifying the absentee ballot process. In 2021, he held voter-focused hearings across the state on improving election administration and protecting voting rights, and issued a landmark report with over 50 recommendations to reform New York's elections. He is the author of the John R. Lewis New York Voting Rights Act, which has been hailed as the strongest voting rights bill in any state in the country. Senator Myrie derives inspiration for his public service from his mother, who moved to Brooklyn 40 years ago from Costa Rica on the promise of a mattress in a friend's

apartment and a job at a factory. Myrie is a graduate of Brooklyn Technical High School and earned his B.A. in Communications and M.A. in Urban Studies from Fordham University. He later earned his J.D. from Cornell Law School.



**Dr. Suzanna Martinez** is an Associate Professor at the University of California, San Francisco in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Lifecourse Division. Her areas of research include food insecurity among college students, and the

interrelationships of diet, physical activity, sleep, and weight status among Latino/a youth. She is the lead researcher for the UC Systemwide Student Basic Needs Initiative and has examined risk factors associated with food insecurity in higher education, as well as the connections between food insecurity, student health and mental wellbeing, and student academic outcomes. She is also conducting research to improve CalFresh (SNAP) access for college students. She also attended the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health, which acknowledged the UC commitment to reduce food insecurity among UC student by half by 2030.



**Peter Granville** is a fellow at The Century Foundation, studying federal and state policy efforts to improve college access and affordability. His research promotes equity in the design and operations of financial aid programs as well as financial

security for student loan borrowers. His work has also shaped state policy to increase low-income students' take-up of federal benefits through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Peter's research and quotations have been featured in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, NPR, Time, Marketplace, Forbes, The Chronicle of Higher Education, Inside Higher Education, Newsweek, and more. Recently, his research on Parent PLUS loans was cited by six U.S. Senators in a letter to President Biden urging support for these borrowers. Prior to joining TCF, Peter mentored students as an academic coach at Haverford College.



**Nicholas Freudenberg** is Distinguished Professor of Public Health at the CUNY Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy and a Founding Director and Senior Faculty Fellow at the CUNY Urban Food Policy Institute. His research and scholarship focus on

diet-related chronic diseases, urban health, the evaluation of complex urban interventions, and the role of the food industry in health and disease. For 30 years he has assisted NYC organizations to plan, implement, and evaluate policies, programs, and advocacy campaigns to improve community health and reduce health inequities, and he was the co-founder, with Janet Poppendieck, of the NYC Food Policy Center at Hunter College. He holds a PhD and a Master's degree in Health Policy and Management from the Columbia University School of Public Health.

## Turning ideas into action after the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health



This urban food policy forum focuses on the key question of how to translate into action some of the core ideas and solutions put forward at the 2022 White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health and the concurrently released National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health. Invited guest speakers will offer insights into this question in the context of three central food policy goals: making free school meals available to all, ending college food insecurity, and reducing corporate influences on community food environments, including through reducing predatory marketing of unhealthy food and beverages to young people. On November 17, join us for this virtual Urban Food Policy Forum!

### Additional Resources:

Healthy School Meals for All Fact Sheet: [https://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/HealthySchoolMeals\\_FRAC\\_FactSheet.pdf](https://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/HealthySchoolMeals_FRAC_FactSheet.pdf)

The Case for Healthy School Meals for All: <https://frac.org/research/resource-library/the-case-for-healthy-school-meals-for-all?eType=EmailBlastContent&eid=386c8599-a602-419e-954b-d95917a04db5>

FRAC website on Healthy School Meals for All: <https://frac.org/healthy-school-meals-for-all>

Hunger Solutions New York, Healthy School Meals for All, <https://hungersolutionsny.org/healthy-school-meals-for-all/>

U.S. Government Accountability Office. Food Insecurity: Better Information Could Help Eligible College Students Access Federal Food Assistance Benefits. Available at <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-19-95>

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The Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice (2022), "Best Kept Secrets: The Federal Government Expanded SNAP Eligibility for College Students, But Many Never Heard About It": [https://hope.temple.edu/sites/hope/files/media/document/Best%20Kept%20Secrets\\_The%20Hope%20Center.pdf](https://hope.temple.edu/sites/hope/files/media/document/Best%20Kept%20Secrets_The%20Hope%20Center.pdf)

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