

Session 4: Strengthening Nutrition Research and Providing Equitable Access to its Benefits

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Workshop Synthesis

Summary of Key Themes

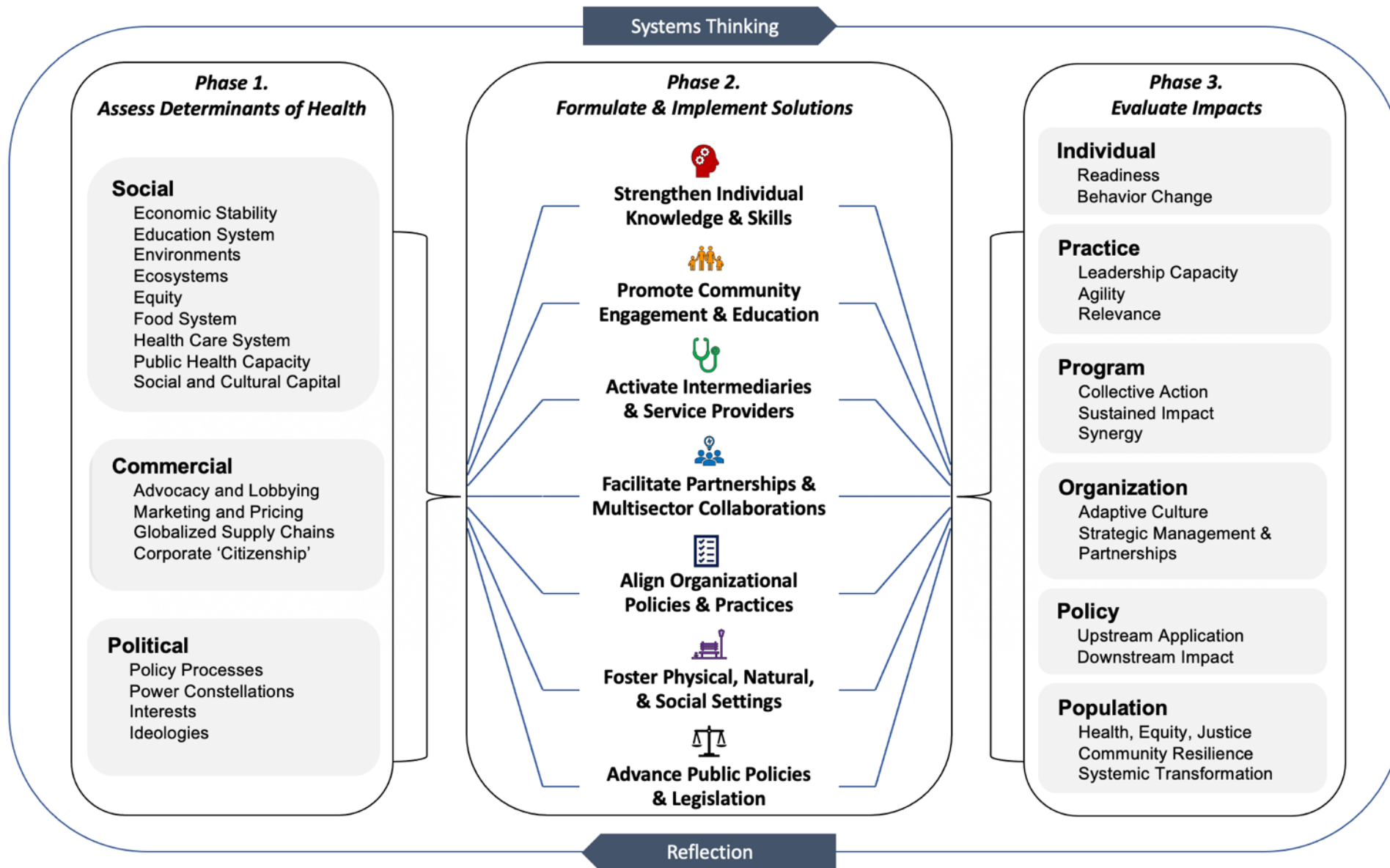
1. Federal Strategy on Nutrition and Health

- **Recommendation 1d:** Develop a 5-year coordinated plan to strengthen federal nutrition research encompassing fundamental, clinical, public health, food and agricultural, and translational scientific research.
- **Considerations**
 - Establish an an interagency **nutrition research conceptual framework** (visual) that applies a **systems science perspective** and adapts a transdisciplinary model for translational nutrition science
 - Integrate **systems thinking** as a key function for advancing nutrition science and integrative problem solving
 - Promote a **spectrum of nutrition research** to equitably promote and protect nutrition security and health of all
 - Apply a **pragmatic research** approach to nutrition in which quantitative (deductive) and qualitative (inductive) research are supported



Example - Implementation Framework

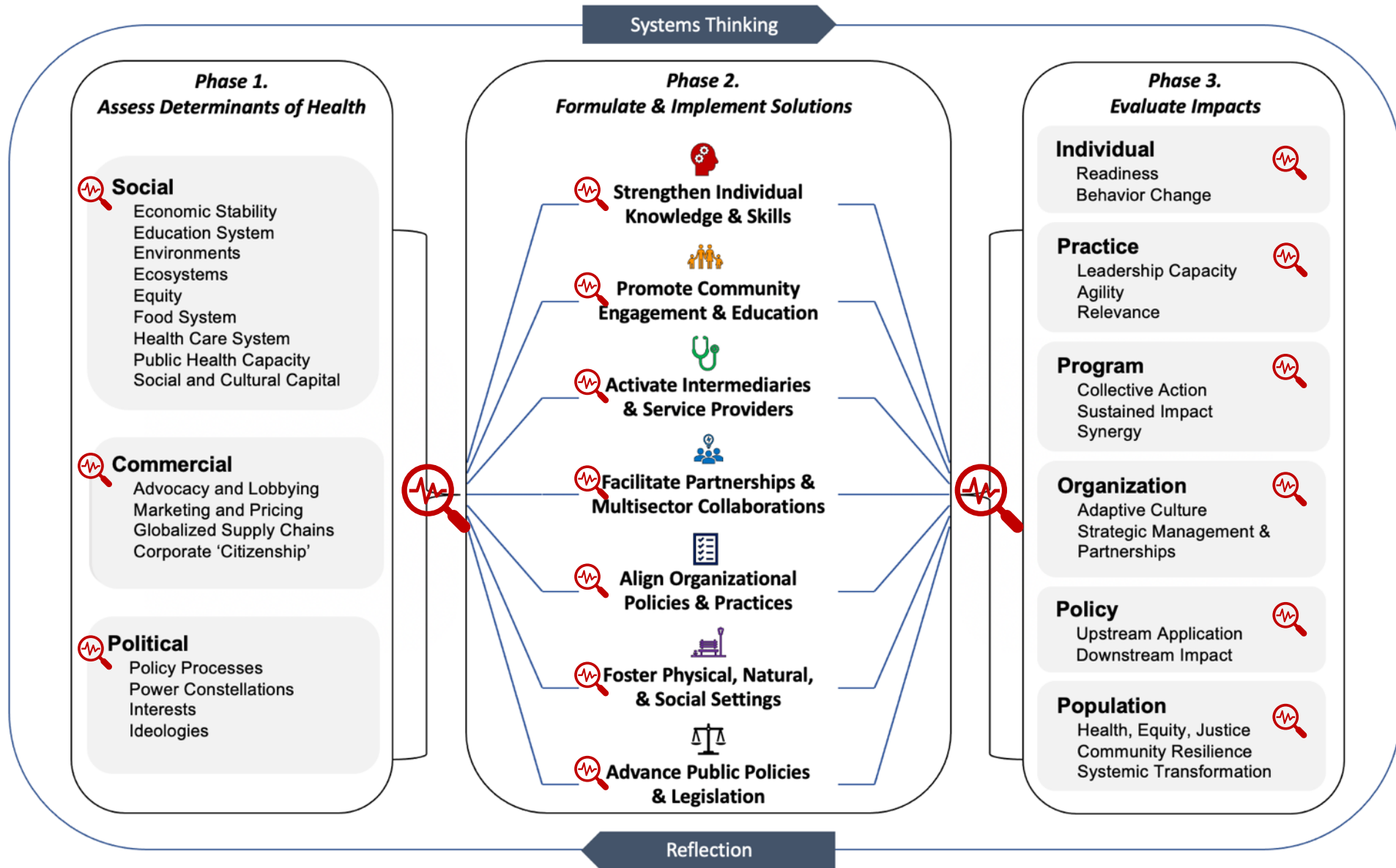
I+PSE Conceptual Framework for Action



Reference: Tagtow A, Herman D, Cunningham-Sabo L. Next-Generation Solutions to Address Adaptive Challenges in Dietetics Practice: The I+PSE Conceptual Framework for Action. *J Acad Nutr Diet.* 2022;122(1):15-24. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jand.2021.01.018>

Research Integration within Implementation Frameworks

I+PSE Conceptual Framework for Action



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2. Equitable Access to the Benefits of Nutrition Research

- **Recommendation 2b.** Create a coordinated, concerted effort to diversify the nutrition science and dietetics workforce.
- **Considerations**
 - USDA NIFA to work with Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Hispanic Serving Institutions to **build institutional capacities** for:
 - Nutrition and dietetic **curricula**, including graduate programs to produce more nutrition and dietetic educators
 - **Recruitment and retention** of students from underserved communities into nutrition and dietetic programs
 - Nutrition and dietetic **research** opportunities
 - **Extension** program development support

Reference: USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture. USDA Invests Over \$21.8M to Build Agricultural Capacity at HBCUs in the Nation's Land-grant University System. July 2021. Available <https://www.nifa.usda.gov/about-nifa/press-releases/usda-invests-over-218m-build-agricultural-capacity-hbcus-nations-land>



3. Interagency Committee on Human Nutrition Research

Recommendation 3d.

Facilitate implementation of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans among external partners

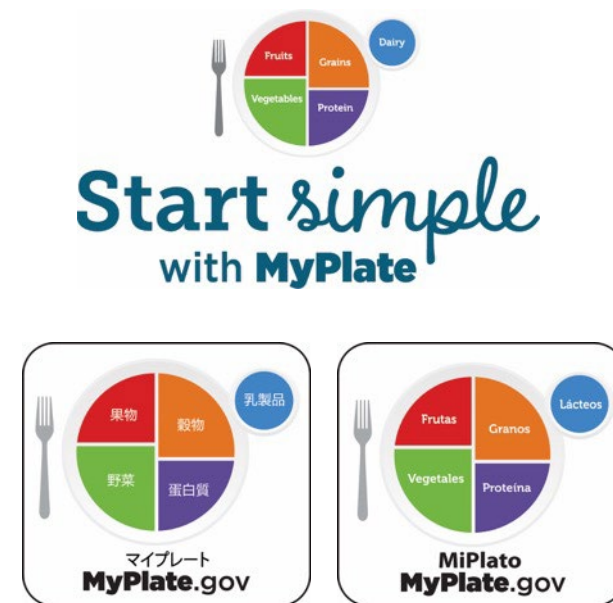


Considerations

Dedicate resources for the ongoing development, revision, implementation, and evaluation of national food-based guidance and nutrition education systems

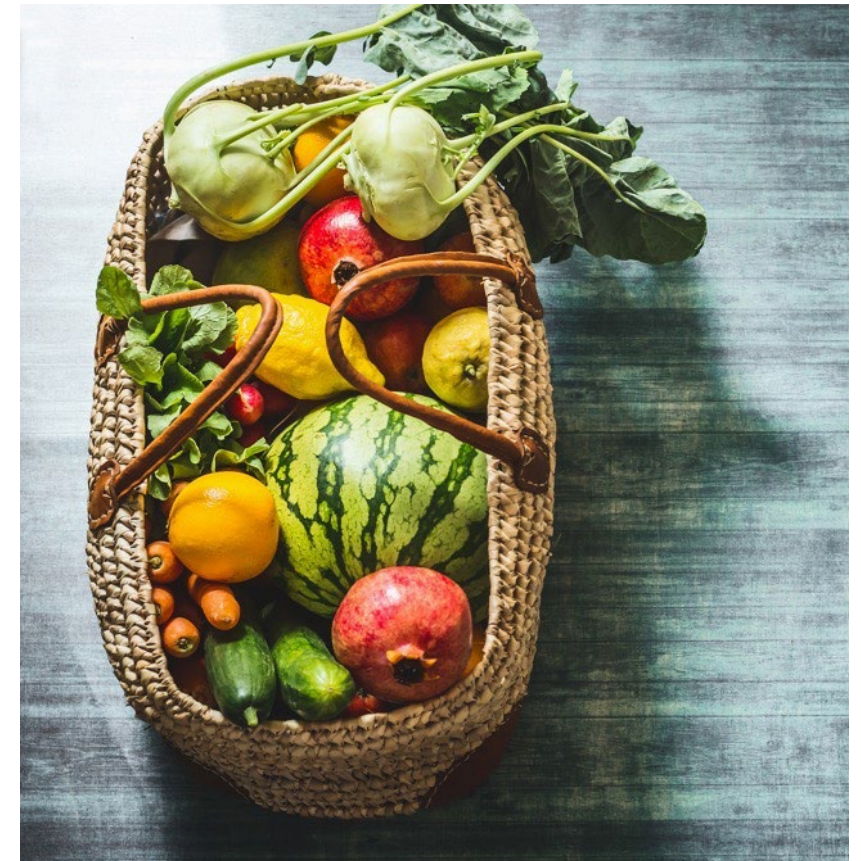
Recommendation 3f.

Develop a federal nutrition campaign



3. Interagency Committee on Human Nutrition Research

- **Recommendation 3h.** Identify and coordinate nutrition-related efforts for individuals living with chronic diseases.
- **Considerations**
 - Increase access to nutrition services via a **Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN)** in community and clinical settings
 - Integrate RDNs into key roles within Federal **food and nutrition programs** (e.g., WIC)
 - Passage of the **Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT) Act** which allows Medicare beneficiaries to access the care they need by providing Medicare Part B coverage for MNT. The bill amends the Social Security Act to:
 - **Expand Medicare Part B coverage** of outpatient MNT for prediabetes, obesity, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, malnutrition, eating disorders, cancer, gastrointestinal diseases including celiac disease, HIV/AIDS, cardiovascular disease and any other disease or condition causing unintentional weight loss
 - **Authorize the Secretary of Health** to include other diseases based on medical necessity
 - Allow nurse practitioners, physician's assistants, clinical nurse specialists, and psychologists to **refer their patients for MNT**



Reference: Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Medical Nutrition Therapy Act. 2021. Available at <https://www.eatrightpro.org/advocacy/public-policy-priorities/all-legislation/medical-nutrition-therapy-act>