

## Advocacy Agenda: 1,000 Days, an Initiative of FHI Solutions

### Our Mission

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1,000 Days leads the fight to build a strong foundation for mothers, children, and families to thrive. The first 1,000 days from pregnancy to age 2 offer a window of opportunity to create a healthier and more equitable future for all pregnant, birthing, postpartum, and parenting people and their children. Our mission is to make health and well-being during the first 1,000 days a policy and funding priority, both in the U.S. and around the world. Our work is inspired and informed by families who strive every day to give their children a strong start to life.

***Our priority advocacy agenda for 2023 is centered on ensuring parents and children have access to the nutrition, supports, and care they need to thrive.***

### Advocacy Priority #1: Nutrition

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The nutrition that mothers, pregnant people, and children receive in the 1,000-day window has a profound impact on a child's ability to grow, learn, and thrive. Ensuring mothers and children have a healthy first 1,000 days also benefits societies. [Leading economists](#) agree that investing in a child's earliest years is one of the smartest things a country can do to combat poverty and create the human capital needed for economies to diversify and grow. Research shows it can lead to healthier societies, a more globally competitive workforce, lower healthcare costs, stronger economic growth and greater equality of opportunity.

- **In the United States, we are committed to ensuring parents and caregivers have the federal supports needed to access good nutrition.** This includes advocacy for nutrition programs – especially the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) – to be fully funded and designed to best meet the needs of today's families. Highlighted in the October 2022 *American Journal for Public Health* [series about nutrition in the 1,000-day window](#), we work to inspire policy makers and leaders across government agencies to close data gaps, enhance promising programs, strengthening policies and unite around this powerful window of growth.
- **Our global advocacy calls for ending malnutrition in all its forms by 2030 through scaling-up evidence-based interventions and robust funding for nutrition.** In coalition with civil society, we lead the 1,000 Days Advocacy Working Group (AWG) that seeks to build greater political will from the U.S. for global leadership on nutrition through better policy, programs, and increased investment in maternal, infant and young child nutrition. We educate leaders on why nutrition is a smart investment toward the economic success and sustainable development of nations. We hold donors and other stakeholders to account to deliver on their commitments to nutrition to drive progress against the World Health Assembly global nutrition targets and the Sustainable Development Goals.

- **We also work to make good nutrition accessible for families and caregivers**, which includes behavior change campaigns to increase healthy diets, increase breastfeeding rates and improve complementary feeding practices. In the United States, this includes parent education materials and direct engagement via social media. We also develop and advocate for clear, science-based dietary guidance, which we translate into accessible resources for families. We raise awareness of predatory marketing practices in the United States and around the world, including advocating for all countries to enact the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes (BMS code).

### **Advocacy Priority #2: Enabling Environments**

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All families deserve adequate supports and systems in place to thrive in their first 1,000 days. We work to ensure they have the support they need to reach their breastfeeding goals and are given the time and resources needed to care for themselves and their babies before and after birth.

- **We advocate to remove unnecessary barriers to a successful 1,000 days.** We advocate for families to receive paid family and medical leave that supports improved health of mothers and babies, saves lives, promotes breastfeeding and enables children to get a strong start to life. We also ask for family-friendly policies and programs in workplaces to ensure pregnant people maintain healthy pregnancies, recover safely from childbirth, and obtain breastfeeding support at work. These policies help make the workplace a safe and enabling environment, and advance maternal health and well-being, infant health and development, and gender equity in the workplace.
- **Community supports include the systems where nutrition and health services are delivered.** We work with fellow advocates and policymakers to increase investments in the proven, scalable interventions deployed through traditional health centers and at community level to reach the most vulnerable communities.

To learn more, please contact Initiative Director Blythe Thomas at [bthomas@fhisolutions.org](mailto:bthomas@fhisolutions.org)

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