

Policy Recommendations to Encourage Drinking Water in Place of Sugary Beverages for the 2022 White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health

Two more strategies to support and enable consumption of drinking water (in place of sugary drinks)

Pillar: Empower consumers to make and have access to healthy choices

Recommendation: Work with public water suppliers (water “utilities”) and utility networks as such American Water Works Association to promote uptake of more user-friendly formats for the annual Consumer Confidence Report of water quality that are already required by law.

- E.g., here is an award-winning template for use by public water suppliers, <https://www.policyinnovation.org/water/ccr-template/>

Pillar: Improve food access and affordability

Recommendation: Provide an additional benefit for SNAP and WIC participants to purchase water filtration supplies (e.g., pitcher or dispenser that accepts [NSF/ANSI standard 53](#) filters for health effects (lead and other contaminants)), including replacement filters.

- Such benefit would be provided to program participants who live in areas where public water is demonstrably unsafe (i.e., local water utility Consumer Confidence Report indicates utility is in violation of health-based standards) or where household lead testing as performed by a certified laboratory shows elevated levels of lead (over 5 ppb, the FDA allowable level for bottled water). Such additional benefit should also be provided as a temporary disaster additional benefit for drinking water during emergencies.
- This would be a more environmentally-sound and cost-effective approach than providing bottled water.¹
 - “POU styles provide a low-cost, effective remediation strategy for residents, but the ease of installation and filter replacement maintenance need to be considered when communicating this strategy.

¹ Kelsey J. Pieper, Adrienne Katner, Rebecca Kriss, Min Tang, Marc A. Edwards; Understanding lead in water and avoidance strategies: a United States perspective for informed decision-making. *J Water Health* 1 August 2019; 17 (4): 540–555. doi: <https://doi.org/10.2166/wh.2019.272>