



## **Walmart / Walmart Foundation Commitments in Support of The 2022 White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health**

### **Introduction**

Walmart and the Walmart Foundation have long been committed to providing and improving access to nutritious, affordable food so that people can live long, healthier, productive lives. We understand that food access and health outcomes are closely connected. In many neighborhoods, Walmart's physical presence and omnichannel capabilities allow us to serve as a resource for affordable, healthy food and health services. Our stores and clubs are within 10 miles of approximately 90% of American households, and our eCommerce capabilities allow us to reach many more.

Our commitments to addressing food and nutrition security and the overall health and well-being of our customers and communities are not new. For instance, for more than a decade, Walmart and the Walmart Foundation have worked to enhance food security in U.S. communities through our *Healthier Food for All* initiative, which focuses on increasing access to and education about nutritious food. And just this year, in the months leading up to the *White House Conference on Hunger, Health and Nutrition*, Walmart and the Walmart Foundation furthered new business initiatives and made significant investments in organizations and programs to combat hunger, promote nutrition security and improve health.

Each bolded statement below, organized under one of the five pillars established by the Conference organizing body, represents a commitment by Walmart and the Walmart Foundation, including: 1) Supporting greater access to food through digitization of the food access system; 2) Enhancing food and nutrition security across communities; 3) Investing in research and sharing learnings to promote more equitable access to nutritious food; and 4) Supporting consumers and communities in making healthy choices. These commitments demonstrate Walmart and the Walmart Foundation's future strategy. We look forward to continuing to update the CDC Foundation on new initiatives and programs that ladder up into these commitments.

### **Pillar 1: Improve food access and affordability**

#### **A. Walmart is committed to supporting innovative, digital mechanisms that help customers more easily access and use supplemental nutrition benefits when they shop with us.**

Walmart supports digitization of the food access system as a mechanism to help to address the gaps and challenges related to food and nutrition insecurity. We have also worked to improve access to online grocery for all customers. For example, we worked with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and state agencies to allow customers to use Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits for online grocery shopping. Currently, SNAP benefits can be used for grocery pickup and delivery orders in 49 states as well as on Walmart.com. We want to make the experience as seamless as possible for our SNAP customers. When customers are shopping for grocery items on Walmart.com, they can select a filter to just view EBT or SNAP-eligible items and can easily identify EBT-eligible products through clear badging on the item and search pages. Then customers can simply use their EBT or SNAP debit cards to pay at checkout.

Walmart is an authorized vendor of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). Additionally, Walmart has announced its participation in the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Gretchen Swanson Center for Nutrition's WIC online pilot program. The pilot is designed to make it easier and more convenient for customers to order and pay for WIC-eligible items online using their EBT card. The overarching goal of this project is to work toward establishing recommendations for the implementation of processes that allow WIC participants to use online ordering with online transactions or in-person transactions to receive their WIC food benefits. We expect the pilot to inform a



pathway for national expansion to create greater WIC program efficiencies and improved access for customers.

**B. The Walmart Foundation is committed to scaling organizations and programs that leverage the power of technology to increase access to charitable food and nutritional safety-net benefits.**

In 2021, the Walmart Foundation awarded \$9 million in grants to support *Feeding America's* efforts to increase access to innovative digital platforms that promote transparency in the food donation, rescue, and pickup process. This investment built upon the Walmart Foundation's earlier support to *Feeding America* for the development of *MealConnect*, which facilitates restaurants and businesses donating their surplus food to local food banks. Through *MealConnect*, food that previously might have gone to waste is recovered and immediately directed to agency partners who directly distribute it to families in need. More recently, the Foundation's investment supported the launch and expansion of *OrderAhead*, *Feeding America's* click-and-collect food app that is a fast, private, and easy way to order free groceries online. *OrderAhead* helps people in need overcome barriers related to transportation, stigma and time when seeking food assistance.

Additionally, the Walmart Foundation has supported nonprofit organizations like *Benefits Data Trust*, which works to connect people with essential services like SNAP and WIC. Further, the Walmart Foundation is a founding investor in *Code for America's Integrated Benefits* initiative, which works to transform the nutrition safety net nationwide by addressing barriers to enrollment, usage and retention in the SNAP and WIC programs.

In FY2022, Walmart and Sam's stores, clubs and distribution centers in the U.S. donated more than 696 million pounds of food to *Feeding America*, 64% of which were fruits, vegetables, dairy products and meats.

**Pillar 2: Integrate nutrition and health**

**A. Walmart and the Walmart Foundation are committed to investing in research, organizations, and innovative practices aimed at improving health outcomes.**

In mid-2020, Walmart established four Shared Value Networks (SVNs) to help advance racial equity in the U.S. criminal justice, education, financial, and health care systems, with a particular focus on disparities affecting Black and African American people. Each SVN team of Walmart associates is charged with studying these national systems and pursuing business strategies that draw on Walmart capabilities to contribute to positive and lasting change in the systems. The SVNs make recommendations to the SVN Steering Committee, led by Doug McMillon, President and CEO of Walmart Inc., to discuss and align on potential business initiatives. The Health SVN seeks to create opportunities for all — our associates, customers and community members — to live healthier by improving equity and driving systemic change. For instance, Walmart is currently working with community organizations to design, test and evaluate Walmart food and nutrition offerings to improve access to healthier food options for Black and African American communities experiencing food insecurity.

Also beginning in 2020, Walmart and the Walmart Foundation committed \$100 million over five years through the Walmart.Org Center for Racial Equity to support efforts such as research, advocacy, innovation of practices and tools, stakeholder convening, and non-profit capacity building. As of January 2022, the Center had awarded over \$35 million in grants. We anticipate these investments will extend the societal impact of our business SVN's for years to come.

**B. Walmart and the Walmart Foundation are committed to addressing food and nutrition security to improve outcomes in maternal and infant health and cardiometabolic health.**



In certain geographies across the country, there is a life expectancy gap of 20 to 30 years between different neighborhoods within the same cities. Cardiometabolic health and maternal and infant health are key examples of disparate health outcomes between predominantly Black and White communities. Walmart and the Walmart Foundation have invested and will continue to invest in research and interventions that aim to improve outcomes related to Black maternal and infant health and cardiovascular health, with a focus on interventions that explore the intersection of food and nutrition and health outcomes.

The Center for Racial Equity supports community-based innovation to identify solutions that increase food access in under-resourced communities. To support community-driven food access solutions at scale, the Center is also focused on increasing access to public and private capital and building capacity for organizations and entrepreneurs. For example, in 2021 the Walmart Foundation invested \$5 million in the *American Heart Association's Bernard J. Tyson's Impact Fund* to back community-based organizations and entrepreneurs in Atlanta and Chicago who are working to increase access to affordable and healthier food in communities of color. According to the American Heart Association, the food entrepreneurs and organizations who received investments from the *Bernard J. Tyson Impact Fund* have reached over 460,000 individuals, created 71 healthy food access points and grown over 186,000 pounds of fresh food within low-income and food insecure communities. The organizations also have received over \$10 million in follow-on funding.

### **Pillar 3: Empower all consumers to make and have access to healthy choices**

- A. Walmart and the Walmart Foundation are committed to advancing culturally relevant, and evidence backed nutrition content and experiences to empower consumers and communities to make healthy choices.**

Over 10 years ago, we introduced our Walmart U.S. *Great for You* icon for private-label products to make it easier for customers make more nutritious food choices. Items with this label meet rigorous nutrition criteria informed by the latest nutrition science and authoritative guidance from the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* (DGA), U.S. Food and Drug Administration, U.S. Department of Agriculture and National Academies of Medicine. Our *Great For You* standard has been evaluated by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and scored in the top tier of nutritional standards for highest consistency with the DGA.

The Walmart Foundation also continues to invest in culturally relevant nutrition education programing. For example, in May 2022, the Walmart Foundation awarded a \$1.4 million grant to *Sesame Workshop* for their new bilingual resources to help families of all economic backgrounds foster healthy eating practices and increase 'nutritional literacy,' defined as, "the ability to access and understand information about food and nutrition." In 2022, *FoodCorps* was awarded a \$3.3 million, two-year grant to support their food education in schools program. The funding will provide more than 240,000 children with culturally relevant, hands-on food education and increased exposure to more nourishing foods in schools and at home.

### **Pillar 5: Enhance nutrition and food security research**

- A. Walmart and the Walmart Foundation are committed to sharing learnings from funded research to advance the field's knowledge and promote best practices centered around equitable access to healthy food and nutrition.**

Earlier this year, the *Aspen Institute Food and Society Program*, in partnership with the *Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation of Harvard Law School* and with support from the Walmart Foundation, released a *Food is Medicine Research Action Plan*, which outlines a comprehensive set of recommendations to expand and strengthen research on nutrition interventions in health care. The recommendations offer concrete guidance on how to embed equity throughout the *Food is Medicine*



research continuum; identify key considerations to ensure that research designs are robust and appropriate for yielding the most valuable and actionable information; identify the most urgent questions that have yet to be explored; and describe how funders can support the most valuable research in the field.

**B. Walmart and the Walmart Foundation are committed to leveraging philanthropic investments to elevate industry research, innovations and best practices that drive industry-wide improvement and systemic change.**

In 2020, the Walmart Foundation launched the *Healthy Food Community of Practice* as a space for connection, learning, resource sharing and action for more than 35 organizations focused on improving healthier food access and consumption, particularly for people who face systemic barriers. Funded by the Walmart Foundation, the *Community* is facilitated by *Share Our Strength* through its subsidiary *Community Wealth Partners*. The Walmart Foundation will continue to support the *Community of Practice* through at least 2024.

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