

Kumar Chandran, MS, MPH

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Experienced Food Policy Professional

- 10+ years of experience as a public health and food policy professional at the state and federal levels
- Skilled in policy analysis and translating research to policy
- Strong, effective writer and communicator able to relay complex information in a variety of formats
- Self-motivated worker who thrives individually and in collaboration with groups and with external stakeholders

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Policy Director

FoodCorps, Washington, DC

March 2017 – present

- Oversee and lead all activities related to developing and executing FoodCorps' policy agenda, including policy platform development, advocacy strategy, and communications approach
- Represent FoodCorps before relevant coalitions, agencies, stakeholders, and policymakers
- Develop FoodCorps' advocacy strategy in coordination with communications and other teams

Chief of Staff, Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services

US Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC

September 2014 – January 2017

- Advised Undersecretary and USDA leadership on key federal nutrition policies impacting millions of Americans, including SNAP (food stamp) policy, school nutrition standards, and the Dietary Guidelines for Americans
- Implemented Administration priorities related to food assistance and nutrition, including First Lady Obama's *Let's Move!* initiative on childhood obesity
- Coordinated and influenced regulations, policies, and communications related to USDA's food and nutrition policy, comprising a budget of over \$100 billion and programs that serve ~1 in 4 Americans
- Developed and maintained relationships with relevant private, Federal, non-profit, and Congressional partners and stakeholders

Senior Manager, Center for Best Practices

November 2011 – September 2014

Share Our Strength, Washington, DC

- Analyzed and synthesized research, and tracked policies and practices at the federal, state, and local levels that increased access to food and nutrition programs for low-income children
- Drafted and developed policy memos, issue briefs, case studies, and presentations to communicate best practices and policies to a variety of audiences, including policymakers, advocates, and the public
- Oversaw research projects and evaluation of program strategies to inform the organization's priorities
- Provided technical assistance and consulting on policy formulation and program operations to public and private partners working on child nutrition
- Collaborated with state and local partners to collect and analyze programmatic data
- Assessed progress towards annual goals, developed corrective action when necessary, and communicated successes
- Represented organization at conferences, briefings, and coalition meetings
- Planned a national conference for 70+ high-level state officials on childhood hunger policies to implement at the state level
- Prepared written and oral testimony for advocacy at state and local hearings

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Nutrition Policy Associate

May 2007 – October 2011

California Food Policy Advocates, Oakland, CA

- Developed, analyzed, and advanced policies for improvements to state, federal, and local policies impacting the health and nutrition of millions of low-income Californians
- Researched and wrote reports, issue briefs, and fact sheets on policies and programs affecting nutrition and food security
- Prepared electronic advocacy newsletter with updates on relevant policy developments, news, and research, reaching over 1000 members across California and the country
- Led successful policy campaign to pass legislation establishing first-ever nutrition standards for licensed child care facilities in California
- Organized annual lobby days in Sacramento in collaboration from other advocacy groups

RELATED PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Co-chaired policy subcommittee for “Healthy Kids, Healthy Future”, a national collaboration focusing on obesity prevention in early childhood
- Member of the planning committee for the 2012 “Weight of the Nation” conference, organized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Presented on food, nutrition, and obesity policy at national, state, and local conferences and meetings

EDUCATION

Master of Science, Food Policy and Applied Nutrition

Tufts University, Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, Boston, MA

December 2006

- Specialization in food policy and economics
- Coursework included food/nutrition policy, public policy analysis, economics, data analysis/statistics

Master of Public Health

Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston, MA

December 2006

- Specialization in health policy
- Coursework included evaluation, epidemiology, health behavior and communication, environmental and occupational health, health economics and law, and budgeting and management

Bachelor of Arts, Political Economy of Industrial Societies

University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA

May 2001

- Coursework included microeconomics, macroeconomics, political economy, environmental health, ethnic studies, race and poverty