



July 6, 2021

Emmeline Ochiai, MPH
Designated Federal Officer
Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
1101 Wootton Parkway, Suite 420
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Ms. Ochiai:

On behalf of the [Diabetes Advocacy Alliance](#) (DAA), we are very pleased to submit a Letter of Interest for the DAA to become a Healthy People 2030 Champion (HP2030 Champion). Since 2012, the Diabetes Advocacy Alliance (DAA) has worked in partnership with the U.S. Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (ODPHP) in support of a specific set of diabetes objectives included in Healthy People 2020 (HP 2020), and now, Healthy People 2030 (HP 2030).

The DAA is a virtual organization, with its member representatives located in the Washington, D.C. area and across the country. Its 27 members represent patient, professional and trade associations, other non-profit organizations, and corporations, all united in the desire to change the way diabetes is viewed and treated in America. Since 2010, the DAA has worked with legislators and policymakers to increase awareness of, and action on, the diabetes epidemic. The organizations that comprise the DAA share a common goal of elevating diabetes on the national agenda so we may ultimately defeat this treatable, but also potentially devastating chronic disease. We are committed to advancing policies and legislation that can improve the health and well-being of people with diabetes and prediabetes, and to combatting health disparities and addressing social determinants of health. We do this by informing policymakers about strategies to prevent, detect and control diabetes and care for those affected by it. We also educate about how to address the drivers of health inequities, and the health equity implications of existing or new policies, regulations, and legislation.

The **vision** of the DAA is to influence change in the US health care system, improve diabetes prevention, detection, and care, and to speed the development of pathways to cures for diabetes treated in America. Our **mission** is to unite and align key diabetes stakeholders and the larger diabetes community around key diabetes-related policy and legislative efforts to elevate diabetes on the national agenda.

We have three principles that guide our work in policy and advocacy:

- Inform about the drivers of health inequities and their implications for new or existing policies, regulations, and legislation.
- Address the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on people with prediabetes and diabetes.
- Protect federal investments in research and programs for prediabetes and diabetes.

In the past, the DAA's work with ODPHP and Healthy People has consisted of:

- **Webinars**, designed to provide helpful information to public and clinical health care professionals, in their work that contributes to the achievement of HP 2020 and HP 2030 diabetes objectives. Webinar topics have included diabetes screening and referral to prevention

programs, the National Diabetes Prevention Program, the Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program, awareness of new payment options for diabetes prevention programs, and diabetes self-management education and support. Earlier this year, on March 23, we jointly presented a webinar that focused on addressing HP 2030 objectives during the COVID-19 pandemic. This webinar was successful in reaching a wide variety of public health and clinical health care professionals.

- Over the past nine years, there have been several successful **In-person meetings** of DAA member organization representatives and federal representatives of agencies such as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Indian Health Service (IHS), National Institutes of Health (NIH), Agency for Health Care Research and Quality (AHRQ), and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). These meetings provided forums for delving deeper into issues related to achievement of various HP 2020 diabetes objectives, including the potential for quality measures for diabetes screening, diabetes screening and USPSTF screening recommendations, harmonization of diabetes screening recommendations, prediabetes awareness efforts, technologies to support diabetes treatment and care, diabetes self-management education and support, and the sharing of new epidemiological and clinical research.
- There also have been a few **communications collaborations** to support awareness of Healthy People and the DAA's partnership with the Healthy People program during National Diabetes Month.

Ideas for Potential Collaborations

The DAA would very much like to continue its partnership with ODPHP and Healthy People 2030. Coming from the perspective of addressing issues facing people with prediabetes and diabetes – and those with obesity, which is a disease that is a risk factor for diabetes and is also often co-morbid with the disease – we believe the DAA's work contributes to progress toward achievement of the Healthy People 2030 vision: A society in which all people can achieve their full potential for health and well-being across the lifespan. If accepted as a Healthy People Champion, the DAA would work with ODPHP staff who support Healthy People 2030 to develop opportunities for both partners to advance their work.

ODPHP has [nine diabetes objectives for HP 2030](#). (A list of these objectives is also in Attachment A.) These objectives will allow for a continued strategic partnership in the areas of diabetes detection, prevention, education, and care, and one new area: prediabetes awareness. There is overlap with [Healthy People's objectives for obesity](#), as two diabetes objectives – D-02 and D-D01 – are included in the cross-sectional list of obesity objectives. Plus, obesity objective NWS-03 – Reduce the proportion of adults with obesity – relates to diabetes objectives in that pursuit and achievement of NWS-03 would contribute to achievement of several diabetes objectives.

There are two ideas that we could use thematically across several the tactics we have jointly implemented in the past:

Health Equity

On January 20, 2021, President Biden issued Executive Order 19835 entitled “**Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government.**” In Section 1, this order states that “the Federal Government should pursue a comprehensive approach to advancing equity for all, including people of color and others who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality.” The DAA, in its strategic planning for 2021-2022, has stated that it is committed to viewing its work through a lens of health equity. The DAA proposes that addressing

equity in diabetes awareness, prevention, detection, treatment, and care be a principle that we would jointly address in our work with Healthy People 2030.

The Recommendations of the National Clinical Care Commission

The National Clinical Care Commission (NCCC) is wrapping up its multiyear work and will deliver a set of recommendations to Congress later this year. In meetings held on June 1, 2021, and June 22, 2021, Commission members presented draft recommendations stemming from the deliberations of several subcommittees. These recommendations, in final form, would provide a rich source of information that could guide the DAA and Healthy People 2030 staff in selecting concepts and content for our various joint activities.

Potential Joint Activities

1. Continue to collaborate on in-person meetings of DAA member and federal agency representatives that allow for dialogue about issues of mutual interest that align with DAA strategic priorities and Healthy People 2030 objectives.

Potential meeting topics:

- Addressing health equity in diabetes prevention and care
- Identification of NCCC recommendations that could be discussed for potential for collaborative efforts or strategic alignment of the DAA and federal agencies
- The new USPSTF recommendation for screening for diabetes in adults (expected late 2021 or in 2022)
- Discussion of the obesity-prediabetes-diabetes connection and how it disproportionately affects communities of color

2. Continue to collaborate on Webinars to be jointly presented by the DAA and Healthy People 2030.

Potential Webinar topics include:

- The new USPSTF diabetes screening recommendation: what are its ramifications for addressing health equity in prediabetes and diabetes?
- Recommendations of the NCCC that have implications for the work of state and local public health agencies and professionals.
- Obesity, diabetes, and health equity: What is the connection?
- Women and diabetes and health equity (potential partnership with the Office of Women's Health)

3. Continue to partner on Healthy People blog pieces, but do them more frequently than in the past, if possible. Potential ideas:

- Ask DAA members with grassroots connections (such as Y-USA, National Association of Chronic Disease Directors) for examples of community based, or state or local public health agency examples of addressing health equity related to diabetes prevention or care or the obesity-diabetes connection.
- Highlight NCCC recommendations that directly relate to HP 2030 diabetes or obesity objectives (this could be a series).
- Feature one HP 2030 diabetes objective, its targets, and what one or two DAA members are doing that helps advance the objective.
- Feature one HP 2030 obesity objective, its targets, and what one or two DAA members are doing that helps advance the objective as it relates to diabetes prevention or care.

4. Provide ODPHP staff with links to DAA member informational products and services, and a compendium document describing these links, to provide tools that public and clinical health care professionals could use to help achieve the diabetes 2030 objectives.

- The DAA is interested in working with ODPHP staff to clarify if it will be possible to link directly from Healthy People 2030 objective pages to resources and tools that are outside of federal agency resources, such as those of DAA member organizations. If such direct linkage is not possible, the DAA could host links to DAA member resources on the DAA's own Website, and request that ODPHP link to the DAA site from a Healthy People 2030 Website page that describes ODPHP's partnership with the DAA.

5. Periodically provide DAA member organizations with messages or materials to promote HP 2030 and its diabetes objectives. Aim to increase their awareness of these objectives, plus, potentially, objectives that relate to diabetes in the physical activity, nutrition, obesity, and cardiovascular disease objective areas.

- The HP 2030 team could, at its discretion, provide the DAA with messages or materials as they align with the ongoing work of the Healthy People program.

Other ideas for collaboration would be welcome, of course, and should we be accepted as a Healthy People Champion, we look forward to more fruitful discussions and joint projects with ODPHP in 2021 and beyond.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact either or both of us. We thank you for this opportunity to share our ideas and we look forward to hearing favorably from you.

Sincerely,



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Attachment A

List of Diabetes Objectives in Healthy People 2030

[D-01](#) Reduce the number of diabetes cases diagnosed yearly (a **Leading Health Indicator**)

[D-02](#) Reduce the proportion of adults who don't know they have prediabetes (*Note: This objective also appears in the list of HP 2030 obesity-related objectives.*)

[D-03](#) Reduce the proportion of adults with diabetes who have an A1c value above 9 percent

[D-04](#) Increase the proportion of adults with diabetes who have a yearly eye exam

[D-05](#) Increase the proportion of adults with diabetes who get a yearly urinary albumin test

[D-06](#) Increase the proportion of adults with diabetes who get formal diabetes education

[D-07](#) Increase the proportion of adults with diabetes using insulin who monitor their blood sugar daily

[D-08](#) Reduce the rate of foot and leg amputations in adults with diabetes

[D-09](#) Reduce the rate of death from any cause in adults with diabetes

[D-D01](#) (Developmental) Increase the proportion of eligible people completing CDC-recognized type 2 diabetes prevention programs (*Note: This objective also appears in the list of HP 2030 obesity-related objectives.*)

List of Relevant Obesity Objectives in Healthy People 2030

[NWS-03](#) Reduce the proportion of adults with obesity

D-02 and DD-01 (see above)