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For Immediate Release

## **Academy for Eating Disorders and the Eating Disorders Coalition Partner to Submit Joint Comments to the NIH's Strategic Plan for Nutrition Research**

WASHINGTON, D.C. (December 17, 2018) — On December 14, 2018, the Eating Disorders Coalition for Policy, Research and Action (EDC) and the Academy for Eating Disorders (AED) partnered together to submit joint regulatory comments to the National Institute of Health (NIH) [Draft Strategic Plan](#) for Nutrition Research. [Click here to view the comments.](#) On November 21, 2018, NIH released a [Request for Information](#) to help the Nutrition Research Task Force (NRTF) develop its first NIH-wide 10-year strategic plan for nutrition research. According to NIH, “The plan will emphasize cross-cutting, innovative opportunities to advance nutrition research across a wide range of areas, from basic science to experimental design to training.”

The AED and EDC provided comments on Friday urging NIH to include eating disorders research and considerations within their 10-year plan, noting the strong connection between nutrition and the serious mental illness of eating disorders. Additionally, the comments highlighted specific eating disorders research priorities that aligned with the current draft strategic plan themes including, but not limited to: examining current nutrition education activities in primary and secondary schools and their effect on children’s attitudes and behaviors regarding food, eating and body image; evaluating the impact of existing and emergency obesity prevention interventions on eating disorders and disordered eating behaviors; and developing and test clinical protocols to assess recovery from malnutrition and starvation, brought on by eating disorders and other disease states.

Both the AED and EDC encourage NIH to broaden its focus to include research on prevention, early detection and treatment of eating disorders to amplify science forward in order to have a profound impact on the physical and psychosocial health of individuals through the United States.

**The Eating Disorders Coalition (EDC)** is a Washington, D.C.-based, federal advocacy organization comprised of treatment providers, advocacy organizations, academics, parents of children with eating disorders and people experiencing eating disorders nationwide. Additional resources can also be found at [www.eatingdisorderscoalition.org](http://www.eatingdisorderscoalition.org).

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