



What is BOND?

The *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH)/U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, in collaboration with partners representing the breadth of the global food and nutrition enterprise, created the BOND Program to meet the growing need for discovery, development, and implementation of reliable and valid biomarkers to assess nutrient exposure, status, function, and effect. One of the primary goals of the BOND project is to harmonize the processes for making decisions about what biomarkers are best for use in support of research, program development and evaluation, and generation of evidence-based policy.

This initiative responds to the need to examine the scientific basis for choosing appropriate methodologies to:

- Assess the role and impact of diet and nutrition on health and disease in populations and individuals
- Support the development and evaluation evidence based programs and policies to improve diet and nutrition.

How will BOND approach activities to achieve its goals?

The Program will have two separate but complementary tracks:

- The **Translational Track** will develop processes to inform various user groups about appropriate biomarker selection and use. The development and use of the translational materials will then generate a research agenda that will support the next track.
- The **Research Track** will support the discovery of biomarkers and development of their use.

Both tracks ultimately lead to evidence-based guidance specific to the needs of specific users, communities, and contexts.

Who should use the BOND Program information?

Once BOND gathers and synthesizes evidence-based information on biomarkers, the information could be useful to a variety of users, including (but not limited to) organizations and individuals that/who:

- Conduct nutrition surveys
- Make policies related to nutrition and/or nutritional status
- Implement food/nutrient programs
- Intend to include nutritional components in their research projects or clinical protocols
- Seek careers in nutrition, dietetics, or medicine or in education fields focused on these topics
- Fund research on or programs related to food/nutrition