The Research Agenda will focus on:

- healthy weight in youth
- how these environments may be modified to exert influence on children’s food intake and physical activity
- factors in children with ASD and other developmental disabilities
- to disseminate research findings to broad and diverse audiences.

The HWRN-ASD/DD fulfills its interdisciplinary research agenda by:

- engaging in formative research
- conducting pilot and feasibility and/or acceptability studies
- developing collaborative relationships to leverage extramural funding for interdisciplinary research.

The Research Agenda will focus on:

- children’s eating patterns and behaviors
- family practices around food/mealtimes
- physical activity
- sedentary behavior patterns
- how school and community-based organizations exert influence on children’s food intake and physical activity
- how these environments may be modified to promote healthy weight in youth
- how prevention or intervention programs can be developed, adapted, and delivered

**Administrative Core**

- Composed of the HWRN Director and Co-Directors and MCHB Project Officer(s).
- Determines overall policy and direction for HWRN
- Oversees & assists in developing policies & procedures for Core activities
- Coordinates the development and endorsement of the HWRN’s research agenda
- Ensures that the work of the Cores meet the HWRN’s mission and research agenda
- Reviews overall progress of HWRN and make recommendations to the Cores

**Secondary Data Analysis Core**

- Carries out studies that meet the HWRN’s research agenda using existing datasets:
  - frames research questions based on existing data
  - develops and refines analysis plans to address selected specific aims
  - engages Core members in the analysis, interpretation, and reporting of findings

**Peer Review Core**

- Responsible for the pilot & feasibility program.
- Pilot & feasibility projects advance the HWRN’s mission by supporting innovative research carried out by Network members and their colleagues.
- The Core:
  - develops application procedures & evaluation criteria
  - issues program announcements & RFPs
  - carries out review processes and procedures
  - provides recommendations for funding
  - reviews progress reports of funded projects

**Dissemination Core**

- Responsible for coordinating communication and dissemination efforts:
  - develops mechanisms to facilitate communication among HWRN members (e.g., via Internet, website, video-conferencing, etc.)
  - works with the other Cores to identify opportunities to communicate and disseminate research findings.
  - develops communications that are appropriate for scientific, professional, lay, community, and self-advocate audiences.