

# INFLUENCING ELEMENTS

Capacity building, global interdependence, resource development and sustainability, technology and innovation, and wellness are influencing elements in the Family and Consumer Sciences profession because they represent key societal and dynamic forces that shape the profession's focus and evolution. These elements impact how FCS professionals prepare for practice, respond to emerging trends and needs, and design solutions that promote well-being in a complex and interconnected world. They drive the profession to remain adaptable, forward-thinking, and socially responsive to the ever-changing environment. Each of these elements influences the context, challenges, and opportunities that define the profession's direction and ensure the field remains responsive and relevant in a dynamic world.

- Capacity Building focuses on developing skills, knowledge, and systems to address complex issues and achieve sustainable change. It prepares professionals and communities to be self-reliant, resilient, and empowered.
- Global Interdependence means that decisions in one part of the world affect others—from supply chains to cultural norms. FCS professionals must understand diverse cultures, economies, and systems to design solutions that are equitable, ethical, and globally relevant.
- Resource Development and Sustainability focuses on managing resources to provide a better place for future generations. Environmental health, climate change, and finite resources to meet the needs of individuals, families, and communities demand sustainable practices. Financial resources provide a means to acquire and develop other needed resources to provide sustainable practices. FCS integrates sustainable practices into food systems, housing, textiles, and financial management to promote long-term well-being and environmental stewardship.
- Technology and Innovation affects how families live, work, learn, and connect. FCS must continually adapt to emerging tools and platforms that reshape communication, education, service delivery, consumer behavior, and how people operate in a complex world.
- Wellness emphasizes the growing attention to physical, mental, emotional, and social health which expands the scope of what FCS addresses. FCS professionals are called to design holistic approaches that promote wellness across all life stages and environments.

## Why These Are Influencing Elements:

- They often originate outside the profession but have significant effects on its work (e.g., legislation, climate change, demographic shifts).
- They influence the way professionals do their work, the tools they use, and the issues/problems they address.
- As these elements change, they prompt the profession to develop, adjust, or reconsider methods, services, and education.
- They situate professional work in real-world conditions, ensuring it remains socially responsive and future focused.
- Influencing elements are not static; they reflect trends and developments that evolve over time and must be monitored and continuously updated.