# Data Required to Inform Nutrition Security Policy:

## The Thrifty Food Plan, 2021

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# Nutrition Security

- Goal: ensure all Americans have consistent access to the safe, healthy, affordable food essential to optimal health and well-being

- Builds on existing efforts:
  - Recognizing that structural inequities make it hard for many people to eat healthy and be physically active
  - Applying an equity lens

- Achieved through:
  - Meaningful support
  - Healthy food
  - Collaborative action
  - Equitable systems

- Visit https://www.usda.gov/nutrition-security for more information

# Examples of Nutrition Security Policy

## Meaningful support

- **Ensure adequate benefits**
- Update programs to reflect nutrition science
- Promote and support breastfeeding

## Collaborative action

- Develop, translate dietary guidance
- Equip child nutrition program operators
- Tailor products to programs

## Healthy food

- Promote fruits and vegetables
- Healthy eating incentives
- USDA foods

## Equitable systems

- Native American/Tribal school food systems
- SNAP & WIC online shopping
- Bridging language barriers

# Ensuring Adequate Benefits:
# The Thrifty Food Plan (TFP)

- Represents a nutritious, practical, and cost-effective diet

- Basis for maximum allotments for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

- 2021 reevaluation ensured adequate benefits — increased purchasing power of SNAP benefits by 21%

- 2018 Farm Bill required reevaluations every 5 years moving forward — opportunities for evolution

# Data Underlying the TFP, 2021

- Ideal characteristics:
  - Nationally-representative
  - Common, linkable unit of analysis

- Domains:
  - Dietary intake
  - Food composition
  - Food prices

- Opportunities:
  - Continuous quality advancement
  - Adapt to evolving food supply and market conditions
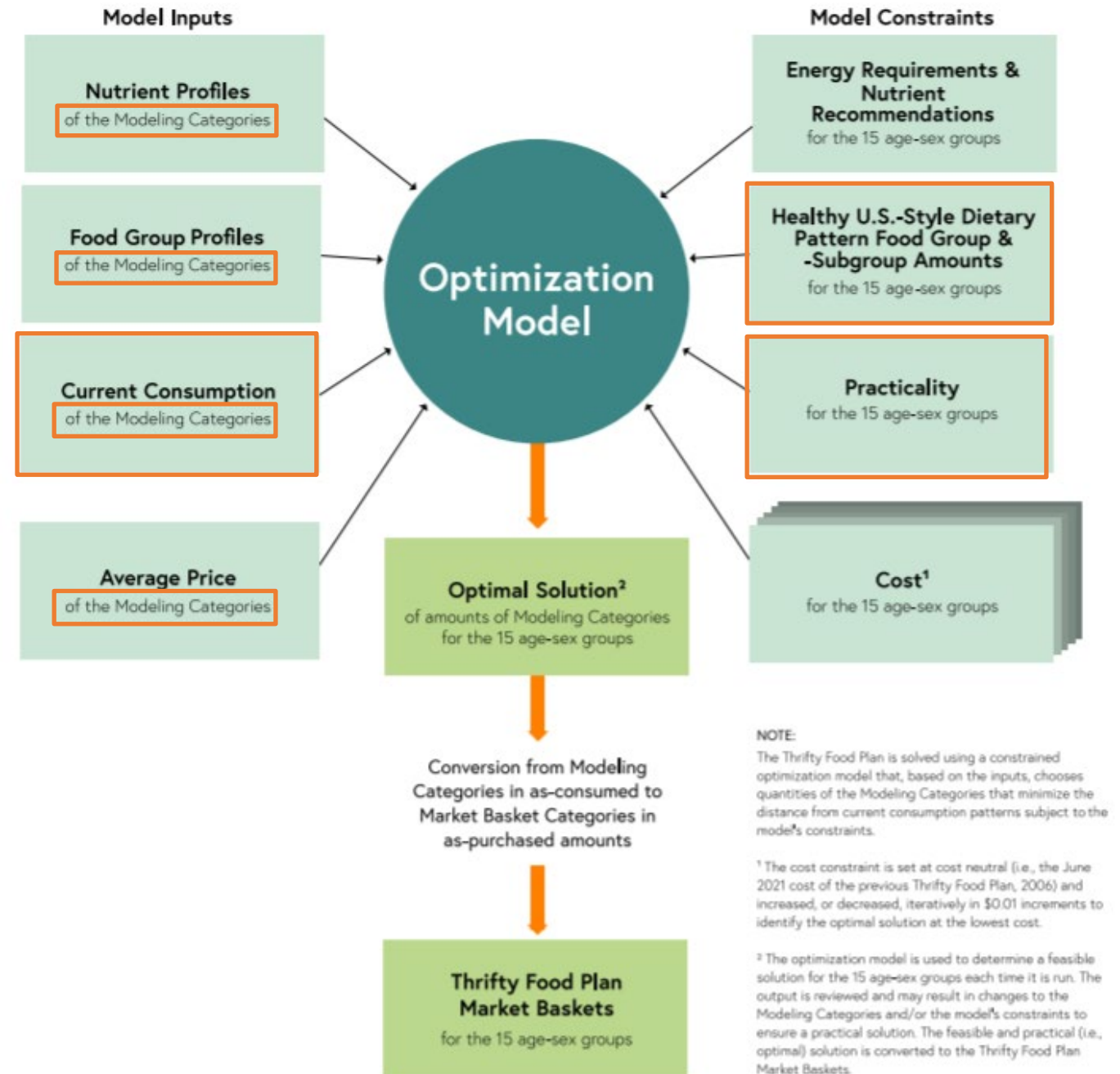  - Expanding capabilities for practicality testing

# TFP, 2021 Optimization Model
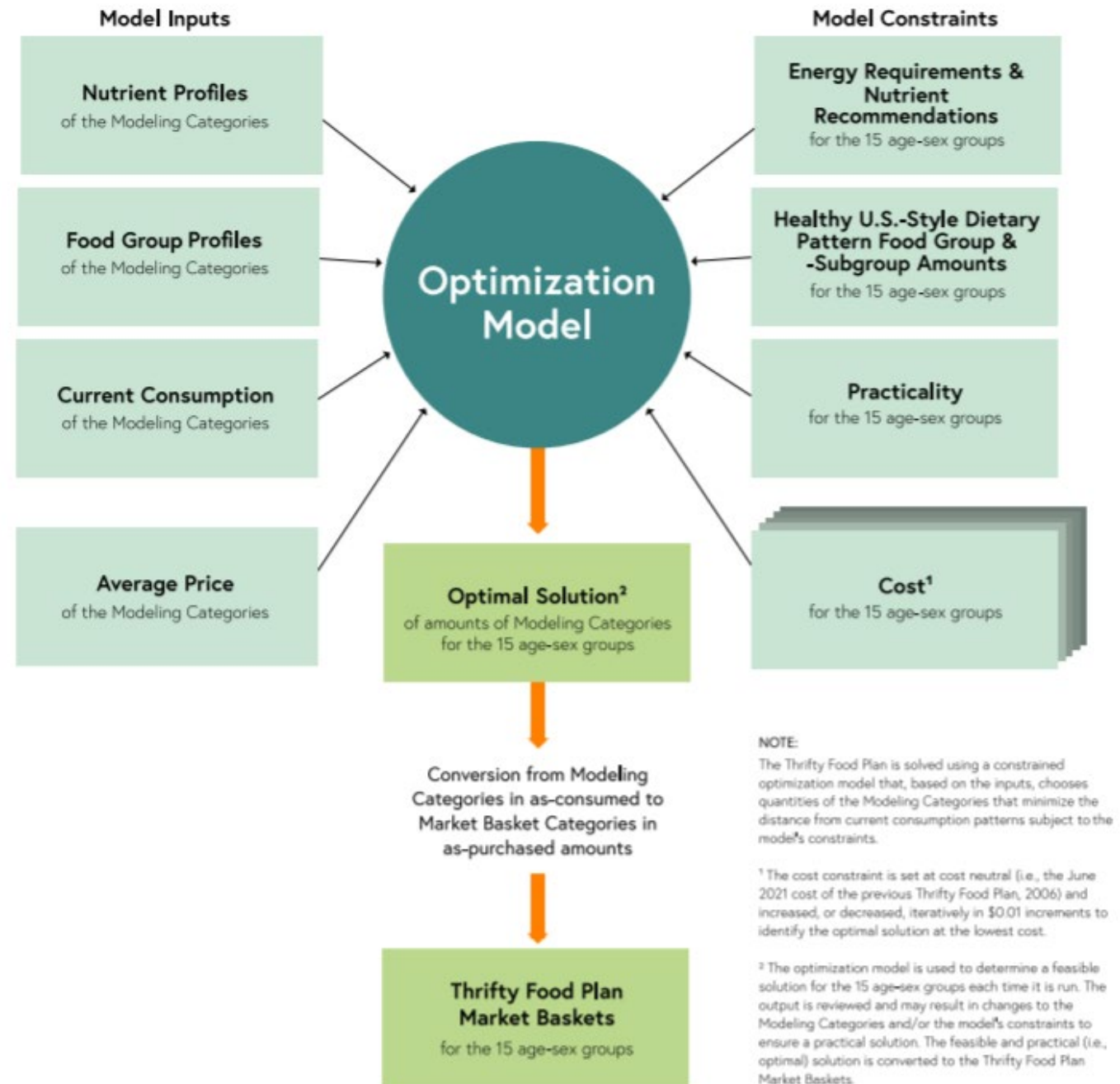
# Dietary Intake Data

- What We Eat in America (WWEIA) – dietary component of the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES)

- In-person 24-hour dietary recalls

- Weights account for non-response and day of the week

# Dietary Intake Data Opportunities

- Additional data-driven measures of diet practicality

- State- and territory-representative intakes outside Mainland United States
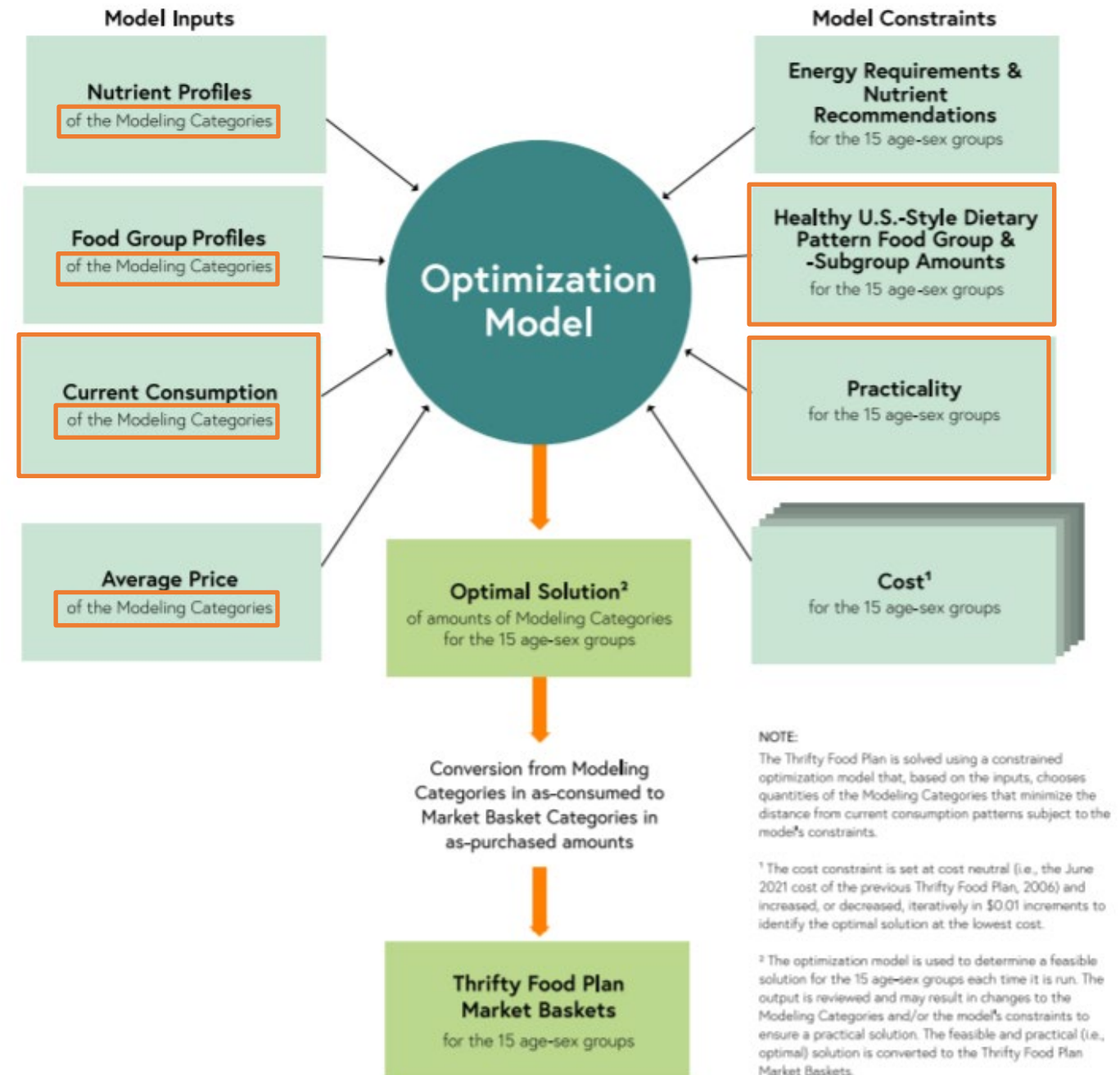
# Food Composition Data

- Food and Nutrient Database for Dietary Studies (FNDDS) and Food Pattern Equivalents Database (FPED)
- Reflects nutrient composition and food group contribution of foods and beverages reported in WWEIA, NHANES per 100 edible grams
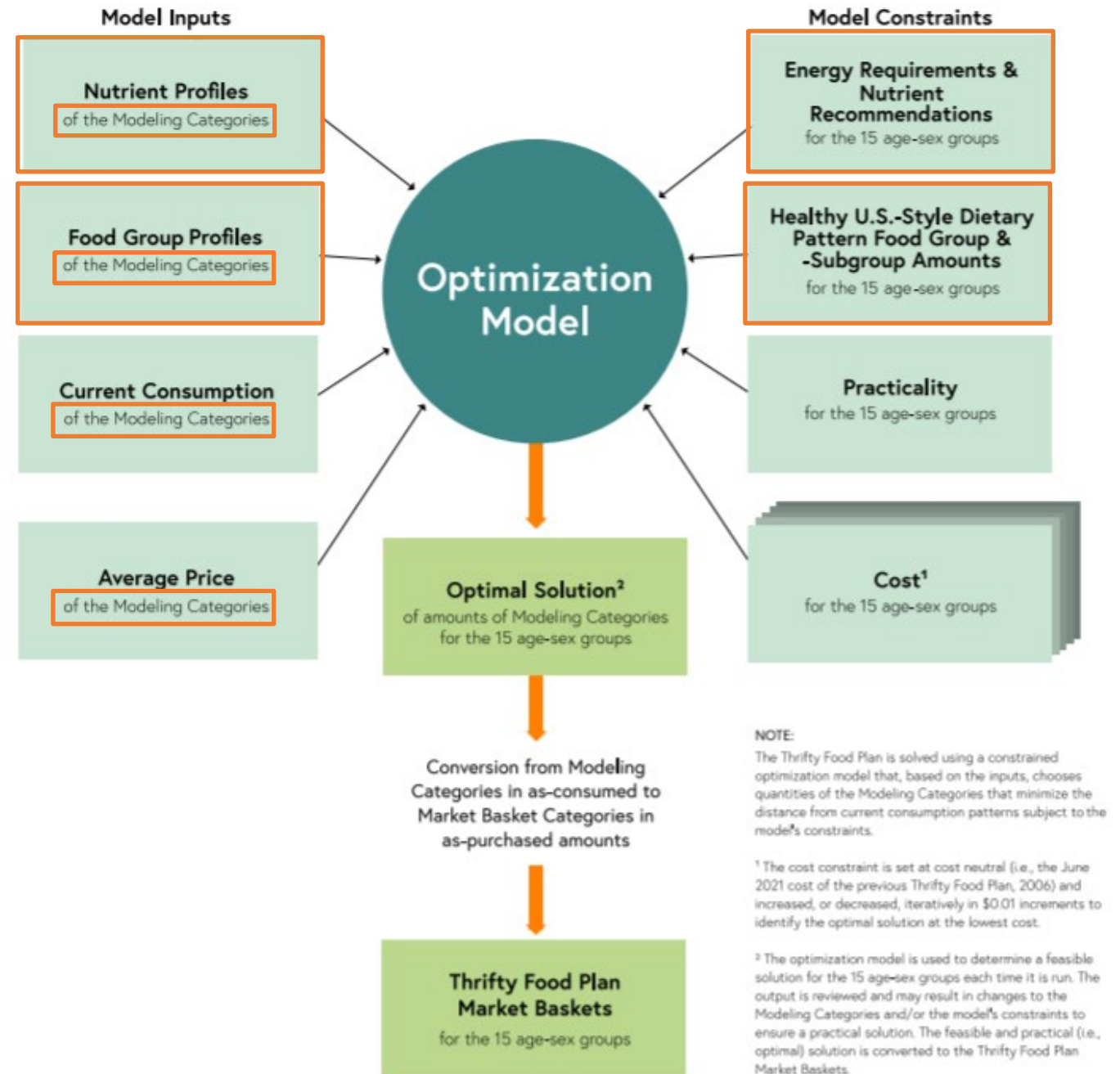
# Food Composition Data Opportunities

- Composition of culturally relevant foods

- Continue to develop and integrate modernized databases (i.e., Foundation Foods)

- Accounting for added table salt assumptions
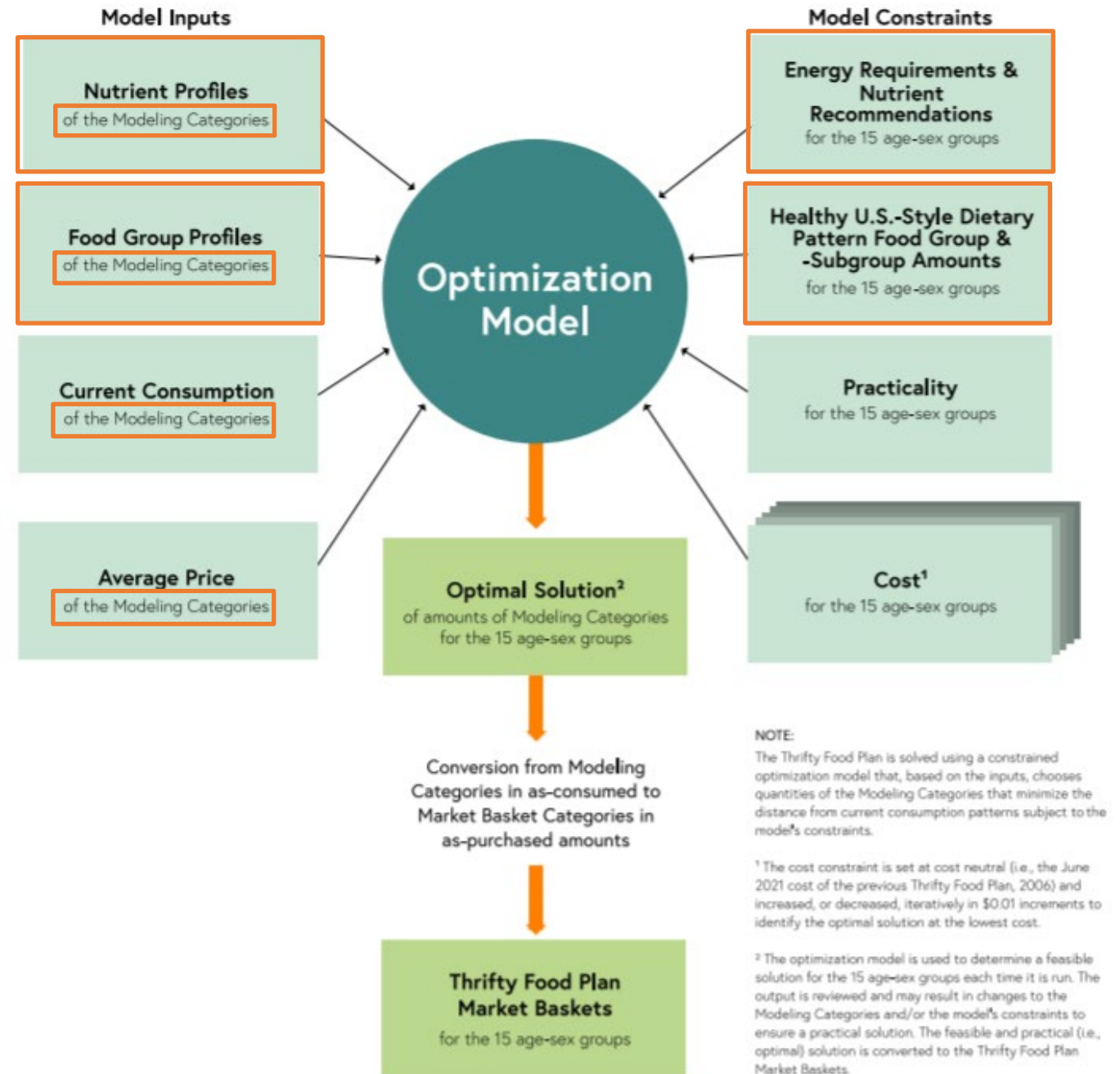
# Food Price Data

- IRI InfoScan store-based scanner data and Purchase to Plate Suite

- National average retail unit prices of foods and beverages reported in WWEIA, NHANES
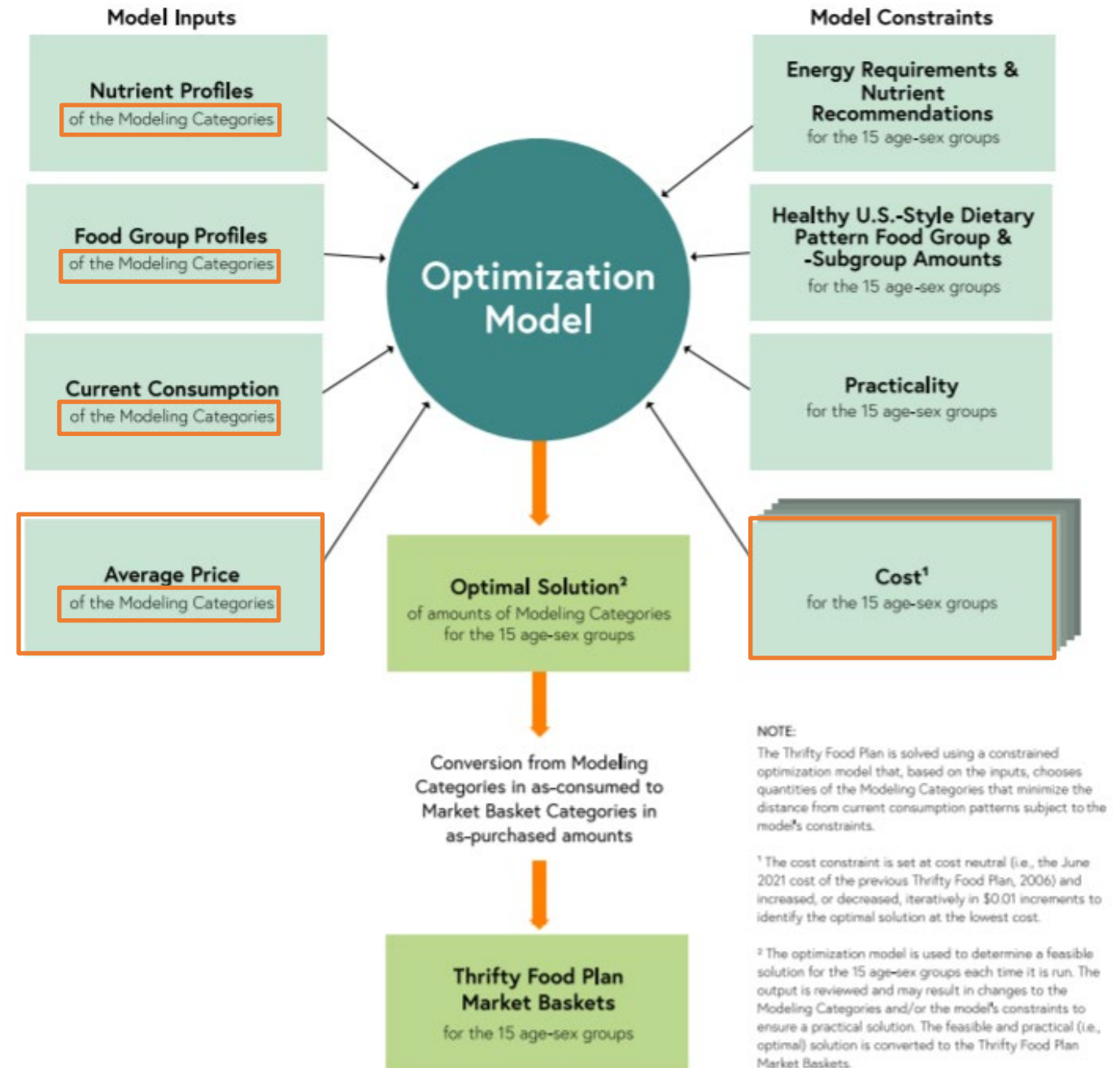
# Food Price Data Opportunities

- Integrate IRI store weights
- Real-time, current prices
- State- and territory-representative prices outside Mainland United States
- Food away from home
- Proprietary data & transparency
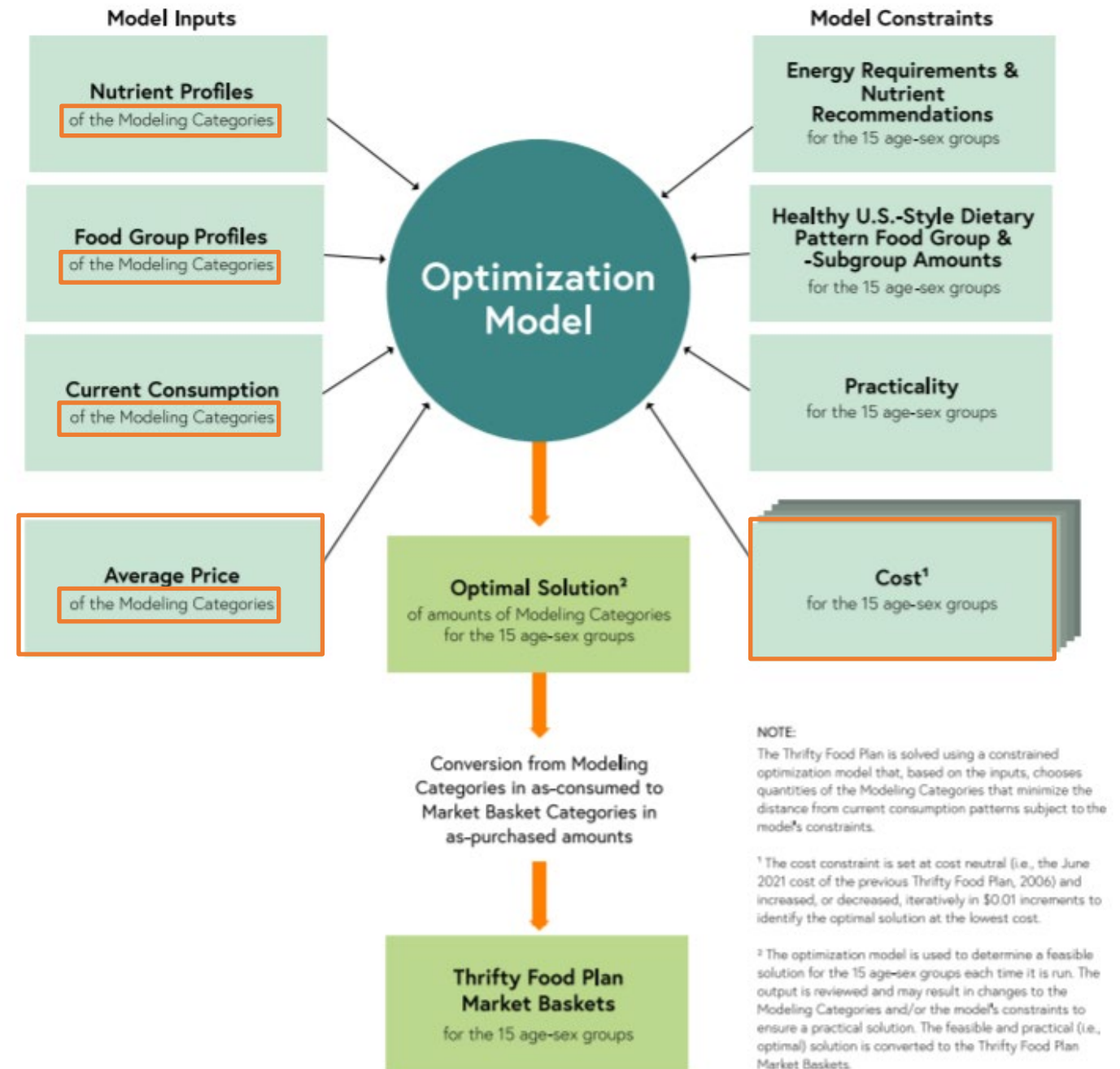
# Thank you!

- Additional information available on:
  - [USDA's actions on nutrition security](#)
  - [The TFP, 2021 report and online supplement](#)
  - [WWEIA NHANES](#)
  - USDA food composition databases, [FNDDS](#) and [FPED](#)
  - [IRI InfoScan store-based scanner data](#)

- Questions? Email kevin.meyersmathieu@usda.gov