

Overview of State Medicaid Efforts to Address Food Insecurity

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Today's Presentation



- Medicaid's Focus on Social Determinants of Health
- Regulatory and Policy Context
- State Medicaid Contracts and Waivers Addressing Food Insecurity
- Q&A Session

About the Center for Health Care Strategies

A nonprofit policy center dedicated to improving the health of low-income Americans



Medicaid's Focus on Social Determinants



Addressing beneficiaries' social service needs is a key Medicaid strategy for:

- » Tackling immediate health-related needs of patients with complex needs
- » Managing care for rising risk individuals
- » Upstream prevention for kids and healthy adults



Value-based payment and care models for complex patients are key program drivers



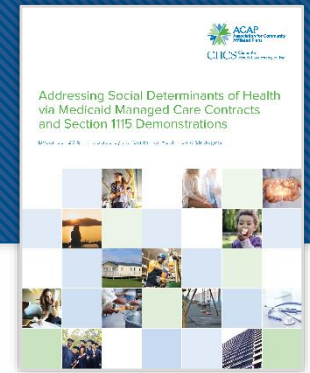
Federal regulations, waivers, and messaging are supporting state innovation and experimentation

Medicaid Regulatory and Policy Context



- **2016 managed care regulations** clarified that managed care organizations (MCOs) can pay for SDOH-related activities, including:
 - » Community care coordination
 - » Value-added services
 - » In-lieu-of services
- **1115 Waivers** enable Medicaid to “waive” specific federal program rules
- **State Medicaid levers** can foster partnerships among providers, plans, and community-based organizations (CBOs), including:
 - » MCO contracts and rate setting
 - » Delivery system program requirements
 - » Financial incentives/value-based payment
 - » Quality measurement

MCO Contracts and Waivers: Trends in Addressing Food Insecurity



Eleven states specifically reference food in their MCO contracts/1115 waivers: CA, FL, KA, MI, NC, NE, NY, OR, RI, TN, TX



Food insecurity is typically part of a bundle of social needs; often includes a focus on wellness



MCO contract requirements and delivery system demonstrations seek to establish screening and referral mechanisms to community-based resources, including nutrition programs/benefit application assistance.

Using waivers to address food insecurity

- States can leverage waivers to pilot new benefits
- NC used its 1115 waiver to:
 - » Create pilot programs called “Opportunities for Health,” which provide supports related to housing, transportation, food and interpersonal violence
 - » Food-related services include assistance with locating food banks; applications to SNAP/WIC; support from other community-based food programs
- Home and community based service waivers often provide access to nutrition for low-income older adults receiving long-term services and supports

Using health plans to address food insecurity

- Many states require social determinants screening
- Plans can reimburse organizations for health-related food services as a “value added service
- Plans often use case management programs to link members to organizations providing food security resources
- Food insecurity programs:
 - » FL requires plans to address food insecurity and nutrition via offer “Healthy Start” and “Mom Care” programs
 - » NE requires the plans to ensure coordination between its providers and Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

Using delivery and payment reform requirements to address food insecurity

- MA, OH, and PA have incorporated SDOH screening requirements into patient centered medical homes and accountable care organization program requirements

Medicaid COVID-19 Responses to Food Insecurity

- COVID-19's economic impacts have increased food insecurity while limiting ability of non-profits to respond
- Many states expanded meal delivery to home and community based services recipients
- Medicaid managed care plans across the country have donated funds to local food banks
- One state provided emergency funding (state only) to food banks, as well as its non emergency medical transportation vendor to deliver food to beneficiaries

What Does the Future Hold?



Continued innovation to test the right mix of incentives, funding, requirements, technical support, and flexibility needed



Evolving roles of MCOs and providers



More targeted approaches to high risk populations in light of state budget cuts

Question & Answer





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