



OHIO

**ASSOCIATION OF
FOODBANKS**

Hunger and Health Newsletter
January 2024

HUNGER AND HEALTH NEWSLETTER

OAF UPDATES

Foodbank Champions Team January Meeting Recap

Thank you to all of the representatives that attended the second Foodbank Champions Team Meeting on Thursday, January 11th, from 11:30 am - 1 pm. During this meeting, Foodbank Champions gained an understanding of the CMS Health Related Social Needs coverage framework, and the implications for service delivery, identified and discussed potential and existing “Food is Medicine” service delivery models, and began the process of identifying key external stakeholders to engage.

The materials from the January Foodbank Champions Team meeting can be found here:

[Meeting Slide-deck](#), [Meeting Recording](#)

Key Informant Interviews:

The Transform Health team has begun conducting the Key Informant Interviews of all of the 12 Ohio Foodbanks. These interviews will be a crucial part of the mapping of current service delivery models of Food is Medicine programming at member Foodbanks, and help to propose a model that could be optimal in receiving reimbursement through HRSN Medicaid Waivers.

February Foodbank Champions Team Meeting

Date: February 15th, 2024

Time: 11 am - 2 pm

Location: TBD - In Person

We look forward to gathering with all of the Foodbank Champions Team Representatives, in person, for the February meeting. Please stay tuned for announcements on the location of this meeting.

Transform Health Contact Information:

Lisa Chan-Sawin, CEO and Founder

lisa@transformhmc.com

Sarabeth Zemel, Manager, Policy

sarabeth@transformhmc.com

Mary Hunt Moore, Senior Policy Analyst

mary@transformhmc.com

1115 Waiver Amendment for New York State Medicaid Program

On January 9th, 2024, The Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services approved the 1115 Waiver Amendment for HRSN in the state of New York. The approval of waivers and programs in states around the country, help to drive and develop practical and sustainable service delivery models than we in Ohio can begin to introduce to our Department of Medicaid. We can use the models of others, such as the state of New York, to assist in proposing a service delivery model that not only works for Ohio’s legislature, but the health of our neighbors around the state.

Learn more about New York's new 1115 Medicaid waiver by visiting: www.ropesgray.com

FEDERAL AND STATE UPDATES

FEDERAL

STATE

Introduction of the Medically Tailored Home-Delivery Meal Demonstration Pilot Act

USDA Partners with the State of Ohio to Award \$12.4 Million to Strengthen Food Supply Chain Infrastructure

On Thursday, December 14th, 2023 Representatives James P. McGovern (D-MA), Nicole Malliotakis (R-NY), Chellie Pingree (D-ME), Dwight Evans (D-PA) and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) introduced bipartisan legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives to establish a nationwide pilot program through Medicare to provide senior with diet-impacted diseases medically tailored meals in the comfort of their own home, building a more resilient and cost-effective health care system.

On January 2nd, 2024, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS) announced its cooperative agreement with the State of Ohio under the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program (RFSI). Through this agreement, the USDA and the State of Ohio are working together to provide \$12.4 million through the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program to strengthen local and regional food systems.

The passage of this bill would establish a 4-year nationwide demonstration through Medicare to provide medically tailored meals to eligible Medicare beneficiaries with diet related diseases, such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, or COPD at 20 hospital systems. Selected hospitals must partner with a community based organization that supplies medically tailored meals to provide two home delivered meals per day to eligible seniors to a minimum of a 12 week time period.

This program will allow for the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service to pursue cooperative agreements with state agencies, commissions, or agriculture departments such as food processing, or distribution activities. This partnership is “allowing critical funding to reach areas of the supply chain that needed it most”, and will “create new opportunities for the region’s small and midsize producers to thrive, expand access to nutritious food options, and increase supply chain resiliency. The State of Ohio claims that their priorities are “informed by stakeholder engagement and outreach to underserved producers” to better meet their needs. This program will not only help to invest in local producers and Ohio’s food systems, but also create more economic opportunities for communities and farmers.

To read the full text of the bill: click [here](#).



NEWS, RESOURCES, AND RESEARCH

The U.S. Playbook to Address Social Determinants of Health

Published by the Domestic Policy Council, Office of Science and Technology Policy
November 2023

“The Biden Harris Administration is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all Americans. **“Our vision is to enable every American to lead a full and healthy life within their community.”** The frequent organizational separation of health care from services such as housing or nutrition programs complicated efforts to address interconnected health needs. This playbook lays out an initial set of structural actions federal agencies are undertaking to break down these silos and to support equitable health outcomes by improving the social circumstances of individuals and communities. It sets the stage for agencies and organizations to re-imagine new policies and actions around social drivers of health, both inside and outside of government. These initial efforts are focused on individual and community centered interventions with actions grouped into three pillars: “

Pillar 1: Expand Data Gathering and Sharing

- Describes how to advance data collection and interoperability among healthcare, public health, social care services, and other data systems to better address SDOH with federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial support

Pillar 2: Support Flexible Funding to Address Social Needs

- Describes how to identify how flexible funds could align investments across sectors to finance community infrastructure, offer grants, and encourage the use of resources to improve health outcomes

Pillar 3: Support Backbone Organizations

- How to support the development of CBOs to link healthcare systems to community service organizations.

Other Guides to Covering Health Related Social Needs in the United States

Coverage of Health Related Social Needs

Services in Medicaid and CHIP - provides

guidance for more states to structure programs that address housing and nutritional insecurity for enrollees in high need populations.

Call to Action: Addressing Health Related Social Needs in Communities Across the Nation, U.S.

Department of Health and Human Services - encourages cross sector partnerships among those working in health care, social services, public and environmental health, and government to create a stronger and more integrated health care to address unmet health related social needs.

White House Blueprint for Addressing the Maternal Health Crisis - government approach to combatting maternal mortality and morbidity, using methods to treat the social drivers of health.

Key Federal Actions to Date

There have been many crucial federal actions President Biden has taken to address the social drivers of health, and have influenced the content of this playbook.

- [Executive Order 13985, Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government \(Feb 2023\)](#)
 - [Executive Order 14091, Further Advancing... \(Feb 2023\)](#)
- [Executive Order 14096, Revitalizing Our Nations Commitment to Environmental Justice for All \(April 2023\)](#)

WHATS NEXT?

Medicaid Food Security Partners Quarterly Network Meeting - January 31st, 2024

Join the Medicaid Food Security Network for their first Quarterly Network Meeting, at 1 pm EST, Wednesday, January 31st, 2024.

February Foodbank Champions Team Meeting - February 15th, 2024

All members of the Foodbank Champions Team mark your calendars for 11 am - 2 pm on Thursday, February 15th, 2024, for an in-person meeting of the Foodbank Champions Team.

*Reminder - this committee is attempting to finalize a communication platform for all members of the Foodbank Champions Team. All Champions should have received an invitation to join the champions team Slack Channel. Please reach out to Eliza Richardson (erichardson@ohiofoodbanks.org) if you are still having trouble accessing the channel.

GusNIP Produce Prescription Program - Application Deadline February 25th, 2024

This grant is aimed for non-profits or government organizations to administer programs that improve dietary health and help foster understanding to improve the health and nutrition status of participating households prescribed fresh fruits and vegetables.

OAF HEALTH INITIATIVES STAFF



Zach Reat
Director of Health Initiatives

zach@ohiofoodbanks.org

Office: 614-221-4336 ext. 356
Mobile: 614-301-2040



Grace Wagner
Health Insurance Program Manager

gwagner@ohiofoodbanks.org

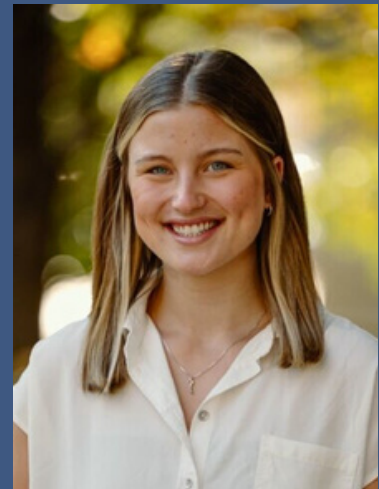
Office: 614-221-4336 ext. 227
Mobile: 614-769-3825



Patrick Hunter
Health Insurance Program Manager

phunter@ohiofoodbanks.org

Office: ~~614-221-4336~~
Mobile: ~~380-219-0950~~



Eliza Richardson
Health and Hunger AmeriCorps VISTA

erichardson@ohiofoodbanks.org

Mobile: (614)507-1353