

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

Many factors beyond clinical care influence a person's health, including their social, economic, and environmental circumstances. More specifically, these factors are referred to as social determinants of health (SDOH) and can include housing instability, food insecurity, lack of access to transportation, and interpersonal violence. States target SDOH in various ways, such as investing in population health to reduce health disparities in vulnerable communities and encouraging health care providers to focus on disease prevention and community health.

As anchors within their communities, essential hospitals understand clinical and nonclinical influences on patients and their community. These relationships uniquely position essential hospitals to expand care beyond their walls to influence upstream factors that affect health. Essential hospitals and their patients benefit when states create and advance incentives for population health initiatives.

State Approaches to Population Health

Increasingly, states are investing in population health to reduce avoidable costs and improve outcomes for people with medical and social needs. Such investments are aided by flexibility and authority under the Medicaid program that allow targeted use of public funding.

States also can leverage other federal sources to supplement funding, such as the Community Development Block Grant for disaster recovery, federal low-income housing tax credits, the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, and the Veterans Administration.

- SECTION 1115 DEMONSTRATION WAIVERS
- SECTION 1915(C) HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES WAIVERS
- STATE PLAN AMENDMENTS
- ACCOUNTABLE CARE ORGANIZATIONS
- MANAGED CARE CONTRACTS
- STATE INNOVATION MODEL GRANTS
- DELIVERY SYSTEM REFORM INCENTIVE PAYMENT INITIATIVES
- SPECIAL INITIATIVES IN STATE LEGISLATION

Innovative State Initiatives to Fund Population Health

Minnesota's legislature directed the state to build a patient characteristics database, identify those with social risk factors, and develop new provider payment methodology under Medicaid fee-for-service and managed care to account for the complex care these vulnerable patients generally need.



North Carolina's Section 1115 waiver enables the state to partner with managed care organizations (MCOs) and create specialized plans for high-need enrollees in a five-year pilot of evidence-based interventions to meet various social needs. MCOs and local organizations will offer tailored support through qualified provider networks. The state may use up to



\$650 million to support these efforts. The state intends to increasingly link Medicaid payments for MCOs’ pilot services to outcomes.

Oregon addresses food insecurity through an accountable health model (under Section 1115 waiver authority)



and flexible global payments for coordinated care organizations (CCOs). The state and a local food bank developed a screening tool linked to state quality measures for CCOs, which are linked to Medicaid payments. CCOs must screen patients for food insecurity and refer them to appropriate resources.

See additional state examples on the State Action: Social Determinants of Health page on our website: <https://essentialhospitals.org/state-social-determinants/>

States Engaging in Medicaid Activities to Tackle Social Determinants of Health

As of April 2019

Social Determinants of Health	States
Education	AZ, IA, KS, MA, MN, NY, WA
Employment and Income	KS, MI, MN, TN, WA, WI, WV
Family and Social Supports	CA, KS, MI, MN, NC, NH, NM, NY, OR, RI, TX, WA
Food Insecurity	CA, FL, KS, MI, NC, NE, NY, OR, RI, TN, TX
Health Behaviors	AZ, CA, CO, DC, DE, FL, IA, IN, KY, MA, MI, MN, MO, NC, NH, NM, NY, OH, OR, PA, RI, SC, TN, TX, VA, WA, WI, WV
Health Literacy	CA, KS, MI, NH, NM, NY, OR, RI, TX, WA
Housing Instability	AZ, CA, DE, HI, KS, LA, MA, MD, MN, NC, NM, NY, PA, RI, TN, TX, VA, WA
Interpersonal Violence	AZ, KS, MA, NC, RI, VA, WI
Legal Needs	AZ, NC, NH, WA
Transportation	KS, MI, NC
Utility Needs	LA

Sources: Addressing Social Determinants of Health via Medicaid Managed Care Contracts and Section 1115 Demonstrations. Center for Health Care Strategies. December 2018; Addressing Social Factors That Affect Health: Emerging Trends and Leading Edge Practices in Medicaid. State Health and Value Strategies. April 2019.