

Federal Health Funding for Social Services: Current and Future Prospects



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About CODE and Its Programs

Our mission: Putting open data into action for public good

ROUNDTABLES



Interactive convenings for data providers and data users.

RESOURCES



Action-oriented resources to help government, industry, and the public utilize data.

RESEARCH



Innovative research on the applications and management of publicly available data.

Social Factors in Health and Healthcare: SDOH

Social determinants of health (SDOH) are the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks.

Social Factors in Health and Healthcare: HRSNs

Health-Related Social Needs (HRSNs) are social and economic needs impacting individuals' "ability to maintain their health and well-being." Describes factors on an individual more than a community level.

The Social Determinants of Health

Economic Stability	Neighborhood and Physical Environment	Education	Food	Community and Social Context	Health Care System
Employment	Housing	Literacy	Hunger	Social integration	Health coverage
Income	Transportation	Language	Access to healthy options	Support systems	Provider availability
Expenses	Safety	Early childhood education		Community engagement	Provider linguistic and cultural competency
Debt	Parks	Vocational training		Discrimination	Quality of care
Medical bills	Playgrounds	Higher education			
Support	Walkability				
	Zip code / geography				

Health Outcomes

Mortality, Morbidity, Life Expectancy, Health Care Expenditures, Health Status, Functional Limitations

Source: <https://www.kff.org/racial-equity-and-health-policy/issue-brief/beyond-health-care-the-role-of-social-determinants-in-promoting-health-and-health-equity/>

Roundtable on Funding Strategies for Health-Related Social Needs

- Held May 2024
- More than 40 experts: Health providers and plans, social service agencies, state health departments
- CODE partnership with ZeOmega, population health management company

WHITE PAPER

Improving Health by Addressing Social Needs: A Sustainable Path Forward

zeomega



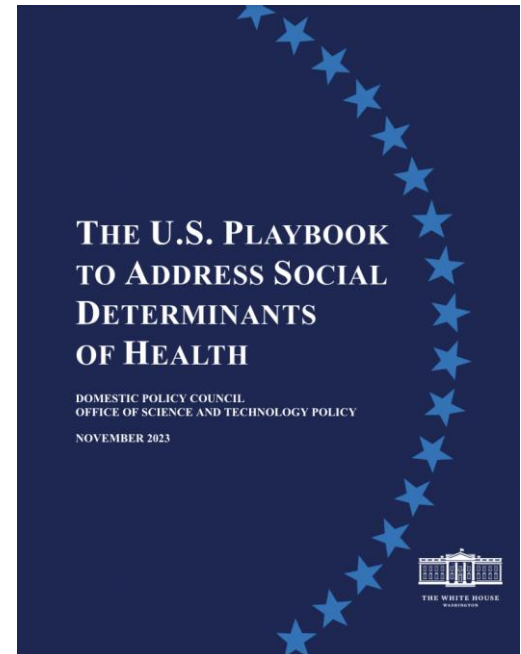
CODE



<https://www.zeomega.com/white-papers/improving-health-by-addressing-social-needs>

The US Playbook to Address SDOH

- Released in November 2023
- **Vision: to enable every American to lead a full and healthy life within their community**
- 3 Pillars:
 - Expand *Data Gathering and Sharing*
 - Support *Flexible Funding* to Address Social Needs
 - Support *Backbone Organizations*
- Available at: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/SDOH-Playbook-3.pdf>



The US Playbook to Address SDOH

- Expand *Data Gathering and Sharing* to advance collection and interoperability among health care, public health, social care services, and other data systems to address SDOH across federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial levels.
- Support *Flexible Funding* to address social needs and align investments across sectors to finance community infrastructure, offer grants for communities to address HRSNs, and encourage coordinating resources to improve health outcomes
- Support *Backbone Organizations* and other infrastructure to link health care systems to community-based organizations

The Benefits of Intervention

- Stable housing reduces emergency room visits and hospitalizations.
- Improved food security leads to reduced healthcare costs, hospitalization, and ER visits.
- Early childhood education promotes healthy behaviors and greater income and stability later in life.
- Reducing pollution and improving environmental justice correlated with improvements to respiratory illnesses, and also improved mental health.
- Access to transportation improves medical options and treatment.

State Example: Michigan

- Michigan State Department of Health and Human Services: Social Determinants of Health Hubs
- Pilot program launched in 2024
- Tailored to individual community needs
- Designed to “bring community members, health care professionals, social service providers, government partners, and business leaders together to address the SDOH and improve health equity”

Funding for Social Services: 1115 Demonstration Waivers

- Grounded in Section 1115 of the Social Security Act
- 1115 Waivers support “experimental, pilot, or demonstration projects” that give states flexibility to improve their Medicaid programs through state-specific approaches
- CMS has approved a number of pilot projects focused on addressing HRSNs with flexible funding
- Examples include programs to address food and housing insecurity
- Medicaid and CHIP HRSN Framework describes potential uses of 1115 waivers

1115 Waivers: New York State Experience

- Developing regional Social Care Networks (SCNs)
- “Increase and strengthen the delivery of social care services to Medicaid members.”
- Work with Community Based Organizations
- Build reliable networks of Social Service Providers for screening and delivery of care
- Leverage shared data and technology

Other Federal Guidance

- ILOS: CMS January 2023 guidance on how state Medicaid plans can use “in lieu of service and settings” authority to address HRSNs.
- ACORN: Veterans Health Administration screens veterans for HRSNs through the Assessing Circumstances and Offering Resources for Needs program, providing clinical teams with real-time information
- Recent updates to Medicare Physician Fee Schedule to support addressing HRSNs
- IRS updates to Schedule H clarify that hospitals can spend money on food security, nutrition, and other HRSNs as community-building activities

Opportunities for State Psychological Associations

- Work with community based organizations (CBOs) and community health workers (CHWs) to address HRSNs as part of patient care
- Explore state-level opportunities to implement 1115 Waivers and other innovative funding vehicles
- Explore models for integrating HRSNs in clinical care to develop similar models for mental health care
- Collect and analyze data on the benefits of addressing HRSNs in improved mental health

The Evolving Data Framework for Addressing HRSNs

- Fast Health Interoperability Resource (FHIR) Specification – standard for electronic health information exchange
- Development of Health Information Exchanges (HIEs) to support CBOs
- Gravity Project, working with the Civitas Networks for Health
- Health Level 7 International
- Behavioral Health Information Technology Initiative, launched by SAMHSA in 2024