



ACHP Members' Commitment to Food Security

ACHP Members Pledge

Building upon evidence-based practices on nutrition insecurity, ACHP member companies are testing programs and partnerships to identify ways to sustainably address food-related disparities such as hunger, nutrition insecurity and diet-based chronic illness.

Leading by Example

Serving over 22 million consumers across 36 states, ACHP member companies have leveraged medically tailored meals, food pharmacies and digital applications to enhance food and nutrition screening. These efforts are initial steps to bridge the gap between health care and food systems in a practical, scalable, sustainable and affordable manner.

Deeply committed to their communities, ACHP member companies have forged strong relationships with trusted partners to enhance access to food and community services. For example, one member company contracted with a community-based organization to improve enrollment into SNAP for dual eligible individuals. Another member company has worked to close the loop between screening and linkages to services by fortifying relationships between its hospital delivery system and health plan. These strategies enhanced access to food and improved care coordination and health outcomes for individuals facing food insecurity and nutrition-impacted chronic illness.

Recognizing that food-related disparities do not exist in a vacuum, ACHP calls for a private and public stakeholder response. Our recommendations include a variety of strategies that our member companies have tested, leveraging their integrated, community-based models. These initial efforts harmonize partners across the health care continuum. We further call for federal action to address food and nutrition insecurity, including efforts to align and streamline eligibility and application processes for public programs.

Recommendations

Improve Data Collection Standards for Food Security: *Addressing food security from a holistic lens will require data collection on outcomes of various food-based programs.*

1. Establish metrics for data collection of post-screening interventions and collaborate with providers, plans and community partners to ensure consistency in screening to determine the efficacy of nutrition and food security solutions.
2. Guide providers and health plans to screen for nutrition and food insecurity to identify at-risk individuals and partner with government and community organizations to facilitate services and interventions as needed.
3. Incentivize grant recipients of nutrition security funding awards to share outcomes and data related to their initiatives.

Encourage Public Program Alignment: *To create sustainable reform for food security, public programs should be better aligned to exchange information and follow best practices.*

1. Utilize stakeholder input to develop a common application that would assess universal eligibility for public programs.
2. Create pathways for enhanced collaboration and interoperable data exchange between public programs to enhance enrollment in public programs to reduce racial, ethnic and economic disparities.
3. Invest in consumer outreach through trusted partnerships with community-based organizations and nonprofits to enroll individuals who qualify for assistance into appropriate public programs.

Enhance Access to Food: *To address the fundamental issue of food scarcity, private and public partnerships must be strengthened to improve access for food-insecure communities.*

1. Strengthen partnerships with private sector organizations to enhance meal distribution efforts via unique transportation solutions in regions lacking adequate access to public or private transportation.
2. Collaborate with private stakeholders to provide fresh and nutritious food in remote or urban communities via mobile markets and other programs.
3. Build political will among local, state and federal stakeholders to increase funding for food and nutrition insecurity interventions.

Create Partnerships with Community-Based Organizations: *Health plans can collaborate and expand food security interventions by establishing partnerships with community-based organizations to deploy targeted interventions tailored to unique population needs.*

1. Design symbiotic infrastructure by collaborating with health systems, health plans and community partners to support and sustain food distribution initiatives.
2. Pursue creative funding mechanisms and investment in community access infrastructure to advance health equity specifically in communities of color and other at-risk groups.
3. Collaborate with vendors and subcontractors to invest on behalf of communities to sustain and support food and nutrition security interventions.

Call to Action – Local, State and Federal Stakeholder Engagement: *Food and nutrition security must be addressed from a whole-of-government approach to understand the roots, barriers and strategies to address disparities and better enable community-based organizations, health plans and providers to deploy appropriate interventions.*

1. Develop the tools and infrastructure for a common application for eligibility into public assistance programs by leveraging interagency intelligence.
2. Incentivize the deployment of food and nutrition insecurity interventions such as food pharmacies, medical nutrition counseling and medically tailored meals via Medicare and Medicaid coverage across all states.
3. Strengthen the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program through expanded eligibility criteria and investments.