

Scaling food as medicine: California's efforts to fund medically supportive food and nutrition services through health insurance

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Ideas + Action
for a Better City

Our Goal

Public and private health insurers pay for medically supportive food interventions as a covered medical benefit.



**MEDICALLY SUPPORTIVE FOOD AND
NUTRITION**

Defining Medically Supportive Food and Nutrition

1. Direct medically-supportive food assistance: Medically tailored meals, Medically tailored groceries, Healthy meals, Healthy groceries (eg: food pharmacy, grocery boxes), Food prescriptions (eg: produce prescriptions, healthy food vouchers)
2. Nutrition, cooking, and/or behavioral coaching and education (when paired with one of the forms of direct medically-supportive food assistance above)
3. Linkages to community-based food services
4. Transportation for accessing healthy food

Target Populations

Individuals, aged one to 100+ years, who meet at least one of the following health needs-based criterion:

- Metabolic conditions: Prediabetes, diabetes, obesity
- Cardiovascular conditions: Hypertension, Coronary Artery Disease, Heart Failure
- Renal conditions: Chronic Kidney Disease (III-V)
- Cancer
- High risk pregnancy and limited postpartum period
- Pediatric conditions: preterm birth, iron deficiency anemia, failure to thrive
- High utilizers: frequent hospitalization, at high risk of hospitalization or nursing facility placement, and/or with intensive care coordination needs.

The Opportunity in California

Administrative Pathway

Section 1115 demonstrations and waiver authorities in section 1915 of the Social Security Act are vehicles states can use to test new or existing ways to deliver and pay for health care services in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

CalAIM- California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal

Legislative Pathway

AB 368 (Bonta) Medically Supportive Food

- **2-year pilot of medically supportive food interventions in 3 counties**

Administrative Precedent



newfoodeconomy.org

Massachusetts bill would give fresh meals to Medicaid recipients

October 25th, 2019 by Jessica Fu

WHAT DOES SUCCESS LOOK LIKE?

