

# Medically-Supportive Food and Nutrition: California's Opportunity to Expand Access to Food Supports through Medi-Cal



Ideas + Action  
for a Better City

# Who We Are



**Food as Medicine  
Collaborative**



CALIFORNIA  
**FOOD IS MEDICINE™**  
COALITION



**Nourish  
California**



*CENTER for HEALTH LAW  
and POLICY INNOVATION*  
HARVARD LAW SCHOOL



# **Our Goal**

**Public and private health insurers pay for medically-supportive food and nutrition interventions as covered medical benefits.**



**MEDICALLY-SUPPORTIVE FOOD AND  
NUTRITION**

# Medically Supportive Food and Nutrition Spectrum

Referrals to Food Resources  
(Pantries, WIC, SNAP)

Produce Prescription  
(F&V Vouchers)

Food Pharmacy

Medically Tailored Meals



Pre-diabetes

High-risk Pregnancy

Uncontrolled Diabetes

Congestive Heart Failure

Low Touch

High Touch

# The Opportunity in California

# Administrative Pathway to Covering Medically-Supportive Food & Nutrition

CalAIM: California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal

In Lieu of Services (ILOS): Flexible wrap-around services provided as a substitute, or to avoid, other Medi-Cal covered services such as ER utilization, a hospital or skilled nursing facility admission, or a discharge delay.

# Precedent

MassHealth Flexible Services: Directed to pilot evidence-based approaches that address a member's health-related social needs with the goal of improving health outcomes and reducing the total cost of health care for the member



Dr. Larissa Estes-White, Executive Director of ALL  
IN Alameda County

# Medically-Supportive Food and Nutrition

*California's Opportunity to Expand Access to Food Supports through Medi-Cal*



Presented by Scott Coffin, Chief Executive Officer

**Alameda Alliance for Health**

Serving residents in Alameda County since 1996

April 26, 2021

## Agenda

- Alameda Alliance's Role in the Health Care System
  
- Medi-Cal & Medically-Supportive Food and Nutrition
  
- Q&A

## Alameda Alliance's Role in the Health Care System

- ❑ Established by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors in 1996 to serve residents in Alameda County's safety net
- ❑ Core functions include administering access to health services and supporting members with transitions of care services
- ❑ Administers payment for inpatient, outpatient, pharmacy, transportation, translation, durable medical equipment, and other supportive services
- ❑ 282,000 people are enrolled with the Alliance (82%)
  - ❑ 276,000 members enrolled in Medi-Cal
  - ❑ 6,000 members enrolled in "GroupCare" – Alameda County In-Home Supports & Services (IHSS) workers
- ❑ 7,000+ providers in our network, including hospitals, primary care physicians, specialists, pharmacies, and other service organizations

## ■ Medi-Cal & Medically-Supportive Food and Nutrition

- ❑ In 2017, started to invest in pilot programs to expand operations into social determinants of health, investments continuing each year
- ❑ Self-funded the Health Home Program and transitioned to the state program in 2019, building primary care network to implement community-based models of care
- ❑ AC3 / Whole Person Care: Alliance administers the case management service bundle for Alameda County
- ❑ ALL IN / Food As Medicine partnership started in 2019, linking primary care to address food insecurities
- ❑ CalAIM begins on January 1, 2022; community listening sessions for enhanced care management & in-lieu of services started in April

# Questions?



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# Implementing Medically Supportive Food and Nutrition

April 26, 2021



**Erin DiBacco**

Director of Strategic Growth and  
Business Development

# Medically Tailored Meals Program – “Flex Services”

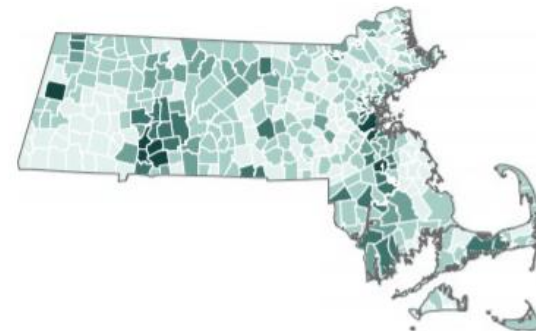
- ❖ Community Servings delivers five days’ worth of medically tailored meals (MTM) in one weekly meal delivery for a duration of six months
- ❖ Weekly meal delivery includes 5 lunches (combination of soups, stews, salads), 5 dinner entrees, milk, fruit, desserts and snacks.
- ❖ Our medically tailored meals provide roughly 2/3 of a client’s daily caloric needs based on a 2,000 calorie per day diet.
- ❖ We offer five core diets (Cardiac, Diabetic, Pediatric, Renal, Wellness) and additional customization and tailoring to create 15 medial diets
- ❖ Client receives one in-depth nutritional intake upon referral and up to three additional nutrition counseling sessions during duration of service





# Community Servings Medicaid ACO Partnerships

8 Medicaid ACO Contracts – Implemented March 2020



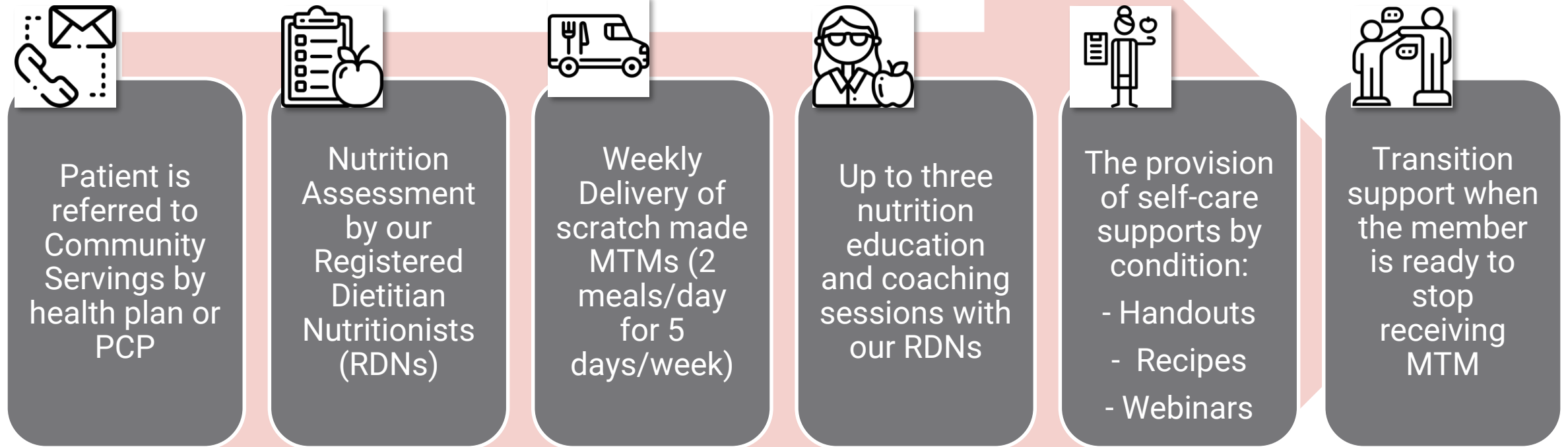
Statewide Delivery



**Four** additional Medicaid ACOs have submitted applications to the state for Flex programs to start Summer 2021.

Community Servings has **seven** other healthcare contracts (Medicare Advantage, Dual Eligible, Home Hospital, Private/Commercial Insurer)

# Our Holistic Approach to Nutrition



## Medicaid ACO referrals

- ❖ Member is screened by ACO referral team (Care Managers, Social Workers, Community Health Workers) using eligibility criteria set by state and ACO
- ❖ Referral is sent electronically either via Community Servings Referral Portal (HIPAA secure extension of internal Salesforce Database) OR referral transaction platform (Aunt Birthday, SMC Partners)



# Flexible Services Program

**Jennifer Obadia, PhD**  
**Director, Health Care Partnerships**  
**April 26, 2021**



**PROJECT  
BREAD**

**WE ENVISION A MASSACHUSETTS  
WHERE HUNGER IS  
PERMANENTLY SOLVED.**



## **ACO PARTNERSHIPS**

- 1. Community Care Cooperative  
launched April 2020**
- 2. Boston Children's Hospital  
ACO launched Jan 2021**
- 3. Boston Medical Center Health  
Net launched April 2021**



## REFERRAL PROCESS

- ACO screens patients for food insecurity & health needs
- Referrals are sent via shared platform *or* secure email
  - Include details about patient demographics and health conditions
- Dependent on ACO services are pre-approved or need to be individually approved



## **SERVICES OFFERED**

- **Initial intake assessment**
- **Supermarket gift cards**
- **Transportation assistance**
- **Kitchen supplies**
- **Cooking classes**
- **Nutrition coaching**
- **Referrals**
- **Follow up calls at 3, 6 & 9 months**

# THANK YOU

Project Bread  
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