



**COLORADO**  
Department of Health Care  
Policy & Financing

303 E 17<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Denver, CO 80203

# Health-Related Social Needs (HRSN) Fact Sheet

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**Social Determinants of Health:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) defines Social Determinants of Health (SDoH) as “the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age, and the wider set of forces and systems shaping the conditions of daily life.”<sup>1</sup>

**Health-Related Social Needs:** The Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) defines Health-Related Social Needs (HRSN) as “an individual’s unmet, adverse social conditions that contribute to poor health outcomes.”<sup>2</sup>

- According to CMS, an individual’s HRSN are “derived from a person-specific assessment of social determinants of health (SDOH)”. Together, these non-medical factors influence health outcomes. Extensive research has indicated that Social Determinants of Health, and associated HRSN, can account for as much as 50% of health outcomes.<sup>3</sup>
- CMS encourages states to “help enrollees stay connected to coverage and access needed health care services by addressing unmet HRSN.”<sup>4</sup>

**Priority Populations** are those commonly at greater risk of experiencing social determinants of health as obstacles to holistic health and wellbeing. Key initiatives focus on providing targeted delivery of services addressing health-related social needs for priority populations.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/socialdeterminants/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.medicaid.gov/sites/default/files/2023-11/hrsn-coverage-table.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://aspe.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/e2b650cd64cf84aae8ff0fae7474af82/SDOH-Evidence-Review.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/section-1115-demonstrations/health-related-social-needs/index.html>

