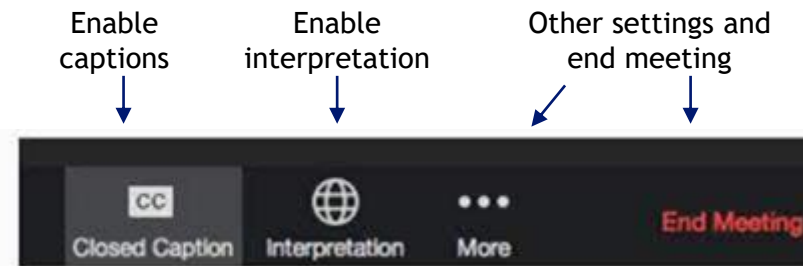


# Expanding Health Related Social Needs Supports in Colorado

March 11, 2023  
2:30 - 4:00 p.m.

# Webinar Logistics

- ✓ We are recording - Avoid sharing protected health information
- ✓ Accessibility: Closed captioning services and American Sign Language (ASL) are available through the toolbar at the bottom of your screen



- ✓ Attendees will be muted during the presentation, and chat disabled
- ✓ Use Q&A function to ask questions which will be answered at the end of the meeting
- ✓ Materials will be distributed after the meeting

# Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Definitions and Context
- HCPF Initiatives and Partnerships
- Feedback and Discussion
- Wrap Up and Next Steps

# Senior Leadership Engagement



**Adela Flores-Brennan**  
She/Her

Medicaid Director  
Health Policy Office



**Chris Underwood**  
He/Him

Chief Administrative  
Officer



**Cristen Bates**  
She/Her

Office Director & Deputy  
Medicaid Director  
  
Office of Medicaid & CHP+  
Behavioral Health Initiatives &  
Coverage

# Health Care Policy & Financing Staff Speakers

**Emily Holcomb**  
They/Them

Waiver Implementation  
Specialist

**Tamara Keeney**  
She/Her

Research & Analysis Manager

**Amy Austin**  
She/Her

Recovery Support Policy  
Administrator

**Jill Schnathorst**  
She/Her

Compliance & Innovation  
Division Director

**Janelle Poullier**  
She/Her

Home and Community Based-  
Services Benefits Specialist

**Matt Bohanan**  
He/Him

Access Unit Manager

# State Agency Partner Speakers

**Joan Brucha**  
She/Her

Healthy Eating Active Living Manager  
Department of Public Health and  
Environment

**Gabby Burke**  
She/Her

Social Health Information  
Exchange Project Lead  
Office of eHealth Innovation

**Zac Schaffner**  
He/him

Community Partnerships & Development  
Manager - Office of Homeless Initiatives  
Department of Local Affairs, Division of  
Housing



# What We Do

The Department of Health Care Policy & Financing administers Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid program), Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) and other health care programs for Coloradans who qualify.





# Our Mission:

Improving health care equity, access and outcomes for the people we serve while saving Coloradans money on health care and driving value for Colorado.





# Purpose for today

- Growing interest in supporting individuals health related social needs through Medicaid services across state agencies, different community organizations, and other states
- HCPF is directed through legislation to investigate how Health First Colorado and CHP+ can support health related social need (HRSN) services
- HCPF seeks input from stakeholders to direct these efforts in Colorado

# HCPF Vision for HRSN

HRSN work at HCPF is tied to **removing barriers that prevent health promotion**

Core components of our HRSN initiatives include investigating **how to best support the HRSN of our members, co-identified with the community**

HCPF will explore **investments in social needs** with the greatest impact on health including, but not limited to, housing, food, transportation and interpersonal violence

## Goals

- Remove barriers to quality care
- Understand and support member HRSN needs
- Community shapes the future of HRSN services provided through Health First Colorado and CHP+
- Be a national leader in Medicaid HRSN policy change

# Section 1: Definitions and Context



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# Social Determinants of Health

Social determinants of health (SDOH) are “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 (CDC)”

- Health disparities may develop when communities experience these conditions differently.
- Socioeconomic factors have been shown to have the greatest impact on health.

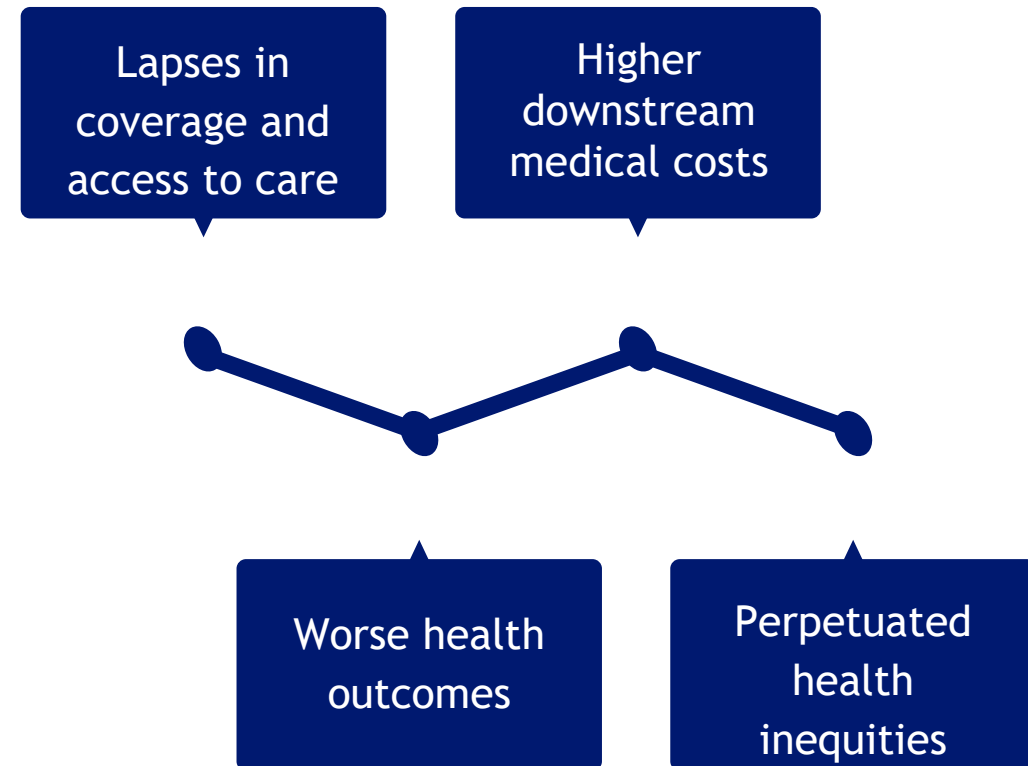
## SDOH Categories

- Neighborhood and Built Environment
- Education
- Economic Stability
- Social and Community Context
- Health and Health Care
- Political and Cultural Context

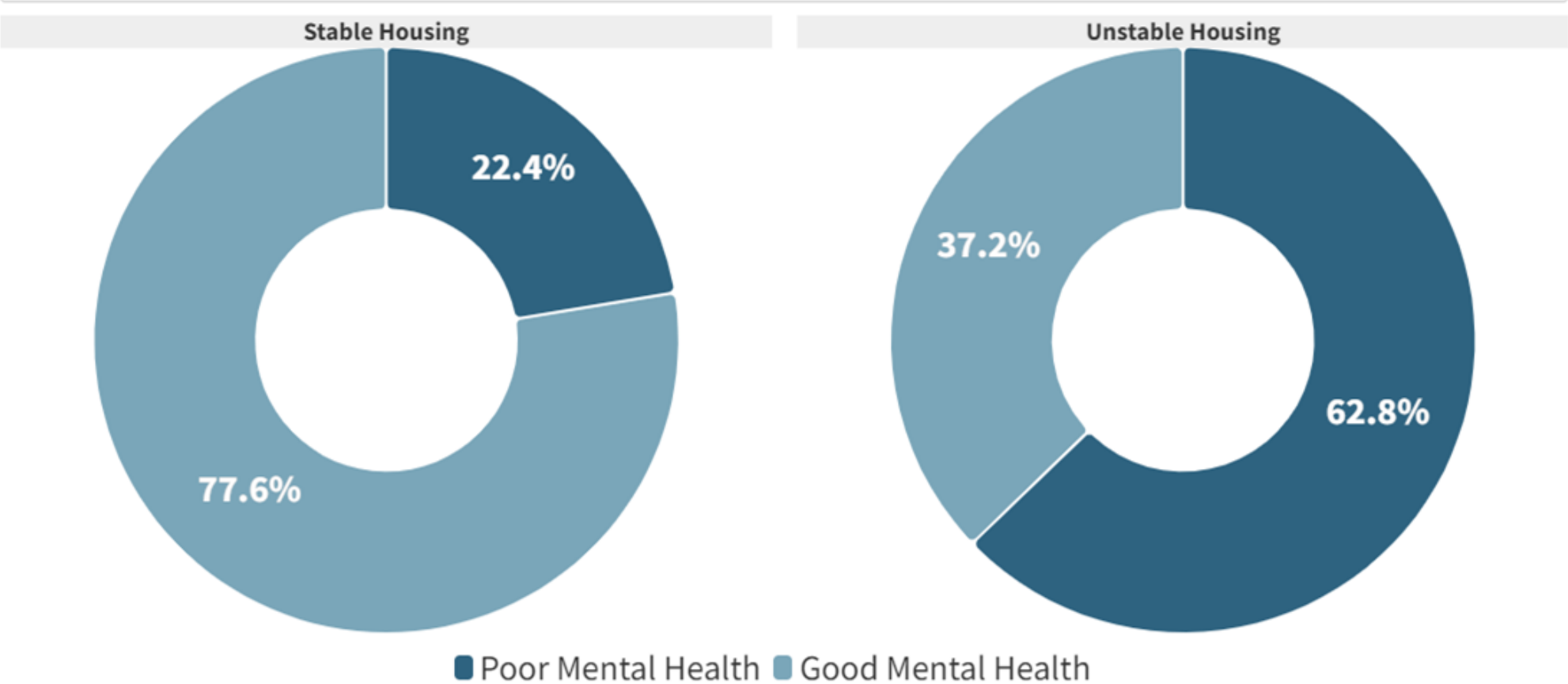
# Health Related Social Needs

- HRSN are an individual's specific needs that impact their health and well-being
- If these needs are unmet, adverse conditions can develop for that individual and lead to poor health outcomes
- Examples of HRSN include:
  - Affordable and safe housing
  - Accessible and nutritious food
  - Reliable and convenient transportation
  - Freedom from violence and discrimination

Unmet HRSN can lead to:



# Example: Housing Instability and Mental Health



Source: Colorado Health Access Survey 2023

# National Context

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has opportunities available under Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) that allow states to cover services and supports that address HRSN.

CMS Core components in addressing members' HRSN:

1. Care Delivery
2. Quality Measurement
3. Coverage of Clinically Appropriate HRSN interventions



# National Context

HRSN can be addressed through multiple authorities, including 1115 demonstration waivers, which:

- Have flexibility to cover certain evidence-based services that address HRSN
- Allow states to take a more nuanced approach to defining target populations for HRSN services than permitted through other CMS authorities
- Require that states agree to additional requirements and specific budget neutrality calculations

# Examples from Approved HRSN 1115 Waivers

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Massachusetts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Continuous enrollment to justice system involved and homeless individuals</li><li>● Medically necessary supports to improve air quality</li><li>● Nutrition related services</li></ul>                                       |
| Oregon        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Continuous enrollment for infants, children, and adults</li><li>● Medically necessary supports to improve air quality</li><li>● Nutrition related services</li><li>● Rental payment for up to six months</li></ul>           |
| Arkansas      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Pre-tenancy and tenancy sustaining services, navigation, transition/moving costs</li><li>● Nutrition supports including counseling and education</li></ul>   |
| New York      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Pre-tenancy and tenancy sustaining services, housing transition navigation</li><li>● Nutrition supports</li><li>● Case management</li><li>● Transportation to covered HRSN services and case management activities</li></ul> |

# Section 2: Initiatives in the State of Colorado



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# Examples of Existing Efforts at HCPF

Efforts related to expanding HRSN services are occurring across the following domains:

- Service expansion feasibility studies
- Housing services and supports
- Nutrition services and supports
- Workforce expansion
- Screening and referral enhancements
- Data and technology systems



# HRSN Feasibility Studies

Through passed and introduced legislation, HCPF is directed to study the feasibility of expanding Health First Colorado and CHP+ HRSN services.

**Signed in to law June 1, 2023: HB23-1300 “Continuous Eligibility Medical Coverage”**

- By January 1, 2026, HCPF shall publish a study that will assess how to improve the HRSN of Health First Colorado and CHP+ members

**Introduced February 20, 2024: HB24-1322 “Medicaid Coverage Housing & Nutrition Services”**

- If this legislation passes:
  - HCPF must report to the Joint Budget Committee whether they will seek federal authority to provide expanded housing and nutrition services by November 10, 2024
  - If HCPF will seek authorization, it must occur by July 1, 2025

# HB 23-1300 Feasibility Study

- By January 1, 2026, HCPF shall publish a study and through this initiative, HCPF seeks to:
  - Understand the health related social needs of members, including housing and nutrition
  - Prioritize HRSN that could be addressed through expanded Medicaid benefits
  - Identify populations who are and could be impacted by expanded services including but not limited to:
    - Perinatal recipients,
    - Foster care youths, those transitioning out of foster care, and former foster care youth,
    - People with substance use disorders,
    - High-risk infants & children, and
    - Needs of low-income individuals impacted by natural disasters
  - Analyze the cost, implementation burden, and evidence base for identified expansions
  - Propose a path for expansion including identifying possible federal authorities
  - Engage with stakeholders, and report to the state legislature and public on study outcomes



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# HB 24-1322 Feasibility Study

Introduced to the 2024 State legislative session on February 20, 2024, the bill directs HCPF to study the feasibility of seeking federal authorization to provide nutrition and housing services that address medicaid members' HRSN

This legislation would condense the timeline on components of HB23-1300, and requires HCPF to:

- Report the study's findings to the joint budget committee on or before November 10, 2024
- Study and report on integrating HRSN services with existing housing-related and nutrition-related services at HCPF
- Seek federal authorization to provide HRSN services no later than July 1, 2025, if seeking federal authorization would be budget neutral

This bill has not yet been passed



# Health Related Social Need: Housing



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# Health Related Social Need: Housing

- HCPF is collaborating with DOLA, CDHS and BHA on statewide housing initiatives & exploring opportunities to expand services
- Health First Colorado covers clinical services, as well as supportive services that support members' housing stability
- Through HB 23-1300, HCPF is exploring how to meet the HRSN of members, including the feasibility of expanding housing supports
- Pending legislation, HB 24-1322 (if passed) would direct HCPF to seek federal authorization to provide HRSN housing and nutrition services, if seeking federal authorization would be budget neutral



# Covered Housing Supports

- Health First Colorado covers services for members in Supportive Housing
- Supportive Housing provides wraparound support & clinical care to assist individuals with disabilities, including BH conditions, to successfully secure and maintain housing

## Covered Services Include:

### Clinical Services

Clinical/Medical services related to SDoH stability, including:

- Assertive Community Treatment (ACT)
- Intensive Outpatient Treatment (IOP)
- Medication management
- Relapse prevention and recovery planning
- Therapy

### Supportive Services

Non-clinical services and supports related to SDoH stability for members with a Behavioral Health diagnosis, including:

- Case Management
- Peer Support
- Skill Building, such as:
  - Vocational skill building
  - Budgeting and financial planning
  - Locating and using community resources

# Covered Housing Supports through HCBS

HCPF offers comprehensive resources for members transitioning out of facilities, including:

- Targeted Case Management - Transition Coordination (TCM-TC)
- Housing Navigation Services
- Connection to housing vouchers
- Transition Setup
- Home Modification/Home Accessibility

Many of these supports will become available to members at-risk of needing nursing facility care during Summer/Fall 2024

# Opportunity to Expand Housing Supports through HRSN 1115

Per [CMS guidance](#), the following housing-related services & supports can be covered by an HRSN 1115 waiver:

- One-time transition and moving costs (e.g., security deposits, application fees)
- First month's rent, as a transitional service
- Utility assistance (up to 6 months)
- Short-term **pre-procedure** and/or **post-hospitalization housing** with room and board, only where integrated, clinically oriented recuperative or rehabilitative services and supports are provided
- Short-term **post-transition housing** - with room and board, where clinically-oriented rehab services and supports may or may not be integrated, following allowable transitions, limited to a clinically appropriate amount of time.

# Building Upon Existing Services

An HRSN 1115 would allow HCPF to expand housing services & eligible populations while continuing current coverage



Covered Supportive Services

HCBS Housing Supports



# Health Related Social Need: Nutrition



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# Health Related Social Need: Nutrition

HCPF initiatives related to Nutrition:

- Home Delivered Meals
  - Home Delivered Meals Post Hospitalization
  - Money Follows the Person
- 
- HCPF is collaborating with CDPHE and CDHS on statewide nutrition initiatives & exploring opportunities to expand services.

# Home Delivered Meals (HDM)

- HDM was originally in the Colorado Choice Transition (CCT) Demonstration Grant and was permanently adopted into the HCBS Adult waiver programs in 2019.
- Intended to support a member during a period of transition
- The member will be able to support their independence with HDM within 365 days.
- Determined that without this service, the member would be at risk of institutionalization.

# HDM Post Hospitalization

- Approved through R-09: OCL Program Enhancements in 2022 and Implemented April 1, 2023
- Expands eligibility to members on an HCBS Adult waiver for 30 days post hospitalization
- Anticipate the reduction of hospital readmissions and improve overall health and welfare of members.

| Service            | Home Delivered Meals   | Home Delivered Meals Post Hospitalization  |
|--------------------|--|--|
| <b>Eligibility</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Transition from an institution or qualifying change in life circumstance</li> <li>● Demonstrated need for service</li> <li>● Enrolled on HCBS Adult Waiver</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Admission to hospital for 1 day</li> <li>● Assessed need for meals after hospitalization</li> <li>● Limited resource to access food</li> <li>● Enrolled on HCBS Adult Waiver</li> </ul> |
| <b>Inclusion</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Nutritional counseling, meal prep and delivery of meals to members</li> <li>● Up to 2 meals per day or 14 a week</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Nutritional counseling, meal prep and delivery of meals to members</li> <li>● Up to 2 meals per day or 14 a week</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Limitations</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Limited to 365 days</li> <li>● Does not include cooking appliances</li> <li>● Not available when a person resides in a provider owned setting</li> </ul>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Limited to 30 days post hospital discharge</li> <li>● Does not include cooking appliances</li> <li>● Not available when a person resides in a provider owned setting</li> </ul>         |

| Service            | Money Follows the Person Food Pantry Items   |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>Eligibility</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Transition from a qualified setting (NF, ICF, or RC)</li> <li>● Demonstrated need for service</li> <li>● Enrolled on MFP with intent to enroll HCBS Adult Waiver</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Inclusion</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Food pantry items - groceries, produce, perishable items, non-perishable items, meal prep items</li> <li>● Food boxes</li> <li>● Community meal programs</li> <li>● \$500 per member for one month following discharge</li> </ul> |
| <b>Limitations</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Does not include HCBS Home Delivered Meals</li> <li>● Not available when a person resides in a provider owned setting</li> <li>● Must include plans for sustainability</li> </ul>   |



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# Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

## Nutrition Security and Access to Healthy Food Programs and Initiatives

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# Nutrition Services Branch: Administers Federal Nutrition Security Programs

**WIC** - The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) provides services to pregnant, breastfeeding and new parents as well as families with children up to five years of age. The five pillars of WIC services include:

- Access to Healthy Foods & Food Benefits
- Nutrition Education
- Breastfeeding Support
- Health Screenings
- Referrals

**WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP)** - provides WIC participants with coupons to redeem at participating farmers' markets, for fresh, nutritious, unprepared foods.



# Nutrition Services Branch: Administers Federal Nutrition Security Programs

**CACFP** - Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) provides reimbursement for healthy meals and snacks served to Colorado's children and adults in care settings, including:

- Child Care Centers and Homes
- Afterschool Programs
- Emergency and Homeless Shelters
- Head Start & Early Head Start
- Outside-school-hours Programs
- Adult Day Care Centers





# Healthy Eating Active Living Unit: Increasing Access to Healthy Food

The 2022-2030 Chronic Disease State Plan identifies a priority to increase access to and consumption of healthier foods and beverages in priority populations.

- Farm to Child - enriches the connection communities have with fresh, healthy food by changing food purchasing and education practices in early care and education settings through local food purchasing, gardening, and food and agriculture education.
- Healthy Food Incentive Fund - state allocated funds that provide healthy eating incentives to Colorado's low-income populations to improve access to fresh Colorado-grown fruits and vegetables. Nourish Colorado currently holds the contract for this work and administers the Double Up Food Bucks and Colorado Nutrition Incentive Program.



# Opportunity to Expand Nutrition Supports through HRSN 1115

Per [CMS guidance](#), these nutrition-related services & supports can be covered by a HRSN 1115 waiver:

- **Case management** services for access to food/nutrition (e.g., Education, benefit application assistance and fees)
- **Nutrition counseling and instruction**, tailored to health risk, conditions, and/or demonstrated outcome improvement (e.g., guidance on selecting healthy food)
- **Home delivered meals or pantry stocking**, tailored to health risk, eligibility criteria, nutrition-sensitive health conditions, and/or for children or pregnant individuals
- **Nutrition prescriptions**, tailored to health risk, nutrition-sensitive health conditions, and/or demonstrated outcome improvement (e.g., food pharmacies)
- **Grocery provisions**, for high-risk individuals to avoid unnecessary acute care admission or institutionalization

# Health Related Social Needs & Technology

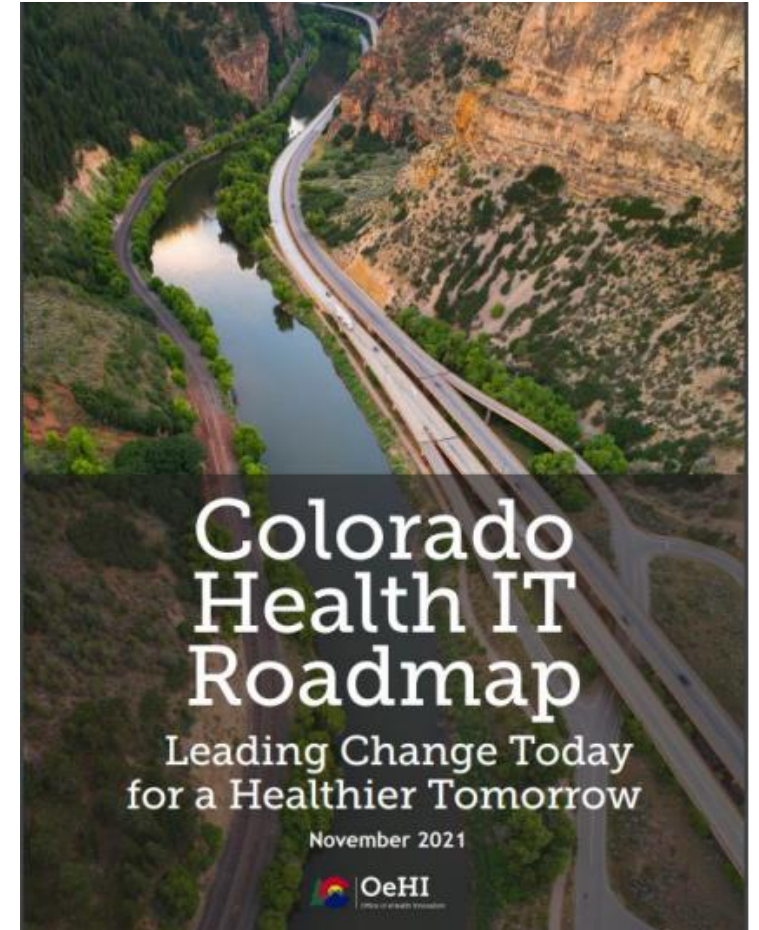


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# HRSN Infrastructure: Social Health Information Exchange (SHIE)

- Led by [Office of eHealth Innovation](#) (OeHI) in partnership with HCPF
- **Goals:**
  - Empower providers to stay in their preferred system
  - Reduce duplication and administrative burden
  - Make it easier to deliver social care







# Other HCPF Efforts Supporting Members' HRSN

HCPF will continue to invest in ongoing and upcoming efforts to expand HRSN services, supports, and infrastructure.

- **Data/Technology**
  - Z-Code Analysis Work
  - ACC Phase 3 Risk Stratification
- **Workforce**
  - Community Health Workers (CHW)
  - Qualified Behavioral Health Assistants
  - Peer Support Professionals
- **Screening and Referral**
  - RAE Screening and Referral Performance Improvement Plan
  - Hospital Transformation Program Metric
  - Phase 3 Health Needs Survey

# Section 3: Hearing from you



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# Understanding Our Stakeholders Interests

- Poll: What do you see as the most pressing health related social needs affecting you or the populations you serve?
- Poll: What populations should HCPF prioritize?
- Discussion: Please use Q&A and raise hand functions



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# Stay Engaged

- Complete post meeting form to subscribe to updates and sign up to participate
- HCPF will compile the information gathered in this meeting and distribute it to attendees
- HCPF will announce opportunities to engage further in this work later this month, including workgroup applications and future stakeholder events through January 2026

# Thank you

- Department of Local Affairs
- Department of Public Health and Environment
- Department of Human Services
- Behavioral Health Administration
- Office of Information Technology
- Human services, housing, and other city and county level offices
- Regional Accountable Entities
- Nutrition and housing providers
- Food and housing advocates
- Members
- Everyone who has and will contribute!

# Contact Info

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