



COVERING NUTRITION SERVICES IN MICHIGAN’S MEDICAID PROGRAM

THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (MDHHS) IS CONTINUING TO PRIORITIZE ADDRESSING HEALTH-RELATED SOCIAL NEEDS IN ITS MEDICAID PROGRAM. **SOON, MEDICAID HEALTH PLANS WILL BE ABLE TO PAY FOR CERTAIN KINDS OF FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES THAT HAVE BEEN SHOWN TO IMPROVE HEALTH.**

WHAT ARE IN LIEU OF SERVICES (ILOS)?

Starting on October 1, 2024, Medicaid Health Plans participating in the Medicaid and Healthy Michigan Plan will be encouraged to offer ILOS **that address Medicaid members’ food and nutrition-related needs**. MDHHS will identify a limited set of food and nutrition-related ILOS – such as medically tailored meals – that the Medicaid Health Plans will be able to offer to address eligible enrollee’s health-related social needs. Enrollees can choose to use these services and importantly, a Medicaid Health Plan cannot restrict enrollees access to a covered health care service based on the enrollee’s use of ILOS.

WHY FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES?

In 2020, nearly two million people in Michigan experienced hunger, and statewide healthcare costs associated with food insecurity totaled approximately \$1.8 billion annually.¹ MDHHS is committed to reducing food insecurity, improving health, and promoting health equity by enhancing access to nutritious food.²

WHAT ROLE DO COMMUNITY PARTNERS PLAY?

Partnership with communities across the state will be critical to ensuring ILOS are successful. Community partners offer valuable insights into local needs and cultural considerations, and capacity to deliver different nutrition-focused services. MDHHS also anticipates that community partners will help identify individuals who may be eligible for these food and nutrition services and help deliver nutrition service(s) directly.

NEXT STEPS

MDHHS looks forward to collaborating with community partners on this important new effort, including deciding which services to approve. **MDHHS will be sharing more information in the coming months about how to get involved.** To receive updates on the ILOS, please subscribe to the listserv by signing up [here](#) or emailing MDHHS-EngageMedicaid@michigan.gov.

ILOS Explained

Definition: ILOS are services the state deems to be medically appropriate and cost effective when provided as substitutes to other services and settings covered in a state’s Medicaid program.

Goal: Promote availability of services to meet enrollee needs, improve health and reduce the future need for medical services.

Services Included: The federal government gives states the flexibility to define a set of services. MDHHS will develop a list of approved **nutrition-focused** services and other guidance developed with input from community partners.

¹ [Food Security Council Final Report, 2022](#)

² Addressing food insecurity is a focus area in the [2022 – 2024 SDOH Strategy](#) and was identified in the [2023 – 2027 Strategic Priorities](#).