



CENTER FOR HEALTH LAW
& POLICY INNOVATION
Harvard Law School

Food is Medicine

The Policy Case for Health Insurance
Coverage of Medically Tailored Food

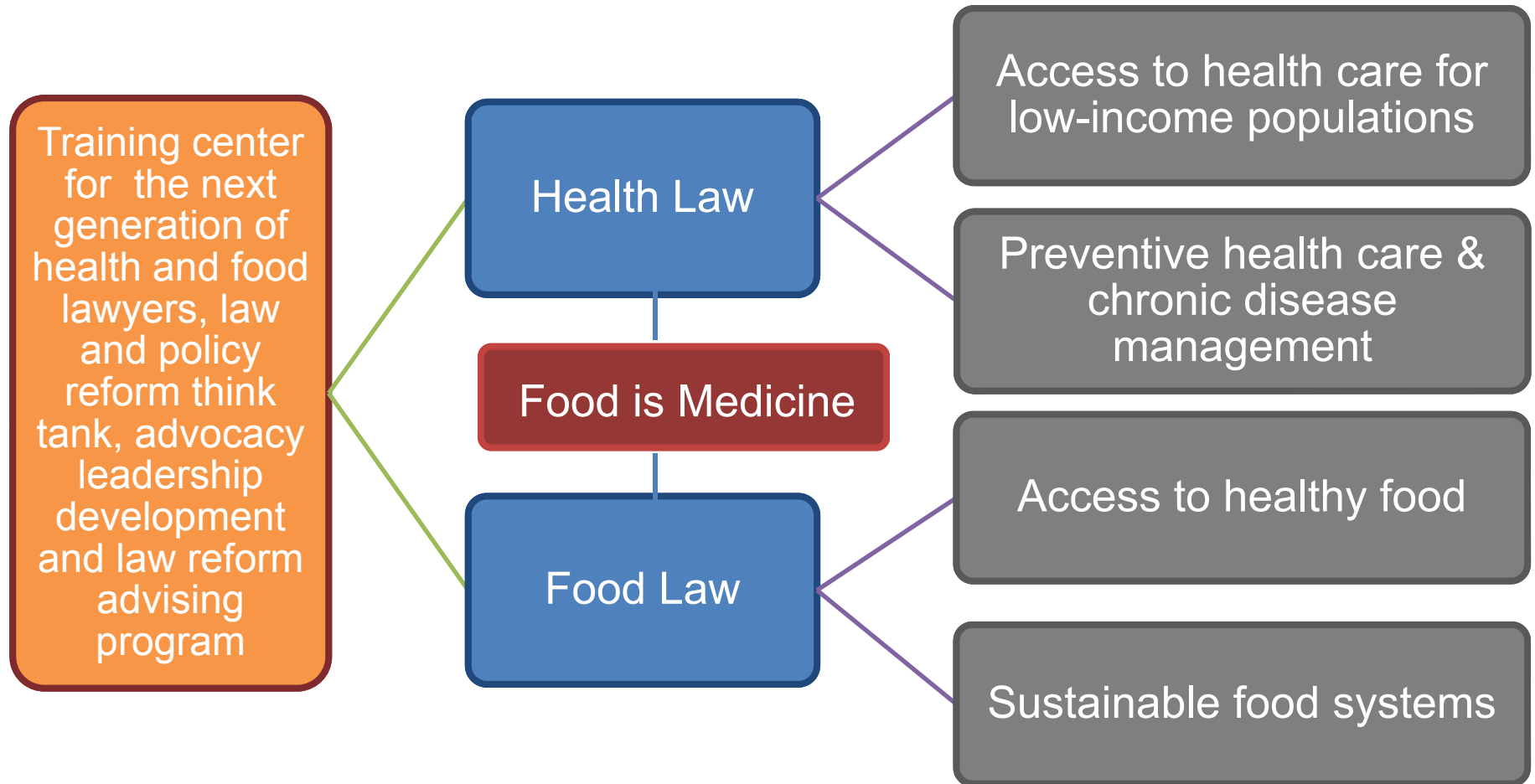
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CENTER FOR HEALTH LAW AND POLICY INNOVATION



THE DEFINITION OF FOOD IS MEDICINE IS EVOLVING

Treatment

Medically-tailored meals for homebound seriously or chronically ill & disabled

Prescribed medically-tailored food for those living with acute or chronic illness

Prevention

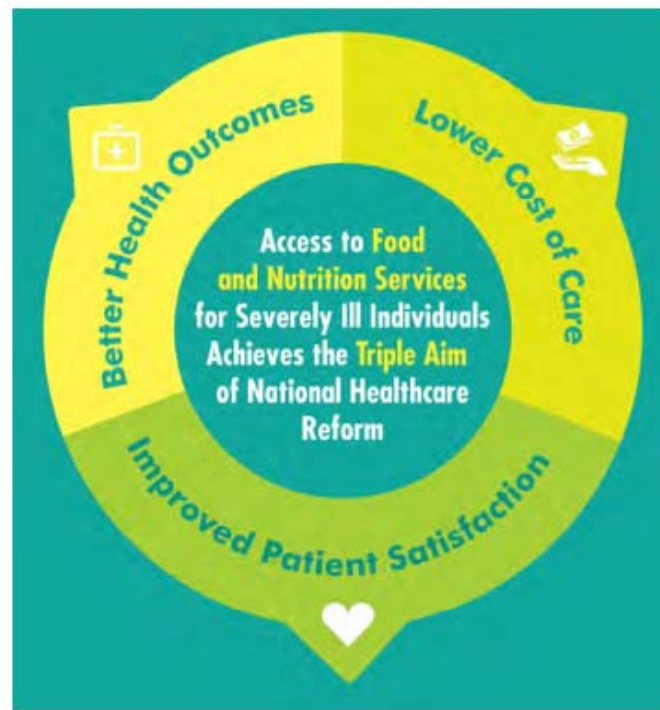
Prescribed medically-tailored food for those at risk for acute or chronic illness

Prescribed healthy food for those who are malnourished, hungry or food insecure

MEDICALLY TAILORED FOOD MEETS HEALTH INSURANCE GOALS

Medically Tailored Food Meets the Triple Aim for

- The Seriously and Chronically Ill and
- Those Who Are At-Risk or Whose Health Is Compromised



WHY IS COVERAGE NEEDED?

- **Food Is Medicine emerged out of the federally-funded Ryan White Program's support of food and nutrition services**
 - There is no Ryan White Program for people at risk for or living with other serious or chronic health conditions
 - Funding through foundation grants, and individual and corporate donations is not sufficient to meet demand
- **To replicate and scale up Food Is Medicine, we need to diversify funding and access public and private health insurance systems that exist nationwide and have capacity to grow to meet demand**

EXISTING OPPORTUNITIES FOR COVERAGE OF FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES (FNS) IN MEDICAID

Medicaid Managed Care: Medicaid Managed Care Plans generally have the flexibility to choose to cover FNS such as medically tailored meals

HCBS 1915(c) Waivers: States may use 1915(c) waivers to provide home and community-based services (HCBS), including FNS, to help keep patients out of institutional settings

HCBS 1915(i) State Plan Option: States may also use a State Plan Amendment to provide HCBS. Under this option, HCBS may be provided to individuals who do not yet need an institutional level of care

1115 Demonstration Waivers: States may use 1115 waivers to experiment with changes in eligibility, delivery models, and benefits, including the provision of FNS

NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR COVERAGE OF FNS UNDER THE ACA

Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation (Section 3021): FNS delivery & payment models should be evaluated through Innovation Center

Medicare-Medicaid Coordination Office (Section 2602): FNS delivery & payment models should also be evaluated for dual eligibles through MMCO


Community First Choice (1915(k)) State Plan Option (Section 2401): States should use the flexibility of the 1915(k) Option to cover services such as FNS to keep beneficiaries in the community rather than institutions

Medicaid Health Homes (Section 2703): FNS can be an essential part of whole-person, coordinated care for many living with chronic conditions

Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs): (Section 3022) FNS supports ACO incentives to achieve improvements in care coordination, patient experience, prevention, disease management, and reductions in costs

PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE: COVERAGE OF MEDICALLY TAILORED FOOD

- **Some private health insurers have implemented programs to promote healthier eating among beneficiaries**
 - Humana offers a discount of up to 10% on healthy foods
 - Harvard Pilgrim offers up to \$20 a month for healthy grocery purchasing
- **The ACA includes provisions that could support coverage of food and nutrition services in private plans**
 - Essential Health Benefits include preventive services and chronic disease management
 - Mandatory coverage of USPSTF “A” or “B” rated benefits, includes counseling to promote healthful diets for some populations
- **Insurers have new incentives to cover innovative and cost-effective services, given new organizational structures (ACOs), and payment models(e.g., bundled payments, pay-for-performance, shared savings, etc.)**



Food is Prevention

The Case for Integrating Food and Nutrition Interventions


ISSUE BRIEF
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HOSPITAL COMMUNITY BENEFIT: Addressing Nutrition as a Primary









Food Is Medicine

Opportunities in
Private Health
Supporting Nutrition
Counseling and
Tailored, Home-D

THE FOOD IS MEDICINE ADVOCACY TOOLKIT

Using Advocacy to Expand Opportunities for Food and Nutrition Services in Public and Private Healthcare Systems

October 2015




**Food Banks as Partners in Health Promotion:
Connections for Client & Community Health**




meet specific standards
hospital to benefit the
A) directed nonprofit
federal tax reporting
with needs assessment
an implementation
ulate non-profit tax
ei community benefit

Partnership opportunity
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to identify food as a

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ensure that meeting
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to fund joint hospital
f the community by
allenges.