

Environmental Scan

Social Determinants of Health

Social determinants of health (SDOH) are non-medical factors that influence health outcomes. SDOH can be a multitude of conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect patient outcomes.¹ Recent initiatives at the federal, state, and local levels of government reflect a growing recognition of the importance of SDOH in shaping health outcomes and reducing health disparities. **Below is federal and state legislation that seeks to address SDOH.**

Federal Legislation				
Bill Number	Policy/ Bill Name	Date Introduced	Summary	Last Action
S. 3847 & H.R. 7481	Improving Social Determinants of Health Act of 2024	02/29/24	<p>Authorize the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to carry out a Social Determinants of Health Program.</p> <p>The SDOH Program will be instructed to achieve the following goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve health outcomes and reduce health inequities by coordinating social determinants of health activities across the CDC. • Improve the capacity of public health agencies and community organizations to address social determinants of health in communities. • Award grants to states, local and territorial health agencies and organizations to address SDOH in target communities. 	Read twice and referred to the HELP Committee
H.R. 8199	Increasing Nutrition Access for Seniors Act	5/1/24	Makes it easier for eligible seniors to access nutrition benefits to reduce hunger and improve health outcomes.	Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.

¹ Department of Health and Human Services. [Healthy People 2030](#)

			<p>Specifically, the bill would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) certification period to 36 months if a household with elderly or disabled members has no earned income. • Allow state agencies to use data matches to determine qualification. It would also allow state agencies to establish a standard medical deduction option for elderly or disabled household members to self-attest to having medical expenses of more than \$35/month each year that could be adjusted over time to reflect changes in medical care costs. 	
H.R. 6780/ S. 2133	Support the Medically Tailored Home-Delivered Meals Demonstration Pilot Act		<p>Establish a three-year Medicare pilot program to assess the effects of a covered hospital providing medically tailored home-delivered meals to qualified individuals.</p> <p>Covered hospitals would provide at least two home-delivered meals per day to qualified individuals, as well as any dependents under the age of 18 who reside in their household for at least 12 weeks.</p>	Introduced, 2023
H.R.7924	ACCESS in Mental Health Act	4/10/2024	<p>Address provider shortages and diversify the mental and behavioral health professional workforce.</p> <p>Specifically, the bill would establish a grant program for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), and Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) to create, expand or improve graduate programs in mental health fields</p>	Introduced, 2024
S. 4304	Mamas First Act	5/9/2024	<p>Mitigate the maternal health crisis in the U.S.</p> <p>Specifically, the bill would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase access to doula and midwifery care, which is associated with cost savings, decreased rates of intervention, lower cesarean rates, 	Introduced, 2024

			<p>lower preterm birth rates and healthier outcomes for mothers and babies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amend the Social Security Act to allow for Medicaid reimbursement of doulas, midwives and tribal midwives. • Require prenatal, delivery and postpartum care be provided in a culturally congruent manner, with consideration given to cultural values, beliefs, worldview, language, and practices of the patient. 	
H.R. 3305/ S. 1606	Support the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act		<p>A bill made up of 13 individual bills introduced by members from the Black Maternal Caucus.</p> <p>Would direct a multi-agency effort to end racial and ethnic disparities in maternal health outcomes, address the social drivers of health and increase access to maternal health care.</p>	Introduced, 2023
H.R. 6970/ S. 2657	Support the Granting Resources for Eliminating Emissions Now in (GREEN) Hospitals Act		<p>Modernize and weatherize health facilities to reduce emissions, protect public health and ensure that more Americans have access to health care after climate disasters and extreme weather events.</p> <p>Specifically, the bill would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase capacity for providing essential health care and updating facilities to become more resilient to climate disasters and public health crises. • Give priority to facilities that serve a high proportion of patients who are uninsured or who experience low air quality, lack green space and are at high risk of experiencing the adverse effects of climate change. 	Introduced, 2023

H.R. 6929/S. 680	Support the DASH (Decent, Affordable, Safe Housing for All) Act		Would address the housing crisis by establishing a Housing Choice Voucher for individuals or families experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, provide recipients with access to health care services and strengthen the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) as well as Renter's Tax Credit and Middle-Income Housing Tax Credit (MIHTC).	Introduced, 2024
CMS SDOH Codes			CMS introduced new codes that allow for the reimbursement of SDOH screenings and related services under Medicare starting in 2024. These include codes for conducting risk assessments and coordinating care based on identified social needs. This federal change enables providers in Florida to seek reimbursement for addressing SDOH, even though the state itself does not have specific laws mandating or providing such reimbursement.	-

Key State Legislation

State	Policy/Bill Name	Date Introduced	Summary	Last Action
Florida	Live Healthy Legislation SB 7016	12/12/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes and amends various health care programs and initiatives, including loan repayment and reimbursement assistance programs, licensure compacts, and Medicaid rate increases. Expands the Florida Reimbursement Assistance for Medical and Dental Education (FRAME) and Dental Student Loan Repayment (DSLRL) programs. These expansions now include mental health professionals, dental hygienists, and private dental practices in areas with shortages of Medicaid providers. Establishes the Cinotti Grant Program, which provides grants for healthcare screenings and related services. Nonprofit entities can apply for these grants to either start new screening programs or expand existing ones, including mobile clinics. Created the “Statewide Health Care Screenings and Services Portal,” which helps the public access free or reduced-cost health screenings 	Approved and in effect, 2024

			and services and connects licensed healthcare practitioners with volunteer opportunities to provide these services.	
Florida	Office of Minority Health and Health Equity HB 183	3/23/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandates the Office of Minority Health and Health Equity to develop and promote statewide implementation of policies, programs, and practices that increase health equity for racial and ethnic minority populations in Florida. • Requires the Office to work with other state agencies, organizations, and providers to improve the health of racial and ethnic minority populations through data analysis and the development of health policies and programs that will help eliminate health disparities. • Requires each county health department to have a minority health liaison to address local health disparities and ensures the Department of Health maintains relevant information on its website. Additionally, the office serves as a liaison to federal offices to enhance coordination and support. 	Approved and in effect, 2021
Texas	HB 1575	3/9/23	Requires Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) to screen pregnant Medicaid beneficiaries for non-medical needs and offers case management services to connect them with SDOH resources in the community. It also allows Community Health Workers and Doulas to provide those case management services under Medicaid if the beneficiary is part of the Medicaid Case Management for Pregnant Women and Children program.	Approved and in effect, 2023
Texas	HB 2983	2/28/23	Creates a pilot program to provide medical nutrition assistance to certain Medicaid recipients experiencing food insecurity.	Failed
Texas	Other: Directed Payment Program (DPP)		<p>Certain quality measures in the state’s directed payment programs are tied to SDOH screenings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive Hospital Increase Reimbursement Program (CHIRP): Participants report whether they are “screening for food insecurity, housing, and transportation needs, including the name of 	-

			<p>the screening instruments or the screening questions and information on the documented follow-up plan when there is an identified health-related social need.” Binary Y/N question. Reported as a condition of participation in program. No payment on performance for this measure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Texas Incentives for Physicians and Professional Services (TIPPS): Participants report the “percentage of patients who were screened for food insecurity using the Hunger Vital Sign (HVS) 2 questions with the screening results documented during the current encounter or during the previous twelve months, AND if the most recent screening result is positive, a follow-up plan is documented within 30 days of the positive screening result.” Reporting is a condition of participation, no payment on performance. <p>Starting in FY 2025, CHIRP is proposed to have a new pay for performance component for some hospitals, called Alternate Participating Hospital Reimbursement for Improving Quality Award (APHRIQA). Hospitals in APHRIQA will be paid on performance for the following measure. CMS has reviewed a draft pre-print that includes APHRIQA as a component of CHIRP and has not provided any feedback that indicates that they believe APHRIQA conflicts with the existing or new regulations. This change is atill pending CMS approval.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Percentage of patients who were screened for food insecurity using the Hunger Vital Sign food insecurity screening tool or another standardized, age-appropriate food insecurity screening tool with the screening results documented during the current encounter or during the previous twelve months, AND if the most recent screening result is positive, a follow-up plan is documented within 30 days of the positive screening result.” <p>Starting in FY 2026, TIPPS is planned to move to pay for performance pending CMS approval.</p>	
Georgia	SB 480	2/9/24	Establishes student loan repayments for mental health and substance use professionals serving underserved youth in the state or in unserved	Approved and in effect, 2024

			geographic areas and communities that are disproportionately impacted by social determinates of health.	
Kentucky	HB 525	2/17/22	<p>Require Medicaid reimbursement for services provided by certified Community Health Workers who are employed and supervised by Medicaid participating providers employed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An alcohol and other drug treatment entity. • A behavioral health services organization or community mental health center. • FQHC 	Approved and in effect, 2022
Kentucky	HB 237	1/6/22	Increases the number of mental health professionals able to treat patients, particularly in underserved areas. The bill also adds cultural and social training requirements for psychologists so they can better understand all the factors that influence their patients' decision-making.	Approved and in effect, 2022
Kansas	SB 499	8/5/2024	<p>Establish the prevention of maternal mortality grant program fund within the department of health and environment, providing grants to fund programs for the prevention of maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity, establishing the prevention of maternal mortality grant program fund and making transfers to such fund.</p> <p>Funds will be granted to eligible applicants that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are based in and provide support for communities with high rates of adverse maternal health outcomes and significant racial and ethnic disparities in maternal health outcomes. • Are led by rural women and women of color and offer programs and resources that are aligned with evidence-based practices for improving maternal health outcomes for rural women and women of color. 	Failed, 2024

<p>North Carolina</p>	<p>SB320 H367</p>	<p>3/16/2023</p>	<p>NC Department of Health and Human Services' plan to use the state's Medicaid program to incentivize hospitals to relieve more than a decade of existing medical debt for eligible North Carolinians and prevent accumulation of new debt going forward. Hospitals that opt in must implement the following policies as a condition of eligibility for enhanced Medicaid payments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relieve all medical debt deemed uncollectible dating back to Jan. 1, 2014, for any individuals not enrolled in Medicaid with incomes at or below at least 350% of the federal poverty level (FPL) or for whom total debt exceeds 5% of annual income. • Relieve all unpaid medical debt dating back to Jan. 1, 2014, for individuals who are enrolled in Medicaid. • Provide discounts on medical bills of between 50-100% for patients with incomes at or below 300% FPL, with the amount of the discount varying based on the patient's income. • Automatically enroll people into financial assistance, known as charity care, by implementing a policy for presumptively determining individuals eligible for financial assistance through a streamlined screening and income validation approach. • Not sell any medical debt for consumers with incomes at or below 300% FPL to debt collectors. • Not report a patient's debt covered by these policies to a credit reporting agency. 	<p>Favorably Advanced, 2024</p>
<p>Colorado</p>	<p>HB24-1322</p>	<p>2024 Regular Session</p>	<p>Directs the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing to conduct a feasibility study to explore seeking federal authorization to provide nutrition, housing, and tenant supportive services that address Medicaid members' Health-Related Social Needs (HRSN).</p>	<p>Approved and in effect, 2024</p>
<p>Colorado</p>	<p>HB 24-1416</p>	<p>2024 Regular Session</p>	<p>Creates a Healthy Food Incentives Program in the Department of Public Health and Environment. The state will partner with a statewide nonprofit</p>	<p>Approved and in effect, 2024</p>

	Summary of 2024 Colorado Public Health Legislation		organization to provide healthy food incentives to Colorado's low-income populations.	
Illinois	1115 Waiver Approval		<p>Allows the state to secure additional Medicaid resources and spending flexibility with a focus on addressing SDOH. Specifically, the state may cover the following SDOH services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing interventions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Housing supports without room and board (e.g., transition and navigation services). ○ First month’s rent as a transitional service. ○ Short-term pre-procedure and/or post-hospitalization housing with room and board for up to six months per year that must include integrated, clinically oriented recuperative or rehabilitative services and supports. ○ Short-term post-hospitalization housing with room and board for up to six months a year and utility assistance, which may or may not include integrated, clinically oriented rehab services and supports. ○ Home remediations that are medically necessary (e.g., air filtration devices or air conditioning). ○ Home and environmental accessibility modifications (e.g., wheelchair access ramps and handrails). • Nutrition interventions: such as case management services for access to food and nutrition (including benefit program application assistance), nutrition counseling and instruction, home delivered meals, pantry stocking, nutrition prescriptions, or grocery provisions. 	Extension approved, 2024

Illinois	HB 158 Health Care and Human Services Reform Act	2021	<p>Leverages Community Health Workers (CHWs) to reduce health disparities by defining their scope as practitioners, creating a CHW certification, and providing reimbursement to CHWs for patients' education and care coordination.</p> <p>Requires that every bill that does or could have a disproportionate impact on a racial or ethnic minority include an explanatory statement with a reliable estimate of the anticipated impact.</p>	Passed.
Wisconsin	EO #17	2019	Executive Order #17, established the Governor's Health Equity Council, which is tasked to assess and improve all determinants of health.	-
California	AB 85	2023	Require coverage and reimbursement of SDOH screening and require insurers to provide primary care providers with adequate access to Community Health Workers.	Failed