



ABOUT NASDOH

The National Alliance to Impact the Social Determinants of Health (NASDOH) appreciates the opportunity to share ideas that will inform the White House's national strategy on hunger, nutrition, and health. NASDOH is a non-partisan, multi-sector alliance of leading individuals and organizations working to build a common understanding of the importance of addressing social determinants of health (SDOH) as part of an overall approach to improving health outcomes. We recognize that addressing SDOH in a sustainable and successful way will take coordinated efforts, and we encourage the White House to use the Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health as a unique and invaluable opportunity to holistically address SDOH and improve individuals' and communities' health and wellbeing.

NASDOH'S IDEAS FOR THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON HUNGER, NUTRITION, AND HEALTH

NASDOH recognizes that improving health outcomes and reducing disparities in health outcomes requires addressing the underlying social and economic drivers of health. Hunger and nutrition are two important drivers of health outcomes. NASDOH brings together organizations and individuals with health care, public health and social services expertise, local community experience, community-convening competence, business and financial insight, technology innovation, digital health capabilities, data and analytics competencies, and policy and advocacy acumen to implement and sustain efforts at addressing SDOH. Many of NASDOH's members have firsthand experience addressing both individuals' social needs and the systemic drivers of health. We offer an example from one of our members, Intermountain Healthcare, to illustrate the numerous individual- and systemic-level factors and considerations a health care provider must take into account when addressing social needs and SDOH as they relate to hunger and nutrition in a person-centered way.

Intermountain Healthcare is a Utah-based not-for-profit integrated delivery system dedicated to helping people live the healthiest lives possible. Intermountain not only delivers health care services, but also prioritizes access to social supports that address the social determinants of health and seek to improve equity. Intermountain employs both social needs screening tools and predictive analytics to assess the social needs or social drivers that are impacting the health status of its patients. In some cases, an individual may come to Intermountain for a health care service, at which point Intermountain screens for a range of social factors that impact health, including food insecurity. Intermountain is also using predictive analytic capabilities to determine which patients may be at risk for food insecurity, and then conducts individual outreach to validate the need and help connect patients to community-based food resources. However, community food pantries don't work for everyone who has a need. Language barriers, lack of transportation, availability of culturally or ethnically-relevant food, stigma, or fear are some of the reasons some people do not use local resources. Intermountain is attempting to address this challenge by partnering with organizations that offer emergency food delivery, which will address a range of social needs an individual is experiencing.

Though Intermountain is developing innovative approaches to addressing patients' hunger and nutrition needs, many challenges persist which the federal government may have a role in alleviating. For example, privacy protections and other administrative compliance barriers make it difficult to systematically share a patient's protected health information in referrals to community-based assistance providers, which perpetuates the siloed nature of health care and social care delivery to remain. Further, Patient Inducement regulations offer safe harbors that allow the provision of food assistance to Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries, but they are administratively and operationally difficult to implement. Finally,



while Intermountain has created relationships with other organizations, there remains no systematic way for Intermountain to seamlessly enroll eligible individuals into other federally funded programs, like Medicaid, SNAP or WIC, when they come to Intermountain for healthcare-related services and a social need around hunger or nutrition is identified. While Intermountain is committed to larger-scale change on the drivers of health and has taken important steps to address them, it will take multi-sector partnerships, including partnership with the government, to address the conditions which exacerbate hunger and nutrition-related diseases.

This story is just one of many we could share. Across health care, social services, and public health, innovative and committed partners are trying to address SDOH like hunger and nutrition. Through development of a policy agenda, the White House has an opportunity to 1) provide clarity on how players across a range of sectors may best address hunger- and nutrition-related needs, 2) identify the hunger and nutrition-related social and economic drivers that lead to poor health, and 3) use its authority to facilitate a coordinated effort at addressing the non-medical social needs of an individual and the social drivers of health that have allowed hunger and nutrition-related diseases to persist.