

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, August 16, 2022



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**ALAMEDA ALLIANCE FOR HEALTH LAUNCHES MEDICALLY SUPPORTIVE FOOD SERVICE FOR ALLIANCE
MEDI-CAL MEMBERS**

The 'Recipe4Health' program will address food insecurity while improving the physical and behavioral health of Alameda County residents.

Alameda, CA – Beginning in September, Alameda Alliance for Health (Alliance) will launch Recipe4Health, as part of their Community Supports program. Recipe4Health is a 'food as medicine' program that aims to address social drivers of health among residents by prescribing patients' nutrient-dense produce and connecting them to local support groups. The Alliance's Community Supports services is part of the newly launched CalAIM initiative from the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) – delivered through community-based providers to eligible Medi-Cal managed care members as an alternative to traditional medical services or settings.

The Alliance is thrilled to partner with the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency who will be delivering Recipe4Health services to Alliance members. The Recipe4Health program falls under the Medically Supportive Food Community Supports category. The program will be available to eligible members who may benefit from therapeutic nutrition interventions and is aimed at improving health outcomes and reducing hospital readmission rates. This innovative model provides patients food prescriptions, which includes twelve weeks of vegetables that will be delivered to patients' doorsteps. The food prescriptions are filled by Dig Deep Farms, a local urban farm that creates green economy jobs for justice-involved individuals. As part of the program, participants will also have access to group medical visits that bring patients together virtually and include physical activity, healthy food demonstrations, stress reduction and social connection over the course of several months.

"The Alameda Alliance's launch of Recipe4Health will be an invaluable program to support our most vulnerable residents and families by addressing food insecurity through healthy food interventions," said District 3 Supervisor Dave Brown. "I am grateful for the Alliance's partnership in providing this essential service and continuing Supervisor Chan's legacy of utilizing food as medicine Countywide."

Over the last few years, the Alliance has financially supported the Recipe4Health initiative based at local clinics, including LifeLong Ashby Health Center, Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center, Native American Health Center, Hayward Wellness Center, Bay Area Community Health, and smaller Food Farmacies at other local clinics. Through this partnership, thousands of patients throughout Alameda County have been screened for food insecurity and have been offered healthy food interventions in combination with group behavioral support that has assisted them with improved health and emotional wellbeing. The integration of Recipe4Health into the Alliance's Community Supports Medically Tailored Meals program will ensure the sustainability of this integral service that will continue to target the nutritional needs of the Alameda County community while reducing barriers associated with food insecurity.

"As a safety net provider, we understand that access to healthy foods can be as powerful a tool as medication or other clinical interventions," said Scott Coffin, Alliance CEO. "Our ability to offer Recipe4Health services to our members will take us one step closer to addressing the root causes of the health disparities that many of our community members continue to face."

"Recipe4Health connects the community to fresh, quality foods which greatly improves food insecurity, one of the social determinants of health," said Colleen Chawla, Director, Alameda County Health Care Services Agency. "We believe healthy food is good medicine."

The need for food-based interventions among individuals suffering from serious health complications, such as diabetes, high blood pressure and other chronic diseases has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. As communities throughout Alameda County continue to recover from the negative effects of the pandemic, the integration of Recipe4Health as an Alliance Community Support service will improve health outcomes, reduce health disparities and decrease health care costs across our local safety net system.

To learn more about the Alliance, visit us at <http://alamedaalliance.org/>.

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About Alameda Alliance for Health

Alameda Alliance for Health (Alliance) is a local, public, not-for-profit managed care health plan committed to making high quality health care services accessible and affordable to Alameda County residents. Established in

1996, the Alliance was created by and for Alameda County residents. The Alliance Board of Governors, leadership staff, and provider network reflect the county's cultural and linguistic diversity. The Alliance provides health care coverage to over 315,000 low-income children and adults through National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) accredited Medi-Cal and Alliance Group Care programs.