Massachusetts Community Benefits

NASHP Annual Conference

AUGUST 17, 2018

HEALTH CARE DIVISION
OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL MAURA HEALEY
ONE ASHBURTON PLACE
BOSTON, MA 02108

Agenda

1. Community Benefits Overview
2. 2018 Update to MA Guidelines
3. Guidance on Social Determinants of Health and Health Equity

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What Are Community Benefits?

- Hospitals have long been recognized for their charity care and efforts to improve the health of the communities they serve.
- Community Benefits are investments by hospitals and HMOs that further their charitable mission of addressing their communities' health and social needs.

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Community Benefits in MA

- Drawing on the role of AGs in overseeing charities, Community Benefits reporting programs have developed in many states, as well as federally through reporting to the IRS, as a way of formalizing the provision of these benefits and quantifying their community health impact.
- Hospitals and HMOs in Massachusetts collectively reported more than $750 million in Community Benefits expenditures each year between FY2010 and FY2017.

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Examples of Community Benefits Programs

- Funding for a mobile farmers' market in an area with limited access to fresh food.
- Support and resources for homeless patients seeking permanent housing.
- Home visit and patient education program for children with poorly controlled asthma.

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Evolution of Community Benefits Reporting in MA

1994 – AGO issues Guidelines for Non-Profit Acute Care Hospitals
1996 – AGO issues Guidelines for HMOs
2002 – AGO revises hospital and HMO Guidelines
2009 – AGO issues further revisions to Guidelines
2009 – IRS introduces Form 990 Schedule H
2010 – Congress enacts ACA § 9007 / IRC § 501(r)
2015 – IRS § 501(r) final regulations in place
2017 – DPH revised Determination Of Need standards
2018 – AGO publishes updated Community Benefits Guidelines

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Advisory Task Force (2017-2018)

- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation
- Boston Public Health Commission
- Coalition of Western Massachusetts Hospitals
- Community Catalyst
- Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals
- Greater Boston Interfaith Organization
- MA Association of Community Development Corporations
- MA Association of Health Plans
- MA Council of Community Hospitals
- MA Department of Public Health
- MA Health & Hospital Association
- MA League of Community Health Centers
- MA Public Health Association
- Other public health experts

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Principles for Updated Guidelines

1. Better Align Reporting Requirements
2. Improve Community Engagement
3. Increase Transparency
4. Facilitate Investment in Common Priorities (e.g., social determinants, statewide public health issues)
5. Encourage Regional Collaboration and Learning

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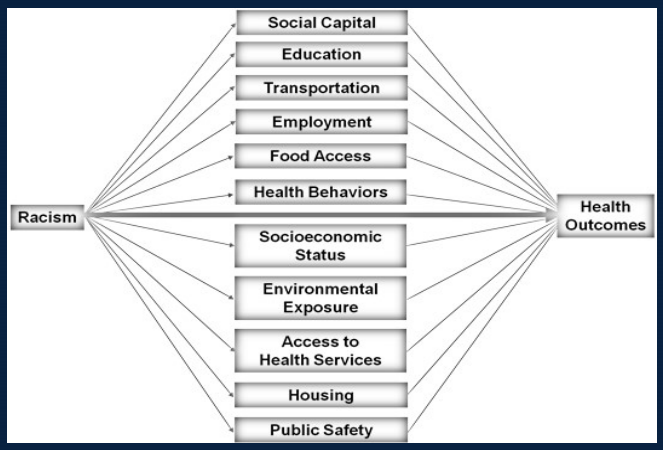
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Social Determinants of Health

Because social determinants of health and health disparities play a central role in impacting community health, investments in social determinants of health will be credited by the Attorney General's Office (AGO) as Community Benefits as long as connected to documented need.

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Health Equity Framework



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“Moving Massachusetts Upstream”

- Collaborative to improve the ability of state agencies, health systems, hospitals, and communities to address population health.
- AGO working alongside other MA state agencies to develop a coordinated strategy to support health care systems and community-based organizations to develop and implement social determinant of health approaches that both prevent disease in the first place and also lower the risk for the entire community.

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