

MEDICAID MINUTE

from the West Virginia Association of Health Plans

Welcome to Medicaid Minute from the West Virginia Association of Health Plans. Every month you can expect our newsletter to provide you with the most up to date information about the work Managed Care Organizations are doing within the Medicaid Program and for our state. We want to serve as a resource for your Medicaid questions.

Food Insecurity

Having access to food is a struggle for millions of Americans and the ongoing COVID-19 crisis has only added to it. The pandemic has contributed to job loss and/or job layoffs which has put a strain on many of our working families. AHIP, America's Health Insurance Plan, recently shared a post from the [Modern Medicaid Alliance](#) that estimated in 2020, 1 in every 4 households experienced food insecurity. In looking at this through a more narrow lens that focuses on West Virginia specifically, an article from the [Metro News](#), reported 20% of families with children experienced food scarcity earlier this year.

The MCOs of WV have always been an advocate to assist those need, but over the last two years, they have increased their outreach in various ways to help make a difference in the food scarcity challenge here at home. Over \$400,000 has been donated to local food banks or charities, specific health and hygiene items have been provided to shelters that focus on the needs of women, one MCO continues to sponsor a food truck for underprivileged kids, and collaborative efforts with other agencies have been implemented to help those most vulnerable.

The WVAHP commends those legislators that have created a work group that will focus on this problem in greater detail and work toward policy change.

WV Medicaid Highlights*

Total enrollment in WV Medicaid:
590,102 members
MCO Total Enrollment:
480,782 members
SSI Enrollment:
40,541 (8%)
Expansion Enrollment:
197,902 (41%)
TANF Enrollment:
224,090 (47%)
CHIP Enrollment:
18,249 (4%)

* Data Source: DHHR report 8-1-21

Good News Stories

The Health Plan has donated over \$215,000 to eleven different food pantries across West Virginia. They continue to sponsor the Underprivileged Children's Foundation Food SHACK Truck in Charleston, WV. Thank you THP for your efforts throughout our communities.



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