



CENTER FOR HEALTH LAW
& POLICY INNOVATION
Harvard Law School

FOOD IS MEDICINE

*RECASTING FOOD BANKS AND FOOD PANTRIES AS
PARTNERS IN HEALTH PROMOTION*

Center for Health Law
and Policy Innovation

chlpi@law.harvard.edu
www.chlpi.org

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KATIE GARFIELD
HARVARD LAW SCHOOL

Overview

- The Connection Between Food and Health
- Current Developments in Healthcare
- Opportunities for Food Banks
- Considerations for Partnership



CONNECTION BETWEEN FOOD AND HEALTH

THE PROBLEM

- Needs of food bank clients do not stop at food banks' doors.
- Many of the nation's most prevalent chronic diseases are diet-related.
- The same economic hardships that led the clients to the food bank may constrain their ability to seek medical care and afford medications.

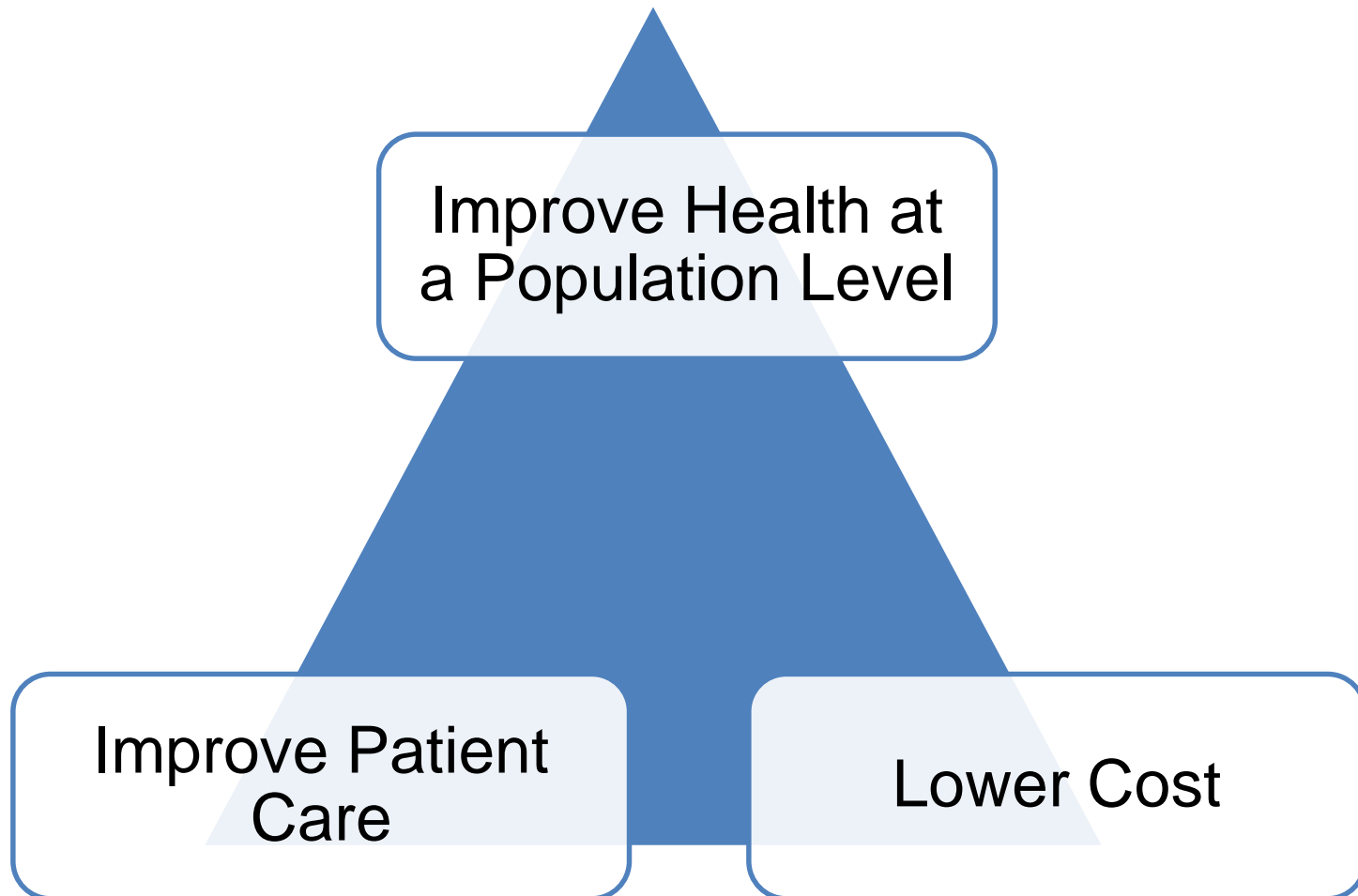
A WAY FORWARD

- Healthcare landscape is rapidly changing, with greater incentive for healthcare organizations to work with community partners
- Food banks can be better positioned to take part if they speak the language from the start



CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN HEALTHCARE

THE TRIPLE AIM OF HEALTHCARE



CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN HEALTHCARE

Healthcare Development	Impact on Food Banks
Shift to Pay-for-Performance	Potential for partnerships, collaboration, referrals, and/or potential funding
Medicaid Expansion	Many clients will have access to health coverage for the first time, but low-income clients in non-expansion states will remain uninsured
Hospital Readmission Policies and Penalties	Hospitals have new incentives to manage patient care after discharge, including access to nutritious food
Enhanced Requirements for Nonprofit Hospitals Seeking to Meet the Community Benefit Standard	Stakeholder engagement requirements present a major opportunity for food banks to build relationships and emphasize the link between food and health
Demonstration Projects by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation	Food banks could partner with hospitals or providers on demonstration projects that include access to healthy food

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FOOD BANKS

- **Food banks can pursue targeted interventions for health promotion and disease self-management**
 - Providing healthy food and health resources to clients at food distribution sites
 - Adding food assistance capacity on-site at healthcare institutions
 - Enhancing provider education about linkages between food & health
 - Increasing awareness of screening tools

- **Food banks can participate in the Community Benefit process, required for all nonprofit hospitals**
 - Participating in the Community Health Needs Assessment and the development of the Community Health Improvement Plan

CONSIDERATIONS FOR FOOD BANKS

Identify the Opportunity

Assess Available Data

Investigate and
Prioritize Needs

Identify Potential Partners

Prepare for Partnerships

Assess Landscape

Evaluate Internal Capacity

Consider the
Food Bank's Role

Make the Case

Engage with Partners

Set Smart Goals

Establish Continuous
Opportunities for
Communication

Plan, Compromise
and Evaluate



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122 Boylston Street • Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

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