



National Lieutenant Governors Association

NLGA Consensus Resolution Regarding “Food is Medicine” Programs

WHEREAS, nutritious food can help prevent, manage, and treat certain health conditions, and

WHEREAS, poor nutrition is annually linked to more than 500,000 deaths¹ and over 50 billion dollars in health costs² and nutrition-related chronic diseases remain on the rise with 6 in 10 Americans living with at least 1 chronic disease,³ and

WHEREAS, “food is medicine” interventions, such as produce prescriptions and medically tailored meals, have demonstrated benefit in improving health outcomes and controlling health costs,^{4,5} and

WHEREAS, healthcare providers, including dietitians, pharmacists, physicians, and community health workers, are essential to addressing rising rates of chronic disease and improving access to healthcare, and

WHEREAS, state and federal mechanisms exist to improve access to “food is medicine” interventions to improve health across the nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Lieutenant Governors Association hereby encourages NLGA Members in the states and territories to be aware of “food is medicine” interventions, and leveraging the entire healthcare continuum, including dietitians, pharmacists, physicians, and community health workers, as a way to improve health outcomes in the future.

ADOPTED, this day, the 24th of April, 2024.

Co-Sponsors: *TBD*

Proposed for the docket by: National Association of Chain Drug Stores, NLGA Partner

¹ The US Burden of Disease Collaborators. The State of US Health, 1990-2016: Burden of Diseases, Injuries, and Risk Factors Among US States. JAMA. April 2018. <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2678018>

² Cardiometabolic disease costs associated with suboptimal diet in the United States: A cost analysis based on a microsimulation model. Jardim TV, Mozaffarian D, Abrahams-Gessel S, Sy S, Lee Y, et al. December 2019. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.1002981>

³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP). May 18, 2023. <https://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/index.htm>

⁴ Health and Economic Impacts of Implementing Produce Prescription Programs for Diabetes in the United States: A Microsimulation Study. Lu Wang, Brianna N. Lauren, Kurt Hager, Fang Fang Zhang, John B. Wong, David D. Kim and Dariush Mozaffarian. July 2023. <https://www.ahajournals.org/doi/10.1161/JAHA.122.029215>

⁵ True Cost of Food: Food is Medicine Case Study. Tufts University Food is Medicine Institute. September 2023.

<https://now.tufts.edu/2023/09/26/report-shows-food-medicine-interventions-would-save-lives-and-billions-dollars>