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Food Is Medicine Coalition

How is FIMC Advancing the FIM movement?

The [Food is Medicine Coalition](https://www.foodmedicinepolicy.org/) (FIMC) is a national coalition of nonprofit organizations that provide medically tailored meals (MTMs) and groceries, medical nutrition therapy and nutrition counseling and education to people in communities across the country living with severe and chronic illnesses. We advance equitable access to these life-saving interventions through policy change, research and evaluation, and best practices. FIMC agencies created the MTM model and maintain the nutrition standards for the intervention.

FIMC offers a diverse community of learning for existing and new nonprofit practitioners. Through our Accelerator program, we equip organizations to launch new medically tailored meal programs across the country. Through our Membership, we support the community of existing practitioners in delivering high quality services that are responsive to community needs. responsive services. Our new Accreditation program ensures fidelity to the MTM intervention through the maintenance of rigorous standards.

Health equity is at the center of all we do. We maintain a commitment to centering client voice and compassion in service delivery. We are embedded in our communities and meet our clients where they are. Our meals are free of charge and home delivered with dignity to our clients.

What does FIMC hope the next few years will hold?

Because of compelling research results, some states and Medicaid and Medicare managed care plans are using waivers and regulatory flexibilities to pilot coverage of MTMs. While much success has been seen in these pilots, they remain on the margins of innovation and fall short of establishing the widespread coverage needed to ensure equitable access to this critical service across the U.S. Changing healthcare policy to fund, deliver and explicitly evaluate the MTM intervention in Medicare, Medicaid and beyond would solve this issue.

We believe in creating equitable access to the medically tailored meal and grocery interventions across the country. In the next few years, we hope we will see continued support for this vital goal, alongside practical steps to get there. These steps include actions like passing the MTM Pilot Bill (S 2133), standardizing the evaluation of

the many Medicaid waiver projects, and garnering more support for our work in building nutrition and the FIM interventions into medical codes and languages. It is critical that these changes be accomplished responsibly by involving the communities who are served, limiting access barriers,

and preserving the quality of food is medicine interventions for the good of clients to ensure that we do no unintentional harm.

We will continue to support our thriving provider community, develop sustainable best practices, and advocate for research and policy change at this critical moment in the food is medicine movement

How has the food as medicine policy evolved over the last year?

What still needs to happen to move the needle?

The attention on food is medicine

is unprecedented since the historic White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health. There have been transformative announcements about investments in research and service, increased policy guidance from the federal government and a groundswell of community support. We have definitely made progress, but there is still work to be done. Whether someone has access to the MTM intervention in our country still depends on where an individual lives and if their insurance happens to cover the service. This situation must change.

How can the healthcare industry make it easier for patients to make healthier food choices?

Creating actual choices about nutrition for patients is a foundational step. This means that comprehensive access to food is medicine would need to be a

given in healthcare, whether by direct provision or through connection to other systems of nutrition care.

What are you looking forward to at the Food as Medicine: Policy Summit?

I am encouraged by the focused policy direction of this summit and am looking forward to building toward action on our bold vision.

To hear more from Alissa, join us at the Food as Medicine: Policy Summit this November (29-30th) in Washington, DC. Register at: <https://www.foodmedicinepolicysummit.com/register/>