



Health and Agriculture Interests Launch Accountable Food Is Medicine Alliance

Washington, D.C. – A coalition of health care and agriculture leaders has launched the **Accountable Food Is Medicine Alliance (AFIMA)**, a national effort aimed at expanding the nutrition-based interventions within the health care system to improve health outcomes and reduce the cost of chronic disease.

The Alliance brings together health systems, physicians, food and agriculture producers, nutrition innovators, community organizations and policy experts to advance scalable Accountable Food Is Medicine programs that connect clinical care with nutrition.

Hospitals, health systems, Medicaid agencies, Medicare Advantage plans, and community organizations across the country are increasingly using Food Is Medicine interventions such as medically and culturally appropriate tailored meals, produce prescriptions and nutrition counseling to help patients manage diet-related chronic conditions. Early results show improvements in clinical outcomes, fewer hospitalizations and emergency visits and strong patient engagement.

A key policy priority for the Alliance is federal legislation directing the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) to establish at least five demonstration projects testing the effectiveness, scalability and cost of Accountable Food Is Medicine initiatives within Medicare and Medicaid payment models. Bipartisan legislation, [H.R.8355](#), was introduced in April by U.S. Reps. Lloyd Smucker (R-PA) and Sharice Davids (D-KS) that would accomplish these goals.

Alliance leaders also emphasized the importance of sourcing food locally and supporting regenerative agriculture. Integrating locally grown foods into clinical nutrition interventions can strengthen regional food systems, support farmers and ranchers and improve nutritional quality for patients.

Accountability, measurable patient outcomes and sustainable economic returns are central to the Alliance's approach. Programs are expected to track improvements in indicators such as reductions in A1C, blood pressure and hospital utilization, adherence to evidence-based protocols, and clear quality and sourcing standards for agricultural partners.

The Alliance will also work to coordinate policy development, support demonstration efforts, share best practices and elevate patient voices to ensure that Accountable Food Is Medicine strategies are accessible to the communities most affected by diet-related disease.

For more information about the Accountable Food Is Medicine Alliance or to engage in its policy and advocacy efforts, visit AFIMA's website: [Home Page - AFIM Alliance](#)

What AFIM Alliance members are saying:

“Advocate Health strongly supports the Accountable Food Is Medicine Bundled Payment Model as a scalable, evidence-based approach to improving chronic disease outcomes and reducing total cost of care—especially in underserved communities,” said **J. Nwando Olayiwola, MD, MPH, FAAFP, President, Advocate National Center for Clinical & Community Impact (CCI), Senior Vice President, Advocate Health**. “The bill aligns with Advocate’s metabolic health strategy by integrating nutrition and lifestyle support, remote monitoring, and care coordination to help patients achieve greater health and reduce dependence on high-cost medications. Too often, patients lack coverage for these proven interventions.

“The Alliance is an important step toward making Food Is Medicine a consistent part of the healthcare journey,” said Sarah GiaQuinta, MD, MPH, senior vice president of community impact at Fort Wayne, Indiana-based Parkview Health. “At Parkview, our VeggieRx program has helped turn prescriptions into fresh produce for years, and we’re incredibly proud to have seen overall better health and lasting change in our community. We’re eager to help find solutions for bringing that success to even more families.”

“Representatives Lloyd Smucker and Sharice Davids are trailblazing a new path for health care by introducing an accountable bundled payment model for food is medicine, said **Winjie Miao, President of Texas Health Resources**. This historic first for Medicare would align incentives and payments while empowering patients with the tools to advance wellbeing and tackle preventable chronic diseases through nutritious food that is locally grown. Healthcare is truly local, and it starts with the healthy food our local farmers and ranchers provide for communities across the country.”

“As a non-profit healthcare leader in New Mexico, Presbyterian has been deeply engaged in Food is Medicine work for many years,” said **Dr. Rishi Sikka, president and CEO of Presbyterian Healthcare Services**. “Through initiatives like our Food Farmacy, we see firsthand how addressing food insecurity can improve overall health. By pairing access to healthy foods with nutrition education and strong community partnerships, we can continue to improve outcomes and strengthen the health of our communities.”

“FreshRx Oklahoma has proven that when patients receive the right food, education, and support, they get healthier—and the entire health system benefits,” said **Erin Martin, Founder & CEO of FreshRx Oklahoma**. “It’s time to elevate Food is Medicine from fragmented pilots to permanent health care infrastructure—with national standards that ensure accountability, quality, and measurable impact, while still allowing for local innovation and success. When we align health care with soil health, we don’t just treat disease—we strengthen rural economies, preserve family farms, and invest in long-term human health.”

“Our mission at Mosaic Life Care is to put the needs of the patient first by empowering a culture where caregivers bring their best, ensuring a healthier future for generations to come,” said **Mike Poore, CEO of Mosaic Life Care, St. Joseph, Missouri**. The Food Is Medicine program reflects that commitment in a real way. We know that access to healthy food can be a barrier to better health. When patients are struggling to manage chronic conditions or recover from illness without reliable nutrition, clinical care alone isn’t enough. By addressing food insecurity as part of care, we are meeting patients where they are while investing in the long-term health of our region.”