

Addressing an Aging Population through Community Care Hubs

By 2040, about one in five Americans will be age 65 or older, up from about one in eight in 2000.¹ As the country ages, it will be important to have a social care system ready to help individuals receive navigated support, access social care services, and ultimately age in place. Community Care Hubs are a vital, community-based infrastructure that can help meet the needs of aging communities.

A **Community Care Hub** is a community-centered entity that enables cross-sector contracting between healthcare organizations and a network of community-based organizations in order to address individuals' health-related social needs (HRSNs). The goal of Community Care Hubs is to scale social care delivery systems in order to sustainably address HRSNs.

What Community Care Hubs Enable

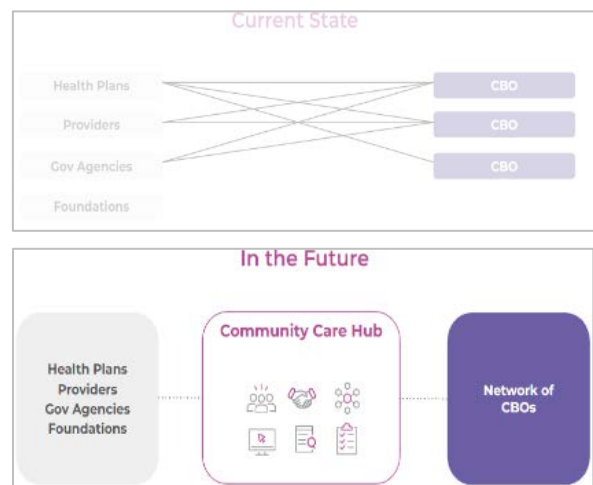
Community Care Hubs make it possible for community-based organizations such as food banks, housing providers, and Area Agencies on Aging to focus on delivering critical services while *also* participating in reimbursement contracts with healthcare organizations. By enabling cross-sector contracts, social care will receive critical resources needed to grow its services and serve as part of an extended continuum of care.



Why Community Care Hub Models Are Needed

Most Community-Based Organizations Currently Cannot Scale Services

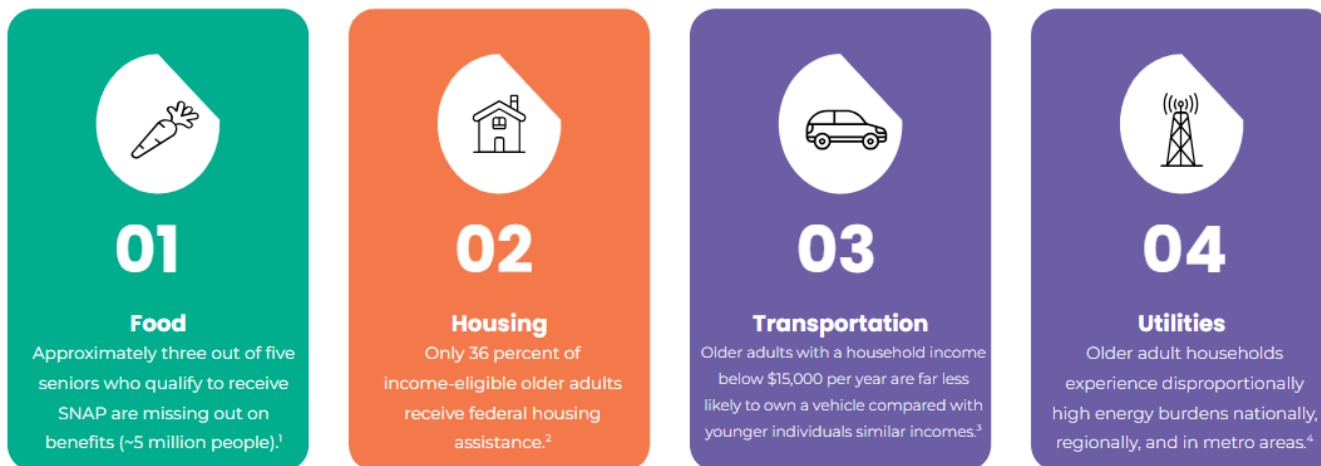
Today, healthcare and community organizations must establish one-to-one partnerships to enable an extended care continuum that helps older adults access social care services. One-to-one partnerships are administratively burdensome for community organizations, and therefore cannot be replicated consistently. Community Care Hubs centralize functions (e.g. contracting, billing, etc.) that are too burdensome for many individual community-based organizations to perform on their own, but required for executing partnerships with healthcare organizations.



¹ 2020 Profile of Older Americans. The Administration for Community Living. May 2021. Accessed: https://acl.gov/sites/default/files/aging%20and%20Disability%20In%20America/2020Profileolderamericans.final_.pdf

Significant Social Needs Among Older Adults

Older adults often experience social needs at disproportionately higher rates compared to younger individuals, yet struggle to access available benefits and services to address those needs. As the population of older adults continues to grow, the gap between needs and services delivered will continue to grow unless action is taken.



CommonSpirit's Role in Advancing Community Care Hubs

It can feel like a big leap for historically risk-averse community organizations to put financial and human resources behind this new way of working with each other (e.g. Community Care Hubs), and the more anchor organizations like hospitals can support the decision, the less risky it may feel to community organizations.

CommonSpirit partners with communities interested in pursuing a Community Care Hub solution to ensure key accelerators of successful Hubs are present: thought partnership and technical assistance, shared investment from community stakeholders, buy-in from healthcare organizations, and establishment of governance models centering local decision making.

Momentum for Community Care Hubs Is Building Across the Industry

CommonSpirit is not alone in supporting the growth of Community Care Hubs. Health plans, hospitals, federal agencies, and community-based organizations are coming together to advance the growth of these Hubs around the country through the [Partnership To Align Social Care](#). Likewise, federal agencies such as the [Administration for Community Living](#) and the [CDC](#) both support efforts to scale Community Care Hubs among local Area Agencies on Aging and National Diabetes Prevention Program providers respectively.

To discuss pursuing or supporting a Community Care Hub in your community, please contact [Marc Rosen](#).

¹ Snap Participation Lags Among Eligible Seniors in Every State, Putting Them at Greater Risk of Hunger. (2019, March 22). <https://frac.org/news/snap-participation-lags-among-eligible-seniors-in-every-state-putting-them-at-greater-risk-of-hunger>. Retrieved August 31, 2023.

² Molinsky, J. (2022). (issue brief). *Housing For America's Older Adults: Four Problems We Must Address*. Retrieved from <https://www.jchs.harvard.edu/blog/housing-americas-older-adults-four-problems-we-must-address>.

³ Fraade-Blanar, Laura, Ryan Best, and Regina A. Shih, *Transportation Equity for Older Adults*, RAND Corporation, PE-A1615-1, June 2022. As of August 30, 2023: <https://www.rand.org/pubs/perspectives/PEA1615-1.html>

⁴ Dreihobl, A., Ross, L., & Ayala, R. (2020). (rep.) *How High Are Household Energy Burdens? An Assessment of National and Metropolitan Energy Burdens across the United States*. American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy. Retrieved August 30, 2023.