

Community Benefits Reporting

Guidance for “Program Type” Terms

This document provides guidance for “program type” terms listed for individual community benefits programs. If you believe that a significant choice is missing from the current list, please e-mail cbadmin@state.ma.us to suggest an addition.

As set forth in the AGO Guidelines, Community Benefits Programs may only be reported by a hospital or health maintenance organization (collectively, “health care organization”) if they address the needs of the Target Populations identified in the Community Health Needs Assessment and/or Community Benefits Plan.

Community Benefits Planning Process: actions taken by the health care organization focused on the procedures of developing (or amending) a Community Benefits Plan through information attained from its Community Health Needs Assessment, including the identification of Target Populations, prioritization of needs, allocation of resources, identification of key programs and associated goals, and publication of results.

Community Education: learning experiences designed to help target populations improve their health by increasing knowledge and/or influencing attitudes.

Community Health Needs Assessment: actions taken for the ongoing process of developing or evaluating its Community Health Needs Assessment, including community outreach, public health research, and review of existing programs to uncover the unmet health care needs of community members.

Community Participation/Capacity Building Initiative: programming that includes the active involvement of communities in the planning, implementation, or evaluation of community benefits programming.

Direct Services: the provision of services to target populations that requires some degree of interaction between the patient and health care provider including, but not limited to, physical and mental assessment, treatment procedures, or implementation of a care plan. This includes low or negative-margin services which are offered in response to an identified community need.

Grant/Donation/Foundation/Scholarship: funds given directly by the health care organization to third parties in furtherance of a community benefit objective.

Health Coverage Subsidies or Enrollment: funds or resources provided by the health care organization to assist individuals with enrollment or application forms for government or other public assistance.

Health Professional/Staff Training: funds or resources provided by the health care organization for training or educational experiences attended by an individual, either a health professional or non-clinical staff, in order to advance the professional’s knowledge of meeting the needs of

target populations. These trainings must be available to individuals not employed by the health care organization. Programming training required for the implementation of specific community benefits programs should not be reported under this program term, as programming trainings are absorbed under their respective categories (e.g. training staff for developing CHNAs, or assisting individuals with health care enrollment).

Health Screening: programming created by the health care organization to identify the presence of a particular health risk in target populations.

Mentorship/Career Training/Internship: programming that provides target populations with opportunities to gain work experience. Programming must be available to individuals not employed by the health care organization.

Outreach to Underserved: programming that focuses on improving education or access target populations.

Physician/Provider Diversity: programming focused on improving the provision of health care services delivered by minority providers, meant to improve access, increase patient satisfaction, and ensure culturally competent care to target populations.

Prevention: programming that focuses on lowering the occurrence of any particular health issue in target populations.

Research: programming that investigates a previously assessed community need where research is specifically part of the Community Benefits Plan.

School/Health Center Partnership: programming that leverages the resources of the health care organization with those of other area organizations, such as schools, community health centers, or teaching hospitals, to advance a health care objective.

Support Group: programming that provides an opportunity for target populations who share a common health concern or interest as to share experiences and advice.