

# Community Benefits Program Reporting Tags

In 2018, the Attorney General’s Office published updated [Community Benefits Guidelines](#) for Non-Profit Hospitals and Health Maintenance Organizations. A key purpose of the update was to increase transparency into the kinds of investments that hospitals and HMOs are making in their communities. With this in mind, hospitals and HMO’s now have more options to choose from when describing Community Benefits programs. This document outlines the tags that hospitals and HMOs can use to describe their programs, including the health needs and target populations addressed by their programs.

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## Program Description

This section outlines the tags that filers can select to describe each of their Community Benefits programs in accordance with the updated guidelines.

- a) **Program Type:** Filers should indicate one of the categories below for each program – these categories mirror those listed in the filer’s Community Benefits Expenditure report:
- *Access/Coverage Supports:* Programs designed to increase access to health insurance and health care services for individuals, especially persons living in poverty and other vulnerable populations.
  - *Community-Clinical Linkages:* Interventions that occur in community settings and that impact clinical outcomes. Community-clinical linkage strategies can include coordinating services at a given location, establishing new evidence-based programs at non-clinical organizations, coordinating services between different locations, and/or establishing referral protocols to connect patients with resources outside the health care system.
  - *Direct Clinical 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.
  - *Infrastructure to support Community Benefits collaborations across institutions:* Investments in institutions working together on planning, implementing, or evaluating Community Benefits Programs.
  - *Total Population or Community-Wide Interventions:* Total population or community-wide prevention strategies include those that are not oriented to a single patient or even to all those within a practice or covered by a given insurer. Rather, the target is an entire population or subpopulation often identified by a geographic area such as a neighborhood, city, or county. Interventions and strategies can occur in settings such as the community, school, or workplace and are policy, systems or environmental changes that alter the context of the social determinants of health for the target populations.
- b) **Grant or Funding to Outside Organization:** For each program, filers should indicate whether the program is part of a grant or funding provided to an outside organization. The outside organization may include a community group, health care organization or non-profit that is carrying out the filers Community Benefits activities, which address a health need(s) and target population(s) identified in the Community Health Needs Assessment and the Implementation strategy. In addition to grant funding, contributions may also include the cost of staff hours (while on payroll) donated by the hospital or HMO, the indirect cost of space donated to tax-exempt community groups, and the financial value of donated food, equipment, and supplies.
- c) **Additional Program Descriptors:** Filers may select up to three additional tags to describe each program. Below are definitions of the tags from which the filer can choose:
- *Community Education:* Learning experiences designed to help target populations improve their health by increasing knowledge and/or influencing attitudes.

- *Community Health Center Partnership*: Programming that leverages the resources of the health care organization with those of Community Health Centers to advance a health care objective.
- *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.
- *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.
- *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 Implementation Strategy.
- *Support Group*: Programming that provides an opportunity for target populations who share a common health concern or interest to share experiences and advice.

## Health Need

This section outlines the tags that filers can select to describe the health needs addressed by each of their Community Benefits programs in accordance with the updated guidelines.

a) DoN Health Priorities: Filers may select as many Determination of Need (DoN) Health Priorities as apply to each program. Below are the tags from which the filer can choose:

- *Built Environment*
- *Education*
- *Employment*
- *Housing*
- *Social Environment*
- *Violence*

b) EOHHS Focus Issues: Filers may select as many EOHHS (Executive Office of Health and Human Services) Focus Issues as apply to each program. Below are the tags from which the filer can choose:

- *Chronic Disease with a Focus on Cancer, Heart Disease, and Diabetes*
- *Housing Stability/Homelessness*
- *Mental Illness and Mental Health*
- *Substance Use Disorders*

c) Health Issues: Filers will also be given the opportunity to select as many health issues as apply to each program from a more comprehensive list. Below are the tags from which the filer can choose:

<p><i>Cancer</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breast</li> <li>• Cervical</li> <li>• Colorectal</li> <li>• Lung</li> <li>• Multiple Myeloma</li> <li>• Other</li> <li>• Ovarian</li> <li>• Prostate</li> <li>• Skin</li> </ul> <p><i>Chronic Disease</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alzheimer's Disease</li> <li>• Arthritis</li> <li>• Asthma/Allergies</li> <li>• Cardiac Disease</li> <li>• Chronic Pain</li> <li>• Colitis/Crohn's Disease</li> <li>• Diabetes</li> <li>• Hypertension</li> <li>• Osteoporosis</li> <li>• Overweight and Obesity</li> <li>• Pulmonary Disease</li> <li>• Sickle Cell Disease</li> <li>• Stroke</li> </ul>	<p><i>Health Behaviors / Mental Health</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bereavement</li> <li>• Depression</li> <li>• Immunization</li> <li>• Mental Health</li> <li>• Physical Activity</li> <li>• Responsible Sexual Behavior</li> <li>• Stress Management</li> </ul> <p><i>Infectious Disease</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hepatitis</li> <li>• HIV/AIDS</li> <li>• Lyme Disease</li> <li>• Sexually Transmitted Diseases</li> <li>• Tuberculosis</li> </ul> <p><i>Injury</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Auto / Passenger Injuries</li> <li>• First Aid / ACLS / CPR</li> <li>• Home Injuries</li> <li>• Other</li> <li>• Sports Injuries</li> </ul>	<p><i>Maternal / Child Health</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child Care</li> <li>• Family Planning</li> <li>• Menopause</li> <li>• Parenting Skills</li> <li>• Reproductive and Maternal Health</li> </ul> <p><i>Social Determinants of Health</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to Health Care</li> <li>• Access to Healthy Food</li> <li>• Access to Transportation</li> <li>• Affordable Housing</li> <li>• Domestic Violence</li> <li>• Education/Learning</li> <li>• Environmental Quality</li> <li>• Homelessness</li> <li>• Income and Poverty</li> <li>• Language/Literacy</li> <li>• Nutrition</li> <li>• Public Safety</li> <li>• Racism and Discrimination</li> <li>• Uninsured / Underinsured</li> <li>• Violence and Trauma</li> </ul>
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*Substance Use Disorder*

- Alcohol Use
- Driving Under the Influence
- Opioid Use
- Smoking/Tobacco Use
- Substance Use

*Other*

- Cultural Competency
- Dental Health
- Emergency Preparedness
- Hearing
- Hospice
- Senior Health Challenges / Care Coordination
- Vision

*If applicable, please specify an additional Health Issue*

## Target Population

This section outlines the tags that filers can select to describe the populations targeted by each of their Community Benefits programs in accordance with the updated guidelines.

a) Age Group: Filers may select as many target age groups as apply to each program. Below are the tags from which the filer can choose:

- *All*
- *Adults*
- *Children*
- *Elderly*
- *Infants*
- *Teenagers*

b) Environment Served: Filers may select as many environments served as apply to each program. Below are the tags from which the filer can choose:

- *All*
- *Rural*
- *Suburban*
- *Urban*

c) Gender: Filers may select as many target genders as apply to each program. Below are the tags from which the filer can choose:

- *All*
- *Female*
- *Male*
- *Transgender*
- *If applicable, please specify an additional Gender category*

d) Language: Filers may select as many languages as apply to each program. Below are the tags from which the filer can choose:

- *All*
- *Amharic*
- *Arabic*
- *Cambodian*
- *Cape Verdean Creole*
- *Chinese*
- *English*
- *Haitian Creole*
- *Hmong*
- *Korean*
- *Laotian*
- *Other*
- *Portuguese*
- *Russian*
- *Spanish*
- *Vietnamese*

e) Race/Ethnicity: Filers may select as many target races and/or ethnicities as apply to each program. Below are the tags from which the filer can choose:

- *All*
- *African*
- *American Indian/Alaskan Native*
- *Asian*
- *Black*
- *Caribbean Islander*
- *European*
- *Hispanic/Latinx*
- *Middle Eastern*
- *Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander*
- *White*
- *If applicable, please specify an additional Race/Ethnicity*

f) Additional Target Population Status: Filers may select as many target populations as apply to each program. Below are the tags from which the filer can choose:

- *Disability Status*
- *Domestic Violence History*
- *Incarceration History*
- *LGBT Status*
- *Refugee/Immigrant Status*
- *Veteran Status*

g) Regions Served: Filers may select as many regions served as apply to each program. Below are the tags from which the filer can choose:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>All Massachusetts</i></li> <li>• <i>Abington</i></li> <li>• <i>Acton</i></li> <li>• <i>Acushnet</i></li> <li>• <i>Adams</i></li> <li>• <i>Agawam</i></li> <li>• <i>Alford</i></li> <li>• <i>Amesbury</i></li> <li>• <i>Amherst</i></li> <li>• <i>Andover</i></li> <li>• <i>Aquinnah (Gay Head)</i></li> <li>• <i>Arlington</i></li> <li>• <i>Ashburnham</i></li> <li>• <i>Ashby</i></li> <li>• <i>Ashfield</i></li> <li>• <i>Ashland</i></li> <li>• <i>Athol</i></li> <li>• <i>Attleboro</i></li> <li>• <i>Auburn</i></li> <li>• <i>Avon</i></li> <li>• <i>Ayer</i></li> <li>• <i>Barnstable</i></li> <li>• <i>Barre</i></li> <li>• <i>Becket</i></li> <li>• <i>Bedford</i></li> <li>• <i>Belchertown</i></li> <li>• <i>Bellingham</i></li> <li>• <i>Belmont</i></li> <li>• <i>Berkley</i></li> <li>• <i>Berlin</i></li> <li>• <i>Bernardston</i></li> <li>• <i>Beverly</i></li> <li>• <i>Billerica</i></li> <li>• <i>Blackstone</i></li> <li>• <i>Blandford</i></li> <li>• <i>Bolton</i></li> <li>• <i>Boston</i></li> <li>• <i>Boston-Allston</i></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Boston-Back Bay</i></li> <li>• <i>Boston-Beacon Hill</i></li> <li>• <i>Boston-Brighton</i></li> <li>• <i>Boston-Charlestown</i></li> <li>• <i>Boston-Chinatown</i></li> <li>• <i>Boston-Dorchester</i></li> <li>• <i>Boston-Downtown</i></li> <li>• <i>Boston-East Boston</i></li> <li>• <i>Boston-Fenway Kenmore</i></li> <li>• <i>Boston-Hyde Park</i></li> <li>• <i>Boston-Jamaica Plain</i></li> <li>• <i>Boston-Mattapan</i></li> <li>• <i>Boston-Mission Hill</i></li> <li>• <i>Boston-North End</i></li> <li>• <i>Boston-Roslindale</i></li> <li>• <i>Boston-Roxbury</i></li> <li>• <i>Boston-South Boston</i></li> <li>• <i>Boston-South End</i></li> <li>• <i>Boston-West Roxbury</i></li> <li>• <i>Bourne</i></li> <li>• <i>Boxborough</i></li> <li>• <i>Boxford</i></li> <li>• <i>Boylston</i></li> <li>• <i>Braintree</i></li> <li>• <i>Brewster</i></li> <li>• <i>Bridgewater</i></li> <li>• <i>Brimfield</i></li> <li>• <i>Brockton</i></li> <li>• <i>Brookfield</i></li> <li>• <i>Brookline</i></li> <li>• <i>Buckland</i></li> <li>• <i>Burlington</i></li> <li>• <i>Cambridge</i></li> <li>• <i>Canton</i></li> <li>• <i>Carlisle</i></li> <li>• <i>Carver</i></li> <li>• <i>Charlemont</i></li> <li>• <i>Charlton</i></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Chatham</i></li> <li>• <i>Chelmsford</i></li> <li>• <i>Chelsea</i></li> <li>• <i>Cheshire</i></li> <li>• <i>Chester</i></li> <li>• <i>Chesterfield</i></li> <li>• <i>Chicopee</i></li> <li>• <i>Chilmark</i></li> <li>• <i>Clarksburg</i></li> <li>• <i>Clinton</i></li> <li>• <i>Cohasset</i></li> <li>• <i>Colrain</i></li> <li>• <i>Concord</i></li> <li>• <i>Conway</i></li> <li>• <i>Cummington</i></li> <li>• <i>Dalton</i></li> <li>• <i>Danvers</i></li> <li>• <i>Dartmouth</i></li> <li>• <i>Dedham</i></li> <li>• <i>Deerfield</i></li> <li>• <i>Dennis</i></li> <li>• <i>Dighton</i></li> <li>• <i>Douglas</i></li> <li>• <i>Dover</i></li> <li>• <i>Dracut</i></li> <li>• <i>Dudley</i></li> <li>• <i>Dunstable</i></li> <li>• <i>Duxbury</i></li> <li>• <i>East Bridgewater</i></li> <li>• <i>East Brookfield</i></li> <li>• <i>East Longmeadow</i></li> <li>• <i>Eastham</i></li> <li>• <i>Easthampton</i></li> <li>• <i>Easton</i></li> <li>• <i>Edgartown</i></li> <li>• <i>Egremont</i></li> <li>• <i>Erving</i></li> <li>• <i>Essex</i></li> </ul> |
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- *Everett*
- *Fairhaven*
- *Fall River*
- *Falmouth*
- *Fitchburg*
- *Florida*
- *Foxborough*
- *Framingham*
- *Franklin*
- *Freetown*
- *Gardner*
- *Georgetown*
- *Gill*
- *Gloucester*
- *Goshen*
- *Gosnold*
- *Grafton*
- *Granby*
- *Granville*
- *Great Barrington*
- *Greenfield*
- *Groton*
- *Groveland*
- *Hadley*
- *Halifax*
- *Hamilton*
- *Hampden*
- *Hancock*
- *Hanover*
- *Hanson*
- *Hardwick*
- *Harvard*
- *Harwich*
- *Hatfield*
- *Haverhill*
- *Hawley*
- *Heath*
- *Hingham*
- *Hinsdale*
- *Holbrook*
- *Holden*
- *Holland*
- *Holliston*
- *Holyoke*
- *Hopedale*
- *Hopkinton*
- *Hubbardston*
- *Hudson*

- *Hull*
- *Huntington*
- *Hyannis*
- *Ipswich*
- *Kingston*
- *Lakeville*
- *Lancaster*
- *Lanesborough*
- *Lawrence*
- *Lee*
- *Leicester*
- *Lenox*
- *Leominster*
- *Leverett*
- *Lexington*
- *Leyden*
- *Lincoln*
- *Littleton*
- *Longmeadow*
- *Lowell*
- *Ludlow*
- *Lunenburg*
- *Lynn*
- *Lynnfield*
- *Malden*
- *Manchester-by-the-Sea*
- *Mansfield*
- *Marblehead*
- *Marion*
- *Marlborough*
- *Marshfield*
- *Mashpee*
- *Mattapoissett*
- *Maynard*
- *Medfield*
- *Medford*
- *Medway*
- *Melrose*
- *Mendon*
- *Merrimac*
- *Methuen*
- *Middleborough*
- *Middlefield*
- *Middleton*
- *Milford*
- *Millbury*
- *Millis*
- *Millville*

- *Milton*
- *Monroe*
- *Monson*
- *Montague*
- *Monterey*
- *Montgomery*
- *Mount Washington*
- *Nahant*
- *Nantucket*
- *Natick*
- *Needham*
- *New Ashford*
- *New Bedford*
- *New Braintree*
- *New Marlborough*
- *New Salem*
- *Newbury*
- *Newburyport*
- *Newton*
- *Norfolk*
- *North Adams*
- *North Andover*
- *North Attleboro*
- *North Brookfield*
- *North Reading*
- *Northampton*
- *Northborough*
- *Northbridge*
- *Northfield*
- *Norton*
- *Norwell*
- *Norwood*
- *Oak Bluffs*
- *Oakham*
- *Orange*
- *Orleans*
- *Otis*
- *Oxford*
- *Palmer*
- *Paxton*
- *Peabody*
- *Pelham*
- *Pembroke*
- *Pepperell*
- *Peru*
- *Petersham*
- *Phillipston*
- *Pittsfield*



- Plainfield
- Plainville
- Plymouth
- Plympton
- Princeton
- Provincetown
- Quincy
- Randolph
- Raynham
- Reading
- Rehoboth
- Revere
- Richmond
- Rochester
- Rockland
- Rockport
- Rowe
- Rowley
- Royalston
- Russell
- Rutland
- Salem
- Salisbury
- Sandisfield
- Sandwich
- Saugus
- Savoy
- Scituate
- Seekonk
- Sharon
- Sheffield
- Shelburne
- Sherborn
- Shirley
- Shrewsbury
- Shutesbury
- Somerset
- Somerville
- South Hadley
- Southampton
- Southborough
- Southbridge
- Southwick
- Spencer
- Springfield
- Sterling
- Stockbridge
- Stoneham

- Stoughton
- Stow
- Sturbridge
- Sudbury
- Sunderland
- Sutton
- Swampscott
- Swansea
- Taunton
- Templeton
- Tewksbury
- Tisbury
- Tolland
- Topsfield
- Townsend
- Truro
- Tyngsborough
- Tyringham
- Upton
- Uxbridge
- Wakefield
- Wales
- Walpole
- Waltham
- Ware
- Wareham
- Warren
- Warwick
- Washington
- Watertown
- Wayland
- Webster
- Wellesley
- Wellfleet
- Wendell
- Wenham
- West Boylston
- West Bridgewater
- West Brookfield
- West Newbury
- West Springfield
- West Stockbridge
- West Tisbury
- Westborough
- Westfield
- Westford
- Westhampton
- Westminster

- Weston
- Westport
- Westwood
- Weymouth
- Whately
- Whitman
- Wilbraham
- Williamsburg
- Williamstown
- Wilmington
- Winchendon
- Winchester
- Windsor
- Winthrop
- Woburn
- Worcester
- Worthington
- Wrentham
- Yarmouth