

## **Coding4Food Phase 1: MTM, MTG, PRx Definition Consensus Building** **Workgroup Member Information Packet**

*Please read the following document before applying to be a Coding4Food Workgroup member.*

Applications for Phase 1 Workgroups:

- [Medically Tailored Meals Workgroup Application](#)
- [Medically Tailored Groceries Workgroup Application](#)
- [Produce Prescriptions Workgroup Application](#)

**Application Period: Monday, March 25th - Friday, April 12th, 2024 11pm PT**

**Notification Period: Early May 2024**

### **About the Coding4Food Project**

The [Coding4Food \(C4F\) project](#) is a community-informed initiative aiming to create new Healthcare Common Procedural Coding System (HCPCS) Level II codes to define a spectrum of Food is Medicine interventions, allowing for their full integration into the healthcare infrastructure.

Codes are a critical component of our healthcare infrastructure system – enabling healthcare providers to accurately bill insurance providers for services and labor and track a patient’s medical journey and outcomes by recording assessments, referrals, treatments, and procedures. As healthcare innovation and policy changes continue to provide new and more effective tools to prevent, treat, and reverse diet-sensitive conditions, new codes must be created to reflect these new pathways of care. Despite the recent increase in interest and attention to the integration of Food is Medicine interventions into healthcare payment and delivery systems, there remains a lack of adequate codes to document and bill for these interventions.

The Coding4Food project is focused on creating new HCPCS Level II codes. HCPCS codes are one of the commonly used code sets in our healthcare system. The HCPCS Level II subset of codes is used to identify products, supplies, and services utilized by health care that are outside the more traditional medical, surgical, and diagnostic procedures and services. [Learn more about HCPCS Level II codes here.](#)

Creating new HCPCS Level II codes will allow accurate billing and reimbursement for Food is Medicine services; enhance communication between healthcare providers, insurance companies, and patients; improve data analysis and research; and facilitate regulatory compliance with recent policy changes.

Phase 1 of the project will focus on building consensus around standard definitions for Medically Tailored Meals, Medically Tailored Groceries, and Produce Prescriptions. Phase 2 of the project will focus on building consensus around the standard definition of other Food is Medicine services including, but not limited to, Medically Supportive Meals and Groceries, Pantry Stocking, Food Pharmacies, and Teaching Kitchens.

The consensus building process will be facilitated by the [HL7 Gravity Project](#) with guidance from the C4F Advisory Committee. Project leaders expect to submit new HCPCS code applications in 2025.

### **Subject Matter Expert Workgroups**

To define these Food is Medicine services, SPUR and the HL7 Gravity Project will convene intervention-specific workgroups made up of subject matter experts from across the country.

Each workgroup will be facilitated by a Gravity Project representative and one C4F Advisory Committee member and will consist of no more than 15 subject matter experts bringing a diverse range of experiences and perspectives related to specific Food is Medicine interventions. There are three deliverables for each workgroup:

- A definition of the Food is Medicine intervention;
- A clear description of the patient pathway to service provision; and
- A list of expert groups and organizations who can answer outstanding questions.

***This application period is calling for subject matter experts for Phase 1 Workgroups: Medically Tailored Meals, Medically Tailored Groceries, and Produce Prescriptions.***

### **Membership Overview & Qualifications**

Workgroup membership is a volunteer position. Phase 1 workgroups are expected to meet virtually approximately 8 times beginning in late August and concluding in November 2024, totalling ~8 hours of work time. Workgroup members will be surveyed to identify an appropriate meeting schedule, but meeting times may expand beyond typical working hours to accommodate participation across different time zones. Selected members must be able to attend 6 out of 8 (75%) workgroup meetings. For any unattended meetings, an alternative from your team must attend.

Phase 1 workgroup members will be expected to have ample experience providing access to Medically Tailored Meals, Medically Tailored Groceries, or Produce Prescriptions, depending on which workgroup they are applying to. We recognize that applicants may not have *all* desired qualifications.

#### Medically Tailored Meal Workgroup: Desired Membership Qualifications

- 3+ years experience implementing a Medically Tailored Meal program
- Awareness of the scope of medically tailored and medically supportive meal landscape, including various implementation methods and diverse stakeholders perspectives
- Familiarity with the broader Food is Medicine landscape including the interplay between program access, nutrition education, and funding mechanisms
- Experience navigating MTM integration into a health care setting or system

#### Medically Tailored Grocery Workgroup: Desired Membership Qualifications

- 2+ years experience implementing a Medically Tailored Grocery program
- Awareness of the scope of medically tailored and medically supportive grocery landscape, including various implementation methods and diverse stakeholders perspectives
- Familiarity with the broader Food is Medicine landscape including the interplay between program access, nutrition education, and funding mechanisms
- Experience navigating MTG integration into a health care setting or system

#### Produce Prescription Workgroup: Desired Membership Qualifications

- 3+ years experience close involvement in implementing or evaluating a produce prescription program
- Aware of the scope of the produce prescription landscape including various implementation methods and diverse stakeholders perspectives
- Familiarity with the broader Food is Medicine landscape including the interplay between program access, nutrition education, and funding mechanisms
- Experience navigating Produce Prescriptions integration into a health care setting or system

#### **Application Process**

Food is Medicine practitioners from across the country are invited to apply to participate in **one workgroup only**. Please select the appropriate application below.

- [Medically Tailored Meal Workgroup Application](#)
- [Medically Tailored Groceries Workgroup Application](#)
- [Produce Prescription Workgroup Application](#)

**All Phase 1 applications are due 11pm PT, April 8, 2024.**

*The Phase 2 application process will launch late August 2024.*

## **Selection Process**

A subset of the C4F Advisory Committee will be reviewing applications and making final membership recommendations to the full committee. Review teams will aim to ensure broad diversity of perspective and areas of expertise across workgroup members.

**Applicants will be notified early May 2024 if they are invited to participate in a workgroup. Once workgroup members are finalized, project leaders will coordinate scheduling for workgroup meetings. Workgroup meetings are expected to begin in late August.**

## **Questions**

If you have any questions about the Coding4Food project, the consensus building process, or the workgroup application process, please contact Kristin Sukys, [kristin@fimstrategies.com](mailto:kristin@fimstrategies.com).