

Problem & Project Goals



39% of children below federal poverty line ¹

Philadelphia is one of the poorest major cities in the U.S. ², and North Philadelphia is considered a food desert ³



49% of families are food insecure ⁴

High poverty rates & food insecurity contribute to: ⁵

- Increased hospitalizations
- Poor school performance
- Obesity
- Depression & increased suicide attempts



Disparities Leadership Program Project Goals:

- Improve effectiveness of food insecurity screening initiatives at SCHC
- Improve efficiency & expand distribution of Farm to Families and FreshRX programs at SCHC

Hunger-Free Hospital Model

Screening

- 2-item food insecurity screening conducted during visit with providers
- Medical Legal Partnership worked with providers on positive screens

Education

- Sesame Street's "Food for Thought" DVDs given out during office visits
- Online training module on food insecurity created for hospital staff



Resources

- Farm to Family (F2F) program started to provide fresh produce
- FreshRX prescription program links families to F2F
- WIC Office brought to hospital

Relief

- Emergency Food Resource packet given to families with positive screens
- Hospital-wide Annual turkey dinner drives for families
- Annual food drives to benefit Philabundance

Results & Intervention

3-Year Results

- 1 in 6 families screened were positive for food insecurity
- 23% families who screened positive received legal advice from Medical Legal Partnership (MLP) about their benefits
- >3,000 prescriptions written for fresh produce
- >90% of prescriptions were written for families earning <\$25,000/year
- >6,000 boxes of fresh produce distributed to families
- % prescriptions redeemed dropped from 25% to 17% in year 1 to year 3, as program was expanded at SCHC



4-Month Program Intervention

- Increased coordinator hours resulted in:
- 200% increase in the percentage of FreshRX prescriptions that had follow-up calls made to families
 - 138% increase in the percentage of prescriptions redeemed (from 13% to 31%)
 - 77% increase in the number of boxes distributed/week

Lessons Learned & Next Steps

Lessons Learned

- Food insecurity screening has successfully been implemented with MLP at SCHC
- Farm to Families & FreshRX programs have been incorporated into SCHC and are helping families with food insecurity
- A full-time coordinator will be needed in order for the programs to reach their full potential



Next Steps

- Sustain food insecurity screening, F2F, and FreshRX programs at SCHC
- Seek funding for full-time coordinator for F2F program
- Improve follow-up of FreshRX prescriptions
- Link food insecurity screening, F2F, and FreshRX programs to patient outcomes in EHR