



# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

### *SB 241: Medical Assistance Demonstration Projects*

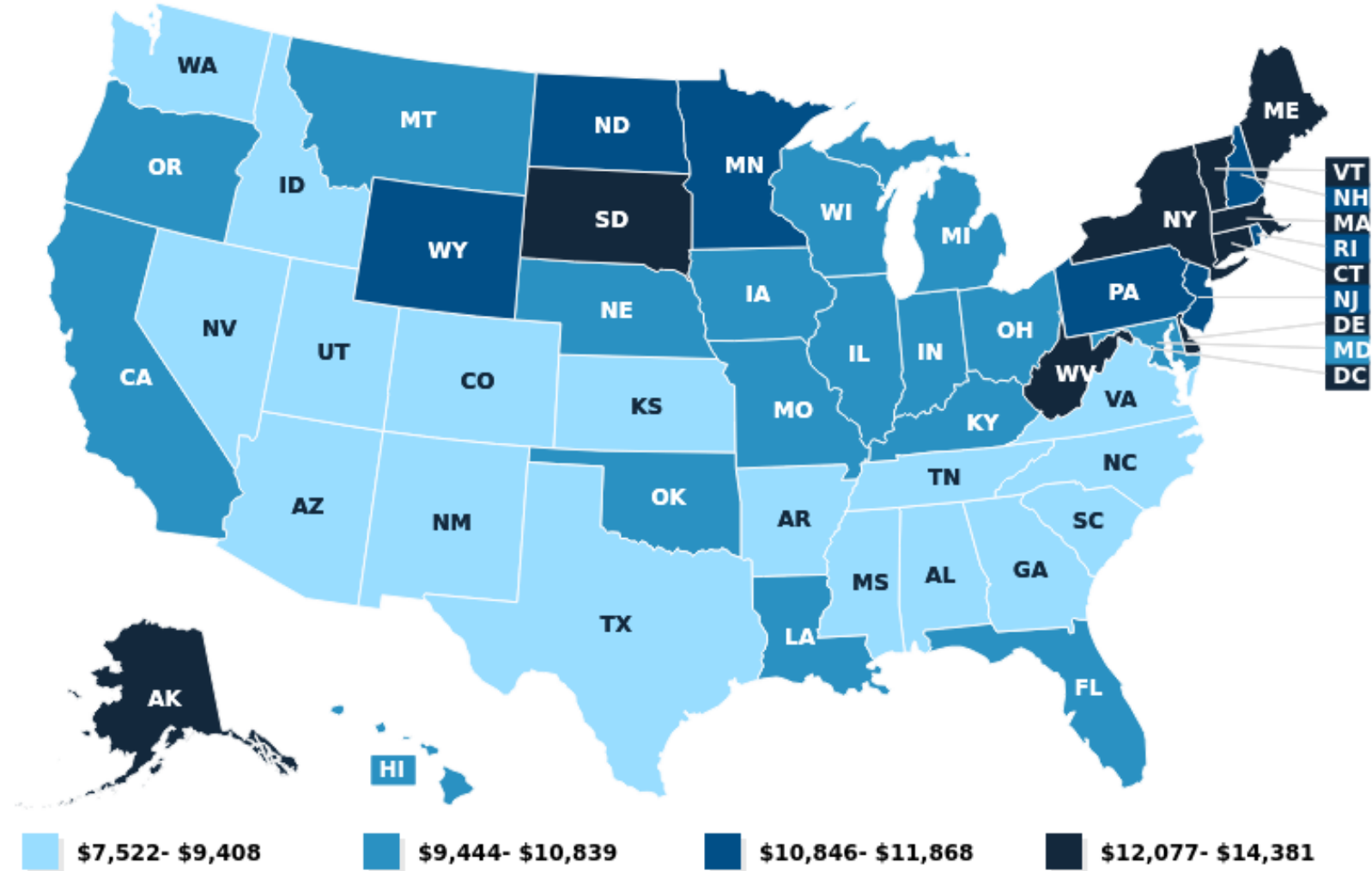
*Emily Ricci, Deputy Commissioner  
Dr. Anne Zink, Chief Medical Officer*

March 19, 2024

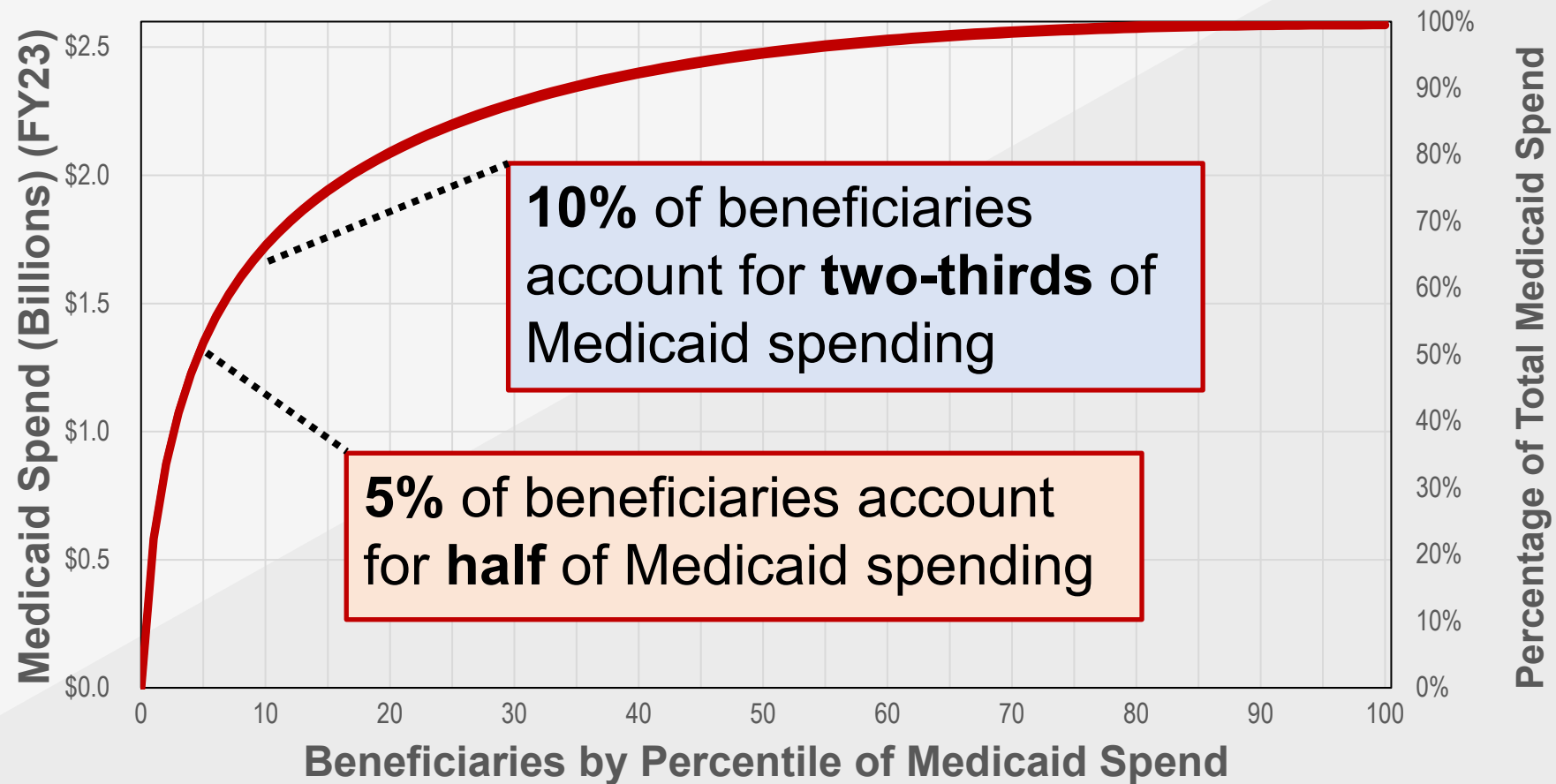


Medicaid is a critical tool to improving Alaska's health care delivery system and patient outcomes.

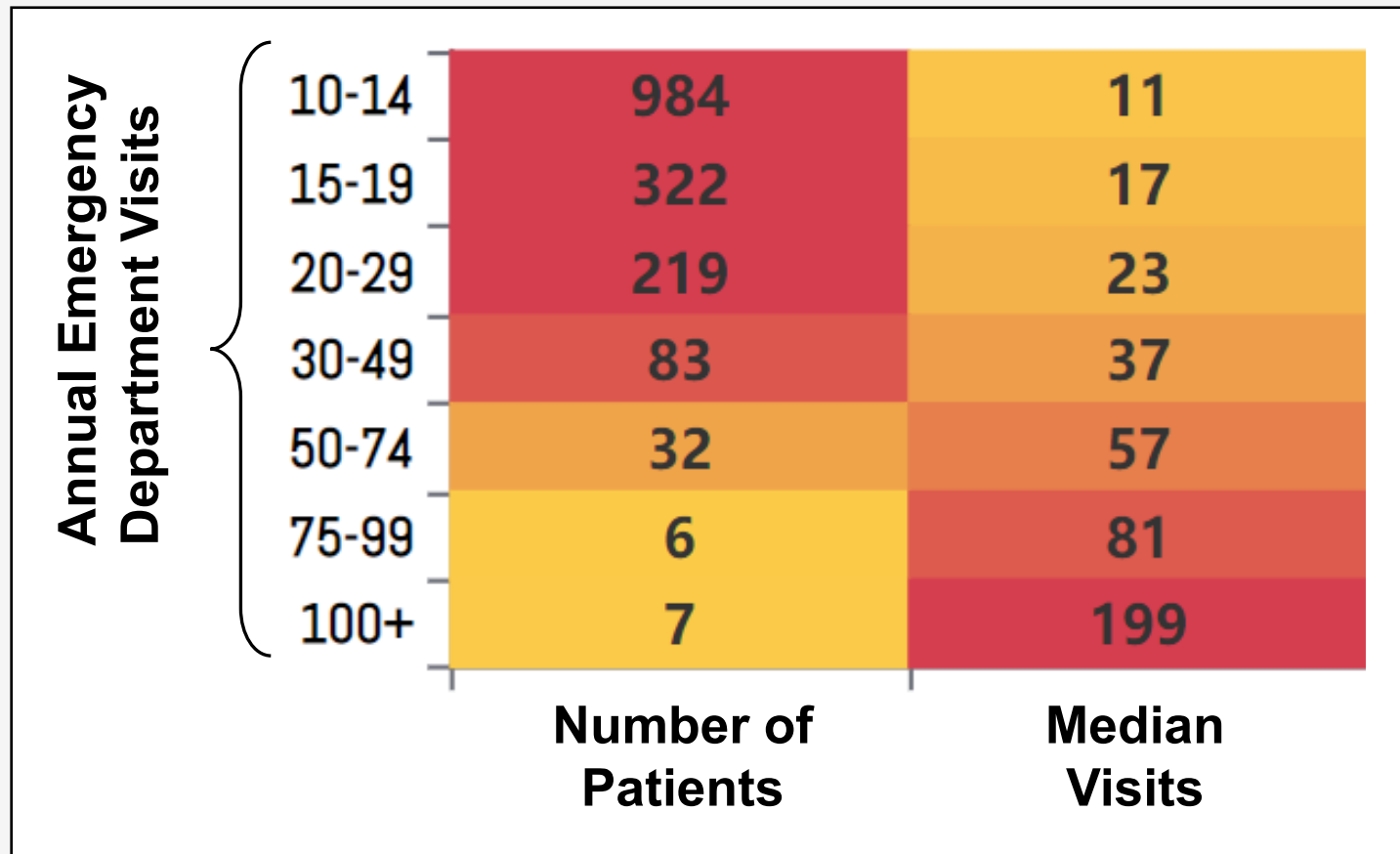
Total Health Care Expenditures per Capita (2020)



# Alaska Medicaid Utilization



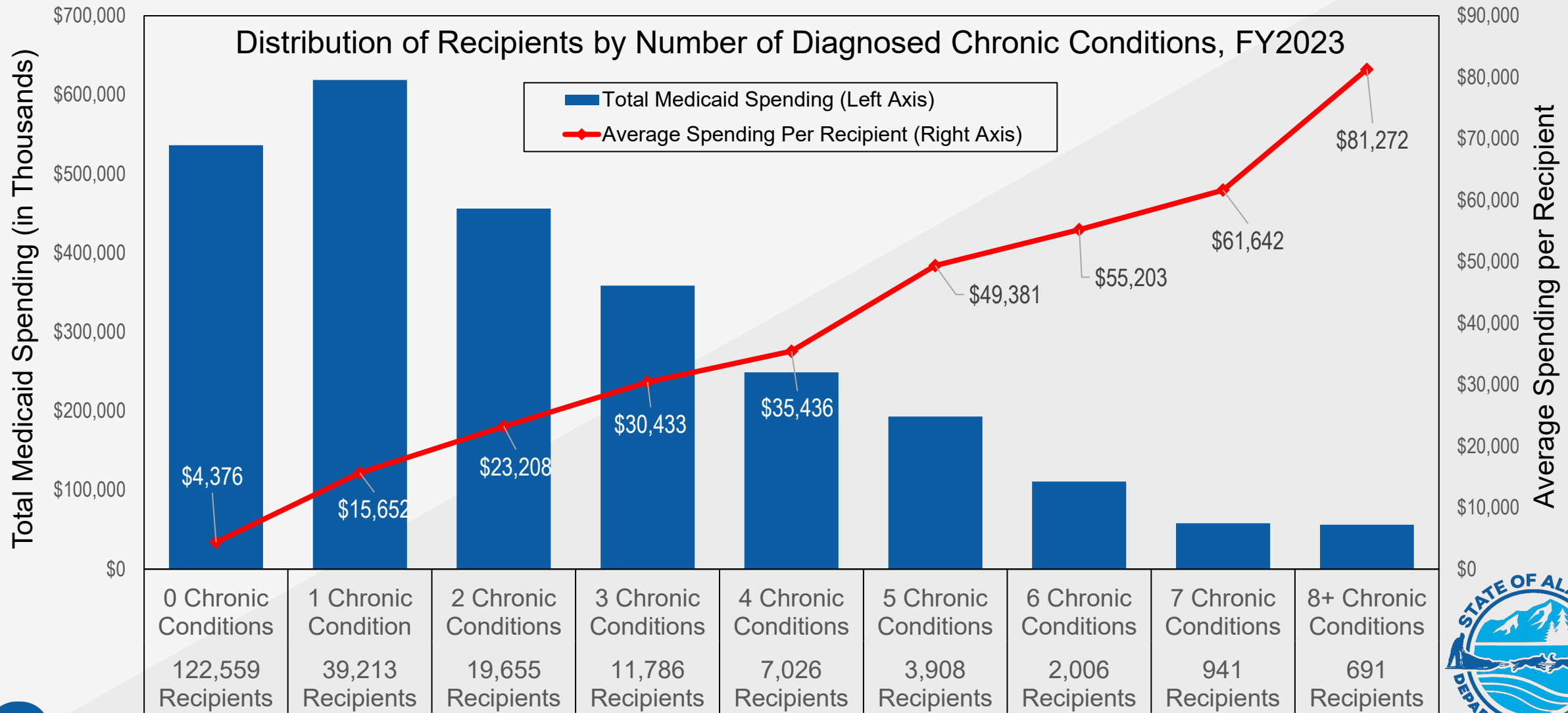
# Alaska Emergency Department Utilization



- More than 1,500 Alaskans had over ten visits per year
- The highest utilizers have almost 200 median visits per year



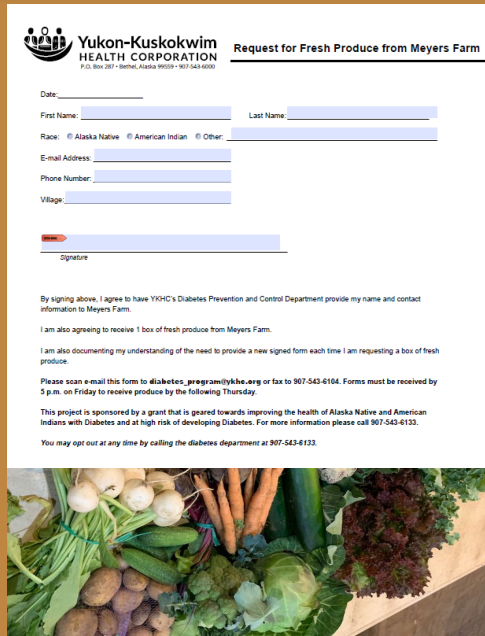
# Chronic Conditions and Medicaid Utilization



# Learning From Alaskans

## Produce Prescriptions

📍 Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation



The form is titled "Request for Fresh Produce from Meyers Farm" and is from the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation. It includes fields for Date, First Name, Last Name, Race (Alaska Native, American Indian, Other), E-mail Address, Phone Number, and Village. There is a signature line and a section for agreement and contact information. Below the form is a photograph of various fresh vegetables including carrots, potatoes, and leafy greens.



## Case Coordination

📍 Bartlett Regional Hospital

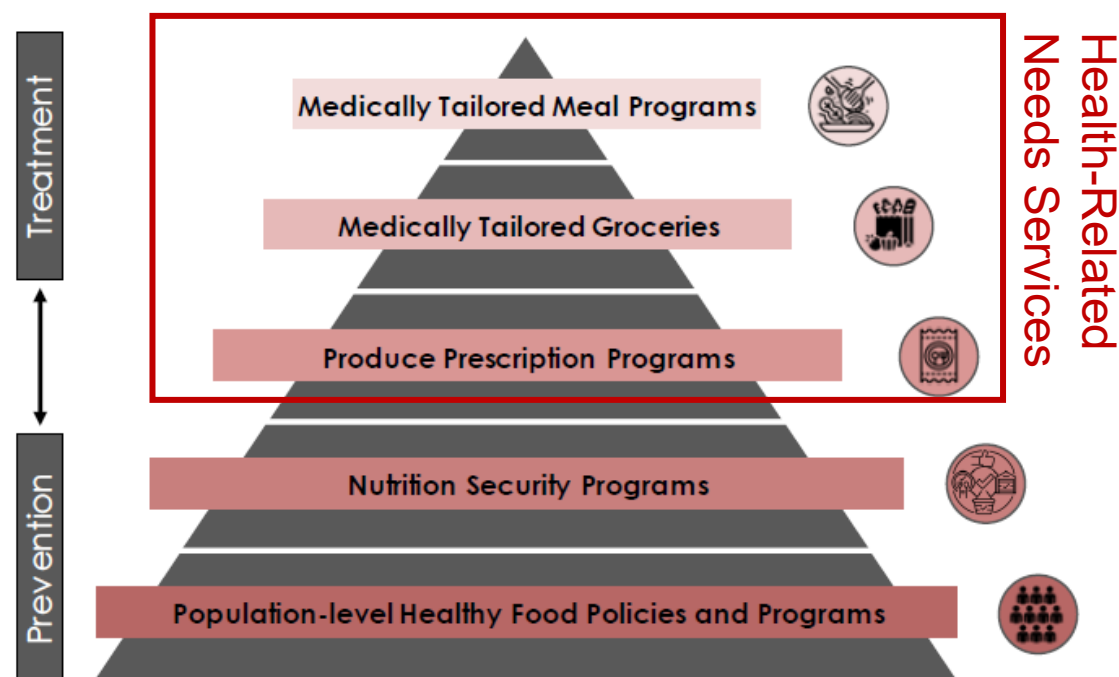


# What Are Health-Related Needs?

Under the 1115 waiver, health-related needs services must be:

- ☐ Medically necessary
- ☐ The choice of the beneficiary
- ☐ Individually tailored
- ☐ Distinct from population-based health interventions (must supplement not supplant existing services)

## Example: Nutrition Services



# Example: Nutrition Supports



- Poor nutrition contributes to worsening medical conditions and escalates to hospitalization
- During discharge planning, food insecurity is identified as a need
- Nutrition services are tailored to address specific medical needs
  - Stabilizes after post-acute event
  - Encourages timely discharge
  - Maintains independent living



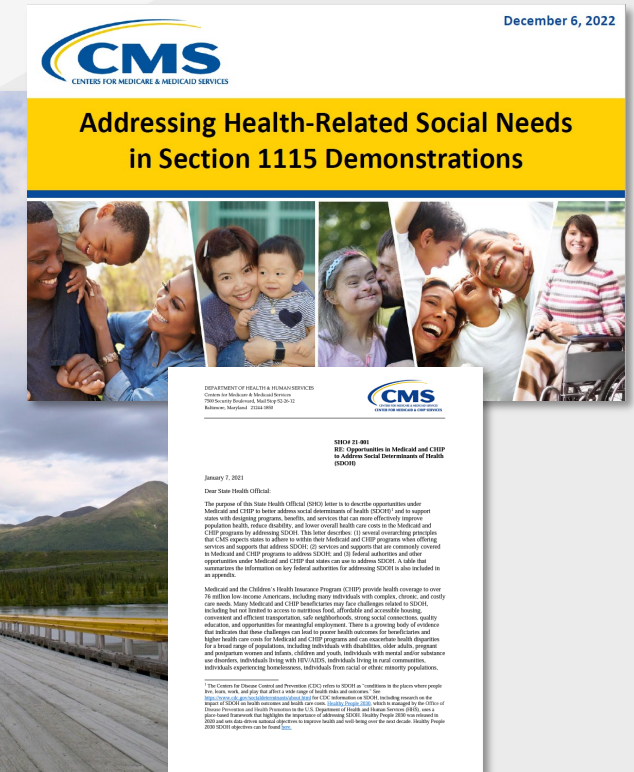
# Example: Cycling Through API



- Co-occurring mental health and chronic health diagnoses
- Unstable living conditions lead to poor medication management
- Multiple admissions and delays in discharge
- Higher level of care than is medically necessary

# Tailoring Medicaid to Meet Alaska's Needs

- Medicaid is a state-federal partnership
- New federal support for Medicaid innovation
- 1115 waivers allow states to implement specific strategies reflecting their population's unique needs and priorities



**WHO?**

Who are we serving?

**WHAT?**

What are we paying for?

**HOW?**

How are we paying for it?

# Goals



Improve  
health  
outcomes

Decrease  
downstream  
costs

By promoting wellness and addressing the basic health-related needs of Alaskans, we can prevent negative health outcomes and drive down health care costs.



# Why A Bill?

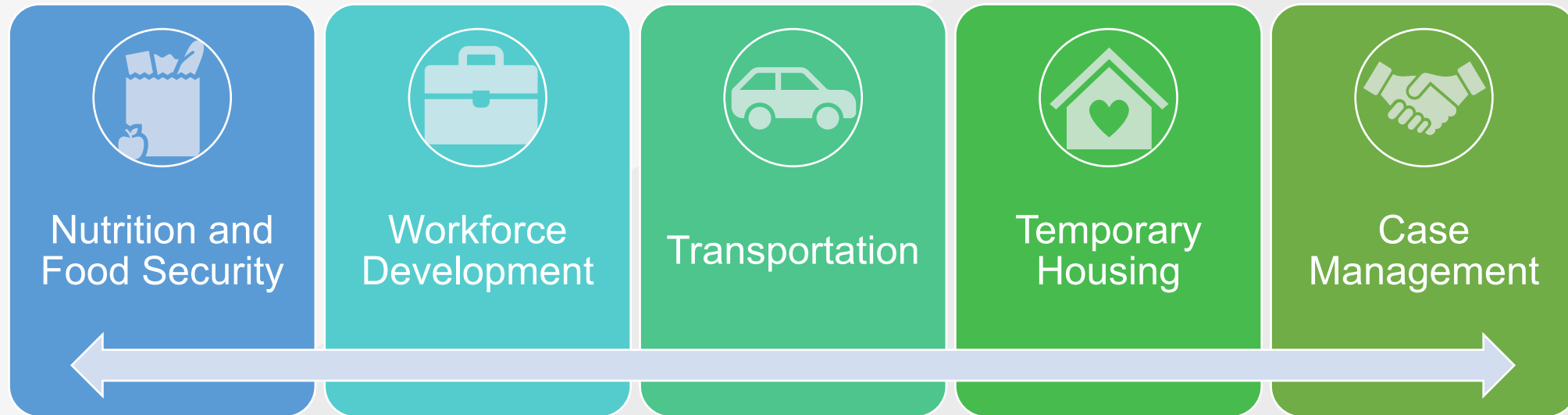


- Gives the Department the necessary authority to pursue a new 1115 waiver opportunity for health-related needs
  - A health-related needs 1115 waiver would be distinct from Alaska's existing 1115 waiver
- Allows the Department to conduct actuarial analysis and develop the waiver application



# Leveraging an 1115 Waiver to Address Health-Related Needs

Time-limited and medically necessary interventions spanning:



# Financial Considerations

- **Budget Neutrality:** Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services requires budget neutrality for all 1115 waivers.
- **Alaska Medicaid Spending:** The legislature authorizes Medicaid spending annually.
- **Efficiencies in Care:** There is strong evidence that addressing health-related needs improves health outcomes and reduces costs.



# Sectional Analysis

## Section 1.

Adds a new section (h) to AS 47.07.036.

- Authorizes the department to apply for an 1115 waiver to establish one or more demonstration projects focused on addressing health-related social needs for Alaska Medicaid recipients in one or more specific geographic areas.
- Defines “health-related needs” as social or economic conditions that contribute to an individual’s poor health outcomes.





# Engaging Partners



Discussions with: 60+ partners, 110+ individuals

American Association of Retired Persons, Alaska  
Affordable Housing Land Trust  
Alaska Geriatric Exchange Network (AGEnetAK)  
AK Child & Family  
Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities  
Alaska Behavioral Health Association  
Alaska Coalition to End Homelessness  
Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness  
Alaska Farm Bureau  
Alaska Food Policy Council  
Alaska Hospital & Healthcare Association  
Alaska Housing Finance Corporation  
Alaska Municipal League  
Alaska Native Health Board  
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium  
Alaska Psychiatric Institute  
Alaska Coalition to End Homelessness  
Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness  
Assets, Inc.  
Association of Alaska Housing Authorities  
Bartlett Regional Hospital

Beans Café  
Central Peninsula Hospital  
Chugachmiut  
Community Connections  
Cook Inlet Housing Authority  
Cooper River Native Association  
Cordova Medical Center  
Denali Center/Foundation Health  
Fairbanks Food Bank  
Fairbanks Memorial Hospital  
Foundation Health Partners, Denali Center  
Food Bank of Alaska  
Frontier Community Services  
Hobbs, Straus, Dean, & Walker, LLP  
Hope Community Resources  
Infinite Options Care Coordination Services  
Institute of Social and Economic Research  
Jordan Marshall, Governmental Affairs Consultant  
Kikiktagruk Inupiat Corporation  
Legislative Consultants, LLC  
Maniilaq Association

Mat-Su Health Foundation  
Mat-Su Health Services  
Mat-Su Services for Children and Adults  
Mental Health Trust Authority  
National Health Service Corps  
Optum  
Palmer Navigation Services  
Peer Power Alaska  
Petersburg Medical Center  
Providence Hospital  
Rasmuson Foundation  
REACH Alaska  
South Peninsula Hospital  
Southcentral Foundation  
Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium  
Volunteers of America  
Yakutat Community Health Center  
Yakutat Tlingit Tribe  
Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation



# Questions?

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