



UNIVERSITY of
DENVER

COLORADO EVALUATION
AND ACTION LAB

Addressing Food Insecurity by Improving Referral Systems between Medical and Social Services Providers in Mesa County

This project aims to mitigate food insecurity in Mesa County by optimizing and testing an electronic data system called the Community Resource Network that links patients/clients, medical providers, and social services agencies. The research team will engage in an iterative, community-engaged process to uncover the factors that prevent people from enrolling in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and/or the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). The project team will learn from the Community Resource Network piloting process how medical providers and SNAP/WIC agency staff can leverage this electronic platform to address food insecurity. The information gained from this project can be leveraged beyond Mesa County to address food insecurity more broadly and to improve medical providers' referral practices for other social determinants of health.

The Community Resource Network is an initiative of Quality Health Network (QHN), a regional health information exchange. QHN strives to improve the referral process without placing additional burdens on medical providers and food insecurity program staff. To achieve the goals of this project, the research team will be using data from the Community Resource Network system related to food insecurity screenings and referrals and SNAP/WIC enrollment rates, and they will also conduct interviews with food insecure individuals and providers.

Researchers:

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