

26 Section 1. Section 409.90203, Florida Statutes, is created
 27 to read:

28 409.90203 Food is Medicine Pilot Program; Medicaid
 29 coverage for pilot program providing medically precise
 30 nutrition, medically tailored meals, or produce prescriptions,
 31 with nutrition education and supports; federal approval and
 32 waivers; Florida Food is Medicine Center of Excellence.-

33 (1) As used in this section, the term:

34 (a) "Center," unless the context clearly indicates
 35 otherwise, means the Florida Food is Medicine Center of
 36 Excellence established in this section by the Florida Health and
 37 Nutrition Coalition.

38 (b) "Food is Medicine" means food-based interventions and
 39 services that include medically precise nutrition, medically
 40 tailored meals, or produce prescriptions, with nutrition
 41 education and specific supports provided to a person with a
 42 specific diet-related disease or chronic condition to
 43 effectively support healthful food and physical activity
 44 behavior change conducive to health and well-being while
 45 improving health outcomes and health care cost savings through
 46 the control and reversal of the disease or condition effects and
 47 the prevention of further disease or condition complications.

48 (c) "Medically precise nutrition" means a medical
 49 nutrition groceries program provided to a Medicaid recipient
 50 through a prescription or referral from a physician licensed

51 under chapter 458 or chapter 459, or through a referral from a
52 clinic or hospital staff member, a licensed clinical social
53 worker, a registered dietitian/nutritionist, or a health plan,
54 for fresh and health-promoting groceries purchased and
55 distributed with nutrition education and specific supports to
56 produce positive health outcomes for a specific diet-related
57 disease or chronic condition.

58 1. The medical nutrition groceries program must be in a
59 protocol standard selected, reviewed, and approved by a
60 registered dietitian or registered dietitian/nutritionist
61 licensed under s. 468.513 as part of a 6-month intervention
62 treatment program that follows the model of healthful food
63 prescription programs supported by research conducted by the
64 Gerald J. and Dorothy R. Friedman School of Nutrition Science
65 and Policy at Tufts University and implemented by the nonprofit
66 organization Living Hungry and that is certified by the Florida
67 Food is Medicine Center of Excellence to meet the quality and
68 cultural standards and the health standards for the specific
69 disease or chronic condition.

70 2. The medical nutrition groceries program may include
71 supports through behavioral health counseling, Food is Medicine
72 functional medicine classes, anatomy of disease classes, cooking
73 classes, gym or exercise classes, weekly menus and shopping
74 lists, grocery store tours, and motivational habit change
75 supports such as peer mentoring and health coaching in a

76 protocol designed for a Medicaid recipient with a specific diet-
 77 related disease or chronic condition to effectively control or
 78 reverse the disease or condition effects and prevent further
 79 disease or condition complications.

80 3. The health-promoting groceries under the medical
 81 nutrition groceries program may be:

82 a. Picked up at the health plan facility or clinic or at
 83 an event organized by a community-based organization or by an
 84 entity under contract with the program such as a grocery store;
 85 or

86 b. Delivered to the residence of the Medicaid recipient by
 87 the program or by an entity under contract with the program.

88 4. The medical nutrition groceries program:

89 a. May include healthful recipes and healthfully prepared
 90 ingredients, herbs, spices, and sauces.

91 b. May include at-home laboratory tests, supplements,
 92 monitoring supplies, and telehealth components.

93 c. Must include nutrition education.

94 d. Must include a program evaluation to report health
 95 outcomes, including, but not limited to, biomarkers, nutrition
 96 security assessments, and healthful eating and behavior change
 97 surveys before and after the use of the program to evaluate the
 98 program's effectiveness.

99 (d) "Medically tailored meals" means a medical meal plan
 100 program provided to a Medicaid recipient through a prescription

101 or referral from a physician licensed under chapter 458 or
102 chapter 459, or through a referral from a clinic or hospital
103 staff member, a licensed clinical social worker, a registered
104 dietitian or registered dietitian/nutritionist, or a health
105 plan, for meals purchased and distributed with nutrition
106 education and support to produce positive health outcomes for a
107 person with a specific diet-related disease or chronic
108 condition. The medical meal plan program must be designed,
109 reviewed, and approved by a registered dietitian or registered
110 dietitian/nutritionist licensed under s. 468.513 to reflect
111 appropriate medical nutrition therapy based on evidence-based
112 practice guidelines for the specific diet-related disease or
113 chronic condition that requires the prescription or referral.

114 1. The meals under the medical meal plan program must be
115 fully prepared by a Medicaid provider or by a person, entity, or
116 community-based organization under contract with a Medicaid
117 managed care organization or with a Medicaid provider and must
118 be certified by the Florida Food is Medicine Center of
119 Excellence to meet the quality and cultural standards and health
120 standards for the specific disease or chronic condition. The
121 meals may be:

122 a. Picked up at the health plan facility or clinic or at
123 an event organized by a community-based organization or by an
124 entity under contract with the program such as a restaurant or
125 grocery store; or

126 b. Delivered to the residence of the Medicaid recipient by
 127 the program or by an entity under contract with the program.

128 2. The medical meal plan program:

129 a. May include healthful recipes and healthfully prepared
 130 ingredients, herbs, spices, and sauces.

131 b. May include at-home laboratory tests, supplements,
 132 monitoring supplies, and telehealth components.

133 c. Must include nutrition education.

134 d. Must include a program evaluation to report health
 135 outcomes, including, but not limited to, biomarkers, nutrition
 136 security assessments, and healthful eating and behavior change
 137 surveys before and after the use of the program to evaluate the
 138 program's effectiveness.

139 (e) "Nutrition education" means a validated course and
 140 series of nutrition education classes in a 6-month intervention
 141 program such as the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education
 142 Program, a research-based nutrition education program funded by
 143 the United States Department of Agriculture which teaches
 144 participants to grocery shop and plan and cook nutritious meals
 145 through lessons given by in-language, in-culture
 146 paraprofessionals and other educators from the Extension Family
 147 and Consumer Sciences programs of the University of Florida
 148 Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS), with
 149 sites in multiple counties across the state. The term also
 150 includes surveys before and after the classes to measure habit

151 changes and evaluate applications of nutrition education among
152 Florida residents, especially among populations that endure a
153 disproportionate share of food insecurity.

154 (f) "Pilot program" means the Food is Medicine Pilot
155 Program established in this section.

156 (g) "Produce prescription" means a program that is
157 provided through a prescription or referral from a physician
158 licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459, or through a referral
159 from a clinic or hospital staff member, a licensed clinical
160 social worker, a registered dietitian or registered
161 dietitian/nutritionist, or a health plan, to a Medicaid
162 recipient who has or is at risk of a specific diet-related
163 disease or chronic condition such as diabetes, coronary artery
164 disease, cancer, obesity, renal disease, celiac disease, asthma,
165 or dementia, to purchase produce at no cost or low cost using a
166 technology-enabled application such as About Fresh; a coupon; a
167 voucher; a debit card; a digital currency; or other means of
168 storing value to be redeemed for purchasing fresh or frozen
169 produce.

170 1.a. The technology-enabled application, coupon, voucher,
171 debit card, digital currency, or other means of storing value
172 may be redeemed at a farm store, farm packing house, mobile
173 farmers' market, market as defined in s. 414.456(1), or
174 community-based organization site; or

175 b. The produce may be delivered to the residence of the

176 Medicaid recipient or distributed through a market or store or
177 through a Medicaid provider or health plan facility or clinic.

178 2. The program must be in a protocol standard selected,
179 reviewed, and approved by a registered dietitian/nutritionist
180 licensed under s. 468.513 as part of an intervention program
181 that may include medical nutritional therapy by a registered
182 dietitian/nutritionist, behavioral health counseling, Food is
183 Medicine functional medicine classes, anatomy of disease
184 classes, cooking classes, gym or exercise classes, weekly menus
185 and shopping lists, grocery store tours, and habit change
186 supports such as peer mentoring and health coaching designed for
187 a Medicaid recipient with a specific diet-related disease or
188 chronic condition to effectively control and reverse the disease
189 or condition effects and prevent the disease or condition
190 complications. The program:

191 a. May include healthful recipes and healthfully prepared
192 ingredients, herbs, spices, and sauces.

193 b. May include at-home laboratory tests, supplements,
194 monitoring supplies, and telehealth components.

195 c. Must include nutrition education.

196 d. Must include a program evaluation to report health
197 outcomes, including, but not limited to, biomarkers, nutrition
198 security assessments, and healthful eating and behavior change
199 surveys before and after the use of the program to evaluate the
200 program's effectiveness.

201 (h) "Program evaluation" means an annual evaluation of a
 202 state Medicaid-funded program that uses medically precise
 203 nutrition, medically tailored meals, or produce prescriptions.
 204 These evaluations assess fidelity of program implementation and
 205 overall program effectiveness, as well as health biomarker
 206 outcomes, nutrition intake, health equity, healthful habit
 207 adoption, and food insecurity. The annual evaluation:

208 1. May either be funded by the agency and conducted by
 209 UF/IFAS Food is Medicine evaluators or be a component of the
 210 program's implementation budget.

211 2. Is reported to the agency and the Legislature.

212 (2) By July 1, 2025, the agency, in conjunction with the
 213 Department of Health, shall:

214 (a) Establish the Food is Medicine Pilot Program to
 215 provide Medicaid coverage for purchases and deliveries of
 216 prescribed healthful foods in disease-specific protocols through
 217 programs that use medically precise nutrition, medically
 218 tailored meals, or produce prescriptions to meet the specific
 219 needs of Medicaid recipients who have or are at risk of a
 220 specific diet-related disease or chronic condition and who are
 221 high-need patients or patients with high-cost patient care or
 222 with the highest health care expenditures. The pilot program
 223 shall serve to establish the impact of healthful foods on health
 224 outcomes of Medicaid recipients and the cost-effectiveness of
 225 such practices.

226 (b) Seek:

227 1. The pilot program's approval by the United States

228 Secretary of Health and Human Services under s. 1115 of the

229 Social Security Act, which gives the secretary the authority to

230 approve, for an initial 5-year period, experimental, pilot, or

231 demonstration projects that are likely to assist in promoting

232 the objectives of the Medicaid program.

233 2. Any federal waivers necessary for the implementation of

234 the pilot program, including any waivers necessary to obtain

235 federal finances to secure Title XIX matching funds for the

236 pilot program. The federal waiver application shall seek

237 Medicaid matching funds for all general revenue, family

238 contributions, and local contributions.

239 (c) Require UF/IFAS nutrition education providers or other

240 nutrition educators to refer the pilot program patients to the

241 federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the Temporary

242 Assistance for Needy Families, and the Special Supplemental

243 Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children to meet the

244 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services financial directive

245 for Medicaid waiver for the pilot program.

246 (d) Provide a portion of the pilot program implementation

247 budget, not to exceed 15 percent of the overall funds expended

248 for the pilot program, to the Florida Health and Nutrition

249 Coalition, a nonprofit corporation and coalition of Food is

250 Medicine stakeholders in this state, to establish a network

251 model center hub formed after the national best practices of the
252 United States Department of Agriculture Gus Schumacher Nutrition
253 Incentive Program and the National Institutes of Health. The
254 center hub established by the coalition shall be called the
255 Florida Food is Medicine Center of Excellence.

256 (3) (a) The Florida Health and Nutrition Coalition shall
257 operate the Florida Food is Medicine Center of Excellence as an
258 online, Florida-based research and expertise repository by
259 accumulating data in the following areas:

- 260 1. Research.
- 261 2. Provision of services and activities such as referrals,
262 food sourcing, and logistics.
- 263 3. Community outreach and engagement.
- 264 4. Education and training.
- 265 5. Coverage for services such as billing and fulfillment
266 of patients' needs.
- 267 6. Health disparities.

268 (b) The center, in collaboration with UF/IFAS Food is
269 Medicine evaluators, shall:

- 270 1. Inform program operators during the pilot program
271 implementation.
- 272 2. Disseminate findings throughout this state and
273 nationally through the center's stakeholder network.
- 274 3. Include in-language and in-culture Food is Medicine
275 activities for Florida residents.

276 (c) The center shall report its research literature,
277 validated program models, operational planning frameworks,
278 nutrition standards, and strategies and tactics for effective
279 program activities to the agency and the United States
280 Department of Agriculture, the National Institutes of Health,
281 and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

282 (4) The agency, in collaboration with the center and
283 UF/IFAS, shall file an annual compilation report with the
284 Legislature on the pilot program, the reduction of food
285 insecurity, health outcome improvements and savings from the
286 enrolled high-need patients and patients with high-cost patient
287 care, and advances in health equity.

288 (5) The agency, in conjunction with the Department of
289 Health, shall adopt rules to implement and administer this
290 section, including, but not limited to, rules relating to:

291 (a) The quality standard and quantity and the number of
292 medically tailored meals delivered per week to a Medicaid
293 recipient.

294 (b) The funds allowed per Medicaid recipient for medically
295 precise nutrition, medically tailored meals, and produce
296 prescriptions.

297 (c) Notification to Medicaid providers and Medicaid
298 recipients of the availability of and requirements for medically
299 precise nutrition, medically tailored meals, and produce
300 prescriptions.

301 (d) The funds and model for evaluations for UF/IFAS Food
 302 is Medicine evaluators.

303 (e) The funds and model for the best-practices information
 304 repository hub and stakeholder network at the Florida Food is
 305 Medicine Center of Excellence.

306 (f) Methodology for reimbursing Medicaid providers and
 307 other managed care organizations and health plans for products,
 308 events, services, classes, or activities provided under the
 309 pilot program by the providers, organizations, and plans that
 310 use medically precise nutrition, medically tailored meals, or
 311 produce prescriptions.

312 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.