



NACHC Food Oasis Glossary

COMMUNITY GARDEN

A piece of land gardened collectively by a group of people, which can have various therapeutic, lifestyle and educational benefits.

COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

Community health centers serve as the primary medical home for nearly 26 million people in more than 10,400 rural and urban communities across America. Health centers, sometimes called Federally Qualified Health Centers, are community-based and patient-directed organizations that deliver comprehensive, culturally competent, high-quality primary health care services. Most health centers receive Health Center Program federal grant funding to improve the health of underserved and vulnerable populations. Some health centers that meet all Health Center Program requirements do not receive Federal award funding. These are called Health Center Program look-alikes.

COOKING/KITCHEN PROGRAMS

Programs aimed to teach patients how to replicate low-cost, healthy recipes at home; offered as a holistic approach to health and wellness.

ELDERLY

Any individual over the age of sixty-five.

FARMERS MARKET

A regular event in which farmers come to a defined location to sell their local and sustainable products.

FOOD BANK

A non-profit organization that collects and distributes food to hunger relief organizations.

FOOD DESERT

Geographic area lacking affordable fresh fruit, vegetables, and other nourishing whole foods within walking distance or simple bus travel of residential spaces. This is largely due to a lack of farmers markets, grocery stores, and affordable healthy food providers. A food desert may be rural or urban.

FOOD INSECURITY

The state of being without reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food.

FOOD OASIS

A place where self-sustaining and innovative practices are developed to empower inhabitants of food deserts to have better access to healthy eating environments and foods.

FOOD PANTRY

An independent facility that receives, buys, stores and distributes food directly to those in need in their community.

FOOD RX

A prescription for healthy food, often with financial incentives, intended to provide nutrition education, to connect patients to local resources and to promote behavior change.

FOOD VOUCHERS

A type of healthy food assistance; often used as an incentive to participate in healthy living programs.

HIV

Human immunodeficiency virus. If left untreated, HIV can lead to acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), a chronic and potentially life-threatening condition.

HOMELESS

Multiple definitions, but inclusive here as those who are unsheltered; residing in charitable sheltered spaces; doubled up in a household with another family; or living in a residence without tenant rights, exclusive of parent-child relationships.

MIGRANT/SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

A person who, for purposes of employment, must travel across geographic boundary lines to obtain work in agriculture, resulting in the necessity to change residences while working/a seasonal worker obtains their principal income through agricultural labor but does not have to move in order to do so.

MOBILE MARKET

A farmers market on wheels that delivers local, sustainable, and fresh food to underserved communities.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS (NACHC)

Founded in 1971, NACHC serves as the national health care advocacy organization for America's medically underserved and uninsured and the community health centers that serve as their health care home. NACHC works in conjunction with state and regional primary care associations, health center controlled networks and other public and private sector organizations to expand health care access to all in need.

- » Serves as the national and unified voice to advocate on behalf of medically uninsured and uninsured populations.
- » Advocates for growth and development of health centers and the needs of all medically underserved and uninsured populations.
- » Provides training and technical assistance to health center staff and boards in operational, financial, clinical and governance areas.
- » Conducts research — independently and in collaboration with others — to advance the body of community healthcare knowledge.
- » Develops strategic partnerships in both the public and private sectors to support the work of health centers and improve the health of patients and communities nationwide.

PROTOCOL FOR RESPONDING TO AND ASSESSING PATIENTS' ASSETS, RISKS, AND EXPERIENCES TOOL (PRAPARE)

The PRAPARE tool is a national standardized patient risk assessment protocol designed to engage patients in assessing and addressing social determinants of health. The tool was developed by the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC), the Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations, the Oregon Primary Care Association and the Institute for Alternative Futures. PRAPARE is available as templates for the following four Electronic Health Records: NextGen, eClinical Works, GE Centricity and Epic. For more information, visit www.nachc.org/prapare.

PUBLIC HOUSING

Program established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide rental housing for eligible low-income families and individuals, the elderly, and persons with disabilities.

RURAL

An open countryside with population densities less than 500 people per square mile and areas with fewer than 2,500 people; refers to a population type served by health center food assistance programs or activities.

SCHOOL-BASED

Population served by health center food assistance program or activity.

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC)

A federal aid program of the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) of the United States Department of Agriculture, that provides nutrition education, federal grants to states for supplemental foods and healthcare referrals for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breast-feeding postpartum women and to infants and children up to age five who are at nutritional risk.

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

A federal aid program of the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) of the United States Department of Agriculture that provides nutritional assistance benefits for low- and no-income people living in the United States. SNAP helps supplement monthly food budgets of these individuals and families to buy the food they need to maintain good health and allow them to direct more of their income toward essential living expenses.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

The federal executive department that develops national laws related to agriculture, forestry, food, and farming. The department aims to meet the needs of farmers and ranchers, work to assure food safety, promote agricultural trade and production, foster rural communities, protect natural resources and to end hunger in the United States and internationally.

URBAN

Densely settled area of 50,000 or more people; refers to a population type served by health center food assistance programs or activities.