



The Maryland State Medical Society

News: For Immediate Release

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MedChi Supports and Applauds Maryland Department of Health's New \$10 Million Produce Prescription Program

Initiative Aligns with MedChi President Dr. Eric Wargotz's Nutrition Advocacy and Webinar Series

BALTIMORE, MD — June 30, 2026 — MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, supports the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) following the announcement of its new \$10 million Produce Prescriptions (ProduceRx) program. This initiative integrates nutritious food into clinical care to help prevent and treat chronic, diet-related diseases and address food insecurity in high-poverty communities.

This state initiative directly reflects priorities that MedChi and Dr. Wargotz have been advocating for in the public health arena regarding nutrition and health. Specifically, the program aligns with the core focus of MedChi's nutrition webinars, which were organized to highlight these critical healthcare and public health changes.

These webinars featured prominent medical and policy voices, including **Dr. Neal Barnard, Dr. Aruna Nathan, Dr. Andy Harris**, and his staff member **Mr. Matthew Arthur**, who joined MedChi President **Dr. Eric Wargotz** to discuss the intersection of nutrition and health. "The Maryland Department of Health's new program aligns with some of the exact changes in nutrition and health that we have been highlighting," said Dr. Wargotz, advocate for nutrition in healthcare and MedChi member. "Providing produce prescriptions allows providers to offer an impactful intervention for diet-related conditions, directly addressing chronic disease and food insecurity where it is needed most."

The ProduceRx program will fund Maryland-based coalitions, government agencies, and academic institutions to implement these services over a two-year period in ENOUGH communities, which are defined by specific childhood and school poverty metrics. "From a policy perspective, integrating programs like ProduceRx into clinical care demonstrates a structural framework shift in how our state addresses chronic disease," said Gene Ransom, CEO of MedChi."

Proposals for the grant funding are due by August 17, 2026, with letters of intent due by July 20, 2026. MedChi encourages eligible organizations to review the state's Request for Applications (RFA) to support the expansion of nutrition-based clinical interventions across Maryland.

About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. It is the largest physician organization in Maryland. The mission of MedChi is to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients and the public health of Maryland. For more information, please visit www.medchi.org.