

Massachusetts Community Benefits Guidelines

The seal of the Office of the Massachusetts Attorney General is visible in the background. It features a circular design with the text "MASSACHUSETTS ATTORNEY GENERAL" around the top and "MARTHA COAKLEY" around the bottom. In the center is the coat of arms of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, which depicts a Native American figure holding a bow and arrow, with a five-pointed star above his right shoulder.

Office of Attorney General
Martha Coakley
July 13, 2011



Community Benefits

Attorney General Guidelines

- Hospitals – 1994; HMOs – 1996
- 2008 Revision
- Non-regulatory approach
 - Voluntary principles
 - Agreement of stakeholders
 - Public reporting
 - AGO Website



Community Benefits

Goals of 2008 Revision

1. Improve Pre-planning and Measurement
2. Increase Community Collaboration
3. Improve Reporting
4. Encourage a Focus on Statewide Priorities



Community Benefits

Statewide Priorities

- Supporting Health Care Reform
- Chronic Disease Management
- Reducing Health Disparities
- Promoting Wellness of Vulnerable Populations



Community Benefits

Community Benefit Principles

- Community Benefit Mission Statement
- Leadership Support for Community Benefits Plan
- Community Involvement
- Community Health Needs Assessment
- Community Benefits Plan
- Community Benefit Report



Community Benefits

Community Health Needs Assessment

- To develop Mission and Plan, the hospital or HMO should conduct a **comprehensive review of the unmet health needs of the community**, analyzing
 - public health data – including disparities data;
 - community input; and
 - existing programs.



Community Benefits

Report

- **Process reporting** - the process of developing the Plan
- **Program reporting** – detailed info on programs, including goals/measures
- **Expenditure reporting**



Community Benefits

Optional Reporting

- Community service programs
- Bad debt – if hospital adopts recommended medical debt collection practices
- IRS Form 990 community benefit expenditures – for comparison



Community Benefits

Conclusion

MA AG guidelines designed to:

- improve transparency and accountability in community benefit reporting;
- encourage pre-planning and community involvement; and
- align activities with statewide health priorities, including health disparities



MA AGO Website

For more information:

<http://www.mass.gov/ago>