

# The U.S. Urgently Needs to Integrate Social Services and Medical Care

- Policymakers and practitioners are increasingly looking “upstream” to address root causes of poor health and high health care spending.
- Growing awareness that health-related social needs strongly influence health care access, utilization, costs and outcomes among vulnerable high-need and high-cost populations.
- New value-based payments models and benefit designs allow health care organizations more flexibility to invest in meeting social needs.

