



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **PA Health & Wellness Supports Community Needs During the COVID-19 Pandemic**

*Partnerships and programs address the social determinants of health in Southwest Pennsylvania*

Pittsburgh (April 20, 2020) – During the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, people across Pennsylvania are facing challenges that extend beyond medical care and include basic daily needs such as food, internet connectivity, and essential supplies.

Social determinants of health are non-medical barriers to achieving quality health outcomes. They include socioeconomic and environment factors such as food accessibility, employment, education, and more. Research shows that medical care accounts for approximately 10 to 20 percent of health outcomes, while the other 80 to 90 percent is affected by the social determinants of health.

“The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are far-reaching and have extended beyond medical care to affect people’s access to food, employment, connectivity, and more,” said Justin Davis, PA Health & Wellness CEO and Plan President. “These social determinants of health have a significant impact on people’s overall wellbeing, especially among vulnerable populations. PA Health & Wellness wants to help ensure we’re supporting the additional needs of communities during this challenging time.”

### **Hunger and Food Security**

The demand on food banks has significantly increased during this pandemic, and it’s estimated that these organizations will need an additional \$1.4 billion in funding during the next six months to provide food assistance to people facing hunger.

As part of its effort to address hunger and food security, PA Health & Wellness, in the Southwest region of PA, has also partnered with **Northside Common Ministries** and **Focus on Renewal Food Pantry** to supply food for more than 10,000 community members in need.

Cynthia Haines, Executive Director of Focus On Renewal, said, "Focus On Renewal (F.O.R.) has become Focus On 'Recovery' with the support of PA Health & Wellness. The COVID-19 crisis finds us either looking at life through a dark or isolating lens or through a prism that illuminates hope and community activism. With this donation we will provide essential services

to those most in need, so they can see the light. Together we will not just endure, but we will prevail."

### **Restaurant Workers Relief**

The food service industries are also threatened by the COVID-19 crisis. The rapid loss of business is especially difficult on service and support staff, many of whom are reliant on gratuities as income, with many more paid hourly behind the scenes. PA Health & Wellness is partnering with **TABLE Magazine** and **Community Kitchen**, a Pittsburgh based nonprofit organization focused on workforce development, to assist in providing emergency funds for more than 30 front line restaurant workers who have been displaced due to COVID 19. These members of the food service community are hit the hardest and fastest by the COVID-19 crisis, reliant on gratuity for income and often paid out nightly. We've assembled this fund to try to get some funds in their hands to help them bridge the gap in these uncertain times." says TABLE publisher, Justin Matase.

PA Health & Wellness has been supporting Southwest Pennsylvania residents since 2017 across its Community HealthChoices and Allwell from PA Health & Wellness plans. Its efforts to address the social determinants of health reinforce its long-standing commitment to supporting the whole health of the community, one person at a time.

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### **About PA Health & Wellness**

PA Health & Wellness is a local health insurance provider that is committed to improving the health of the Pennsylvania residents, one person at a time, through access to healthcare coverage. Established to deliver quality healthcare in the state of Pennsylvania through local, regional and community-based resources, PA Health & Wellness is a Managed Care Organization and subsidiary of Centene Corporation (Centene). PA Health & Wellness exists to improve the health of its beneficiaries through focused, compassionate and coordinated care. For more information, visit [PAHealthWellness.com](http://PAHealthWellness.com) for more information.

### **About Centene Corporation**

Centene Corporation, a Fortune 100 company, is a leading multi-national healthcare enterprise that is committed to helping people live healthier lives. The Company takes a local approach – with local brands and local teams - to provide fully integrated, high-quality, and cost-effective services to government-sponsored and commercial healthcare programs, focusing on under-insured and uninsured individuals. Centene offers affordable and high-quality products to nearly 1 in 15 individuals across the nation, including Medicaid and Medicare members (including Medicare Prescription Drug Plans) as well as individuals and families served by the Health Insurance Marketplace, the TRICARE program, and individuals in correctional facilities. The Company also serves several international markets, and contracts with other healthcare and commercial organizations to provide a variety of specialty services focused on treating the whole person. Centene focuses on long-term growth and the development of its people, systems and capabilities so that it can better serve its members, providers, local communities, and government partners.

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