



# Consensus-driven Standards on Social Determinants of Health

National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics (NCVHS)  
Full Committee Meeting  
April 11, 2024

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# Gravity Overview



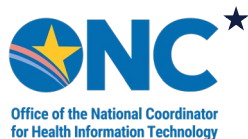
A collaborative initiative with the goal to develop consensus-driven data standards to support the collection, use, and exchange of data to address the social determinants of health (SDOH).



# 2024 Project Sponsors, Members and Partners



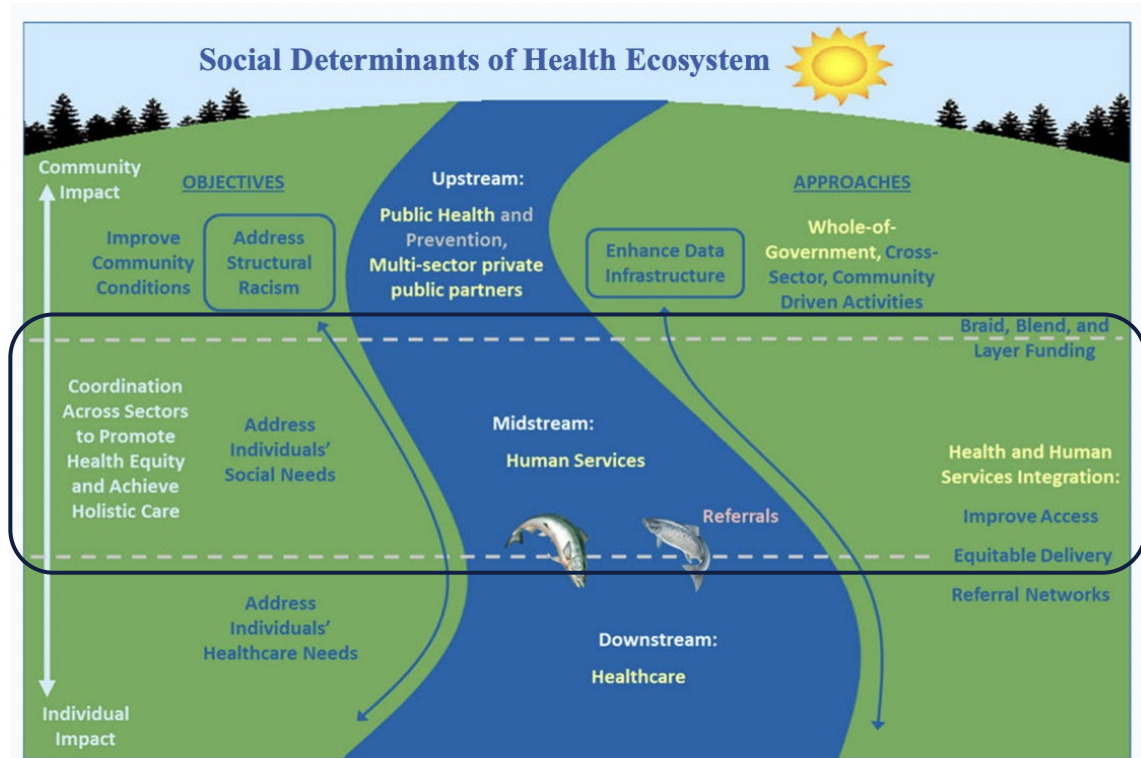
Lucy Johns MPH



★ Founding Sponsors

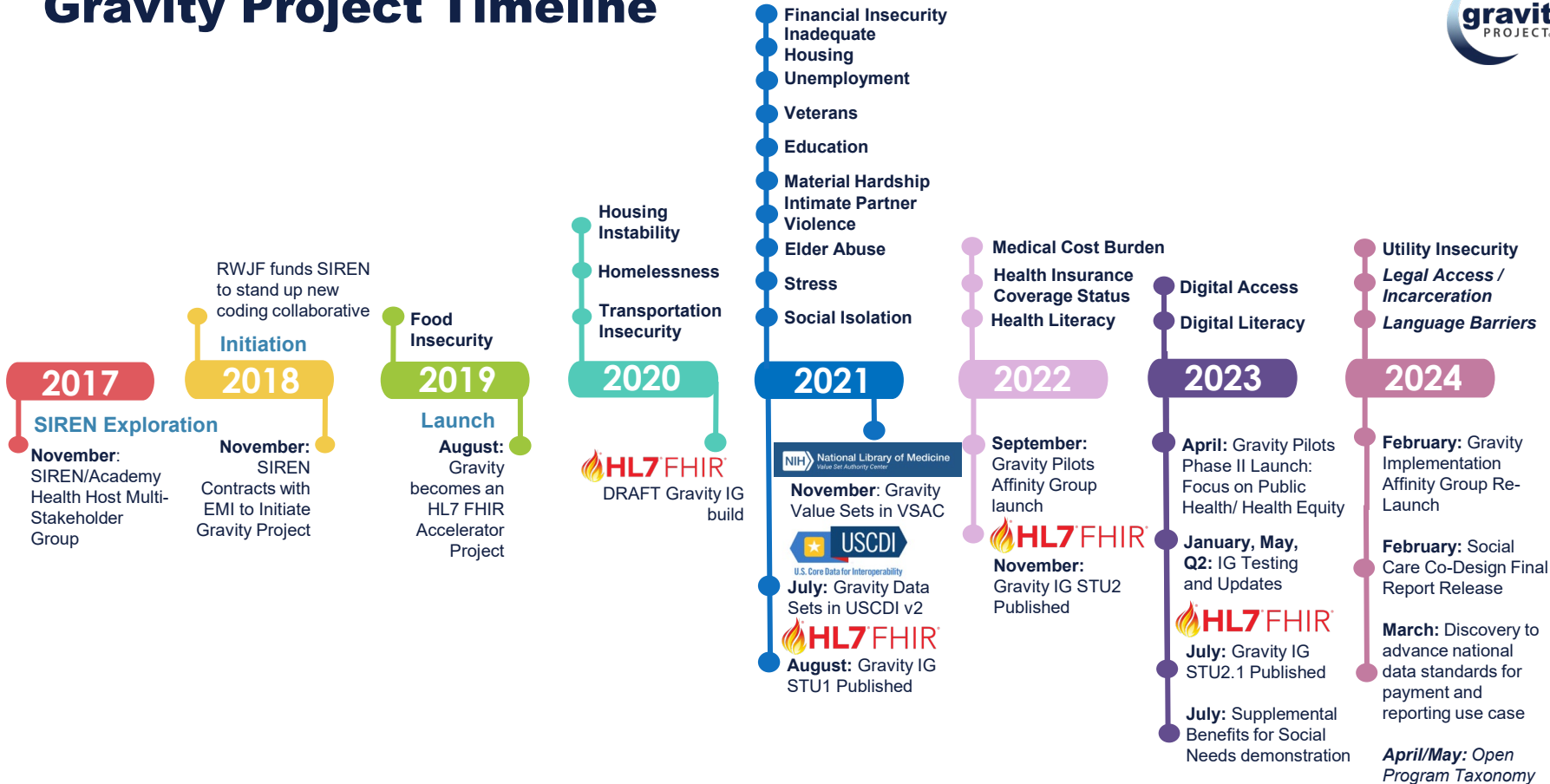
Special thanks to the following for your in-kind contributions to Gravity Project: CMS, AMA and Civitas Networks for Health

# HHS Strategic Approach to Addressing SDOH to Advance Health Equity



Data standards (i.e. Gravity) to support health and human services integration

# Gravity Project Timeline



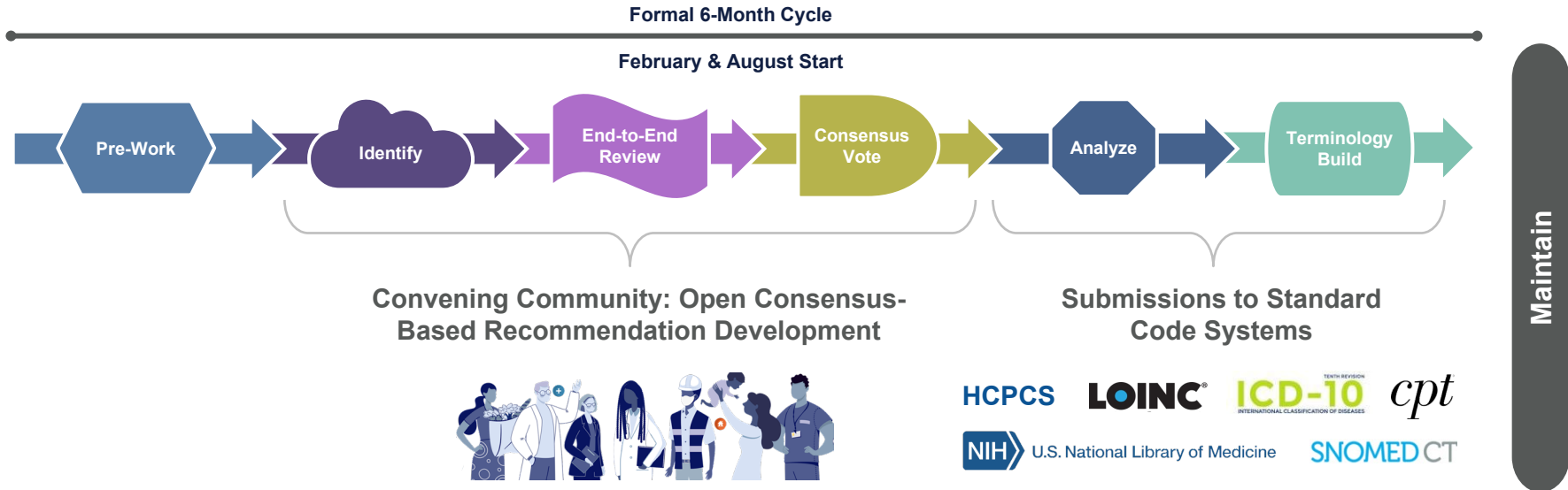
*Italicized text is planned.*

# Gravity Terminology Curation Process

Well-Established, Rigorous and Efficient

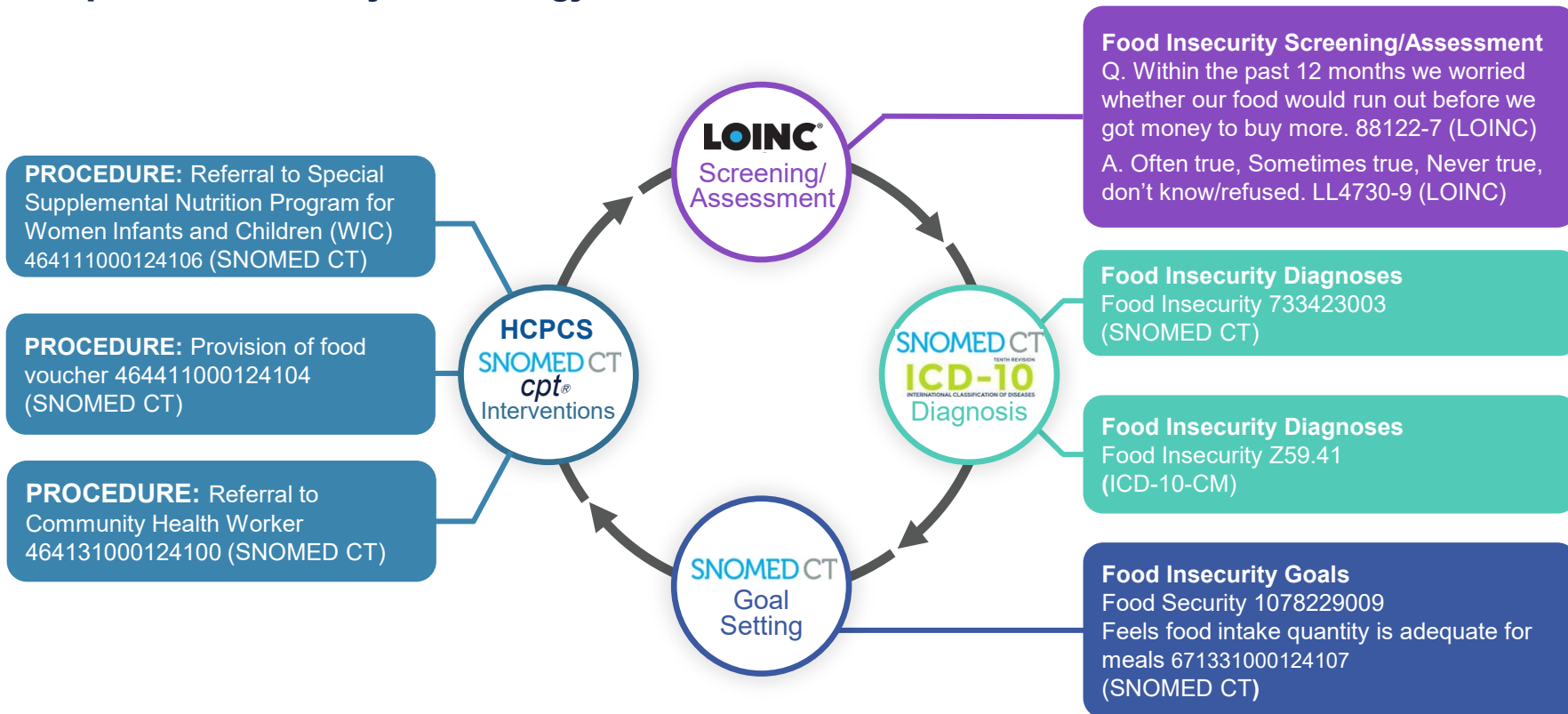


- EVIDENCE-BASED** → Leveraging literature, and national domain subject matter experts
- CONSENSUS-DRIVEN** → Centering community perspectives to ensure pragmatism in open HL7-aligned public process
- SEMANTICALLY CONSISTENT** → Aligned with federal and community social care taxonomies
- PRINCIPLED** → Grounded in the ethics of Data Justice and Social Justice



# Terminology Workstream:

## Example Food Insecurity Terminology Build



# All Gravity Project Success Factors

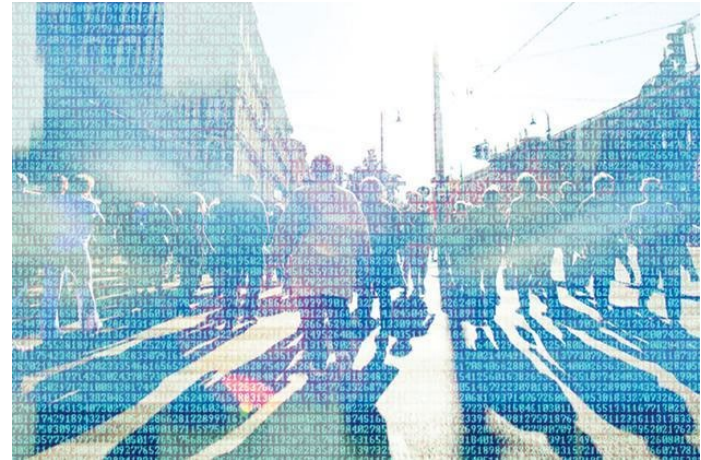
## Integration of Data Standards Into...





# Gravity Data Use Principles for Equitable Health and Social Care

- Improving Personal Health Outcomes
- Improving Population Health Equity
- Ensuring Personal Control
- Designing Appropriate Solutions
- Ensuring Accountability
- Preventing, Reducing, and Remediating Harm



# Gravity Implementation Across the Nation



This is a sample (not all-inclusive list) of organization locations that have participated in the Gravity Pilots Affinity Group. We are grateful to all organizations adopting the work of Gravity to advance SDOH standards.



## 2023:

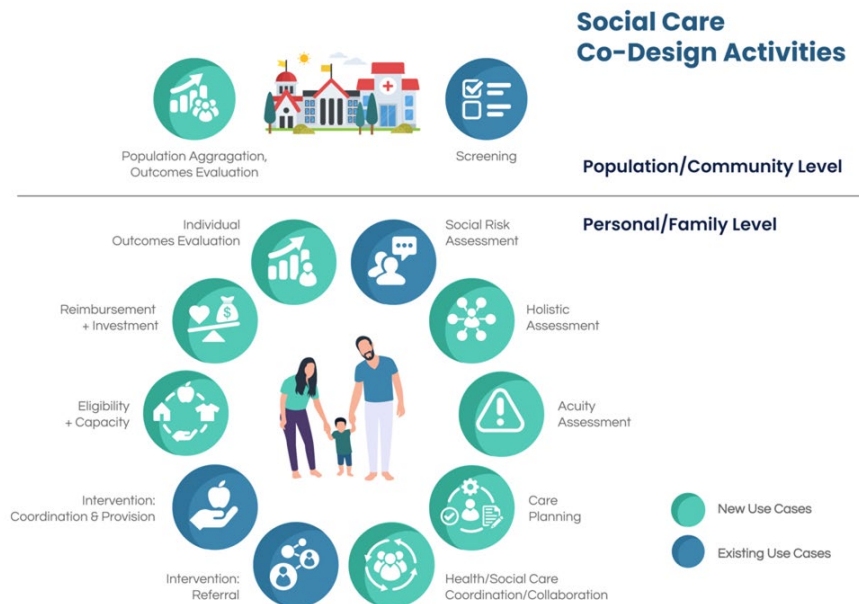
- Focus on public health and health equity in partnership with Civitas Networks for Health, with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation\*.
- Pilot sites: Bronx (RHIO)/New York State, MyHealth Access Network/Oklahoma State; University of Colorado Hospital/Denver Metro Area; Pima County Department of Public Health & Southwest Tribe/Pima County Arizona
- Significant advancement in implementation materials

## 2024:

- NY State 1115 Waiver: Continue assistance for state-wide implementation of the Gravity SDOH IG and aligned Gravity terminologies
  - Domains: Food Insecurity, Housing Instability, Homelessness, Inadequate Housing, Transportation Insecurity, and Utility Insecurity
  - Activities: Screening, Diagnosis, and Referral (Service Request)
- Monthly Gravity Implementation Affinity Group open learning forum

*\*Support for this initiative was provided by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect the views of the Foundation.*

# More Opportunities to Address Real-World Challenges



Opportunities for national standards to:

- Address needs at individual, family/household/other group and population/community levels
- Reduce burden and improve sustainability for CBOs
- Evaluate inequities to facilitate structural solutions
- Expand data support for use cases to center whole-person care
- Further capacity for intelligent social care navigation

*The Social Care Co-Design was part of the Gravity Project and Civitas Networks for Health 2023 implementation effort, developed in partnership with HealthBegins. Support for this initiative was provided by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect the views of the Foundation.*

# Thank you!

Learn More...



## Visit us at:

Gravity Website:  
<https://thegravityproject.net/>

Gravity Confluence Page:  
[https://confluence.hl7.org/display/GRAV/  
The+Gravity+Project](https://confluence.hl7.org/display/GRAV/The+Gravity+Project)

## Help us with Gravity Education & Outreach

Use Social Media handles to share or  
tag us to relevant information:

 [@thegravityproj](https://twitter.com/thegravityproj)

 [https://www.linkedin.com/  
company/gravity-project](https://www.linkedin.com/company/gravity-project)

# Appendix



# Gravity Strategic Goals

- Grow and maintain a vibrant community with **sustainable** governance, funding, and an operational model that strengthens Gravity Project partnerships and **community-led** consensus-based goals
- Convene and support a **diverse community** with expertise and lived experience of addressing and meeting social needs, through care, administrative support and informatics
- **Accelerate data standard solutions** to address the payment and reporting needs of community-based organizations and other stakeholders that **promote equitable health** and social care, leveraging HL7<sup>®</sup> FHIR<sup>®</sup>, in conjunction with other standards as needed
- Enable Health and Social Care organizations to effectively **implement and test** Gravity Project SDOH data exchange and terminology standards to ensure they better meet community needs
- Increase **awareness** of Gravity work among broader stakeholder groups

Refreshed March 2023

# An SDOH Lexicon

- **Health Equity:** Health equity is the state in which everyone has a fair and just opportunity to attain their highest level of health
- **Social Determinants of Health (SDOH):** “The conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age,” which are “shaped by the distribution of money, power and resources

Population & Structural-Level

SDOH can offer both positive and negative forces:

## Positive Forces

- **Protective Factors:** Characteristics or strengths of individuals, families, communities or societies that act to mitigate risks and promote positive well-being and healthy development.

## Negative Forces

- **Social Risks:** Adverse social conditions associated with poor health.
- **Social Needs:** Patient-prioritized social risks.

Person-Level



# How to Engage

Gravity convenes participants from across the health and human services ecosystem via the following virtual public open meetings (all times in ET):

1. Terminology Workstream: Community Collaborative - **Bi-weekly** Thursdays 4:00 - 5:30pm
2. Technical Workstream: Implementation Guide - **Bi-weekly** Wednesdays 1:00 - 2:00pm
3. Pilots Workstream: Implementation Affinity Group - Last Thursday **each month** 2:30 - 4:00pm

View the [Upcoming Meeting Information](#) confluence page and HL7 conference call calendar for meeting details: <https://www.hl7.org/concalls/>



**Become a Gravity Project sponsor!**

<https://thegravityproject.net/sponsors/>

Contact: [gravityproject@hl7.org](mailto:gravityproject@hl7.org)