NEW YORK STATE | **Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance**

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General Information System (GIS) Message

Section 1

Transmittal:	25DC084 Upstate and New York City
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To:	Social Services District Commissioners
Suggested Distribution:	Commissioners, Temporary Assistance (TA) Directors, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Directors
From:	Valerie Figueroa, Deputy Commissioner, Employment and Income Support Programs
Subject:	Social Care Networks (SCNs)
Effective Date:	Immediately
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Attachments:	Attachment 1 - Regional SCN Contacts; Attachment 2 - SCN Poster (English); Attachment 3 - SCN Poster (Spanish)

Section 2

The purpose of this GIS is to notify social services districts (districts) of a program through the New York State Department of Health (DOH) Medicaid program called Social Care Networks (SCNs), which is designed to assist with navigation and the delivery of health-related social care services that historically have been lacking in health care and related social areas of low income and underserved populations. The SCNs are regional programs that can assist certain individuals with connections to resources which address a variety of essential needs. This program builds a group of local, primarily non-profit organizations that support the health and well-being of certain Medicaid Managed Care recipients. SCNs will screen participants to identify needs then assist in navigation and connection to and provide social care services often beyond what districts are able to provide. Each SCN is responsible for ensuring that there is a seamless, consistent, coordinated, end to end process in their region for screening, navigation and service delivery.

All Medicaid members are eligible for navigation to existing resources. Individuals with certain health conditions and unmet social needs may be eligible for additional assistance from the SCN. The SCN may connect those with Medicaid Managed Care who are deemed otherwise eligible for one time or temporary services. Examples of potential services the SCNs may be

able to provide include housing supports, social service transportation, social care management and food and nutrition assistance. Individuals who meet the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) definition of homeless may receive assistance with security deposits, first month's rent, eviction prevention and housing searches. The SCN may assist with up to 6 months of some utility and rent expenses including back payments to initiate service or prevent disconnection of utility service. SCNs can also provide meal support for up to 6 months with the ability to renew for another 6 months if eligible.

A referral to this program may be a valuable resource for eligible individuals especially when the district is denying a Public Assistance (PA) application for a particular need or a request for an additional allowance. The SCN program services can also be utilized in conjunction with existing benefits and services available in the community.

Districts are encouraged to refer appropriate individuals to the SCN to be screened for eligibility if they have Managed Care Medicaid and need assistance beyond what the district may provide. A referral does not indicate acceptance into this program and districts must not deny an application or request for an additional allowance based on assumed eligibility for the SCN program. Additionally, SCN benefits should not be seen as income and do not impact PA or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) eligibility.

Coordination and collaboration with regional SCN leadership will be crucial to successful referrals. Districts are strongly encouraged to foster relationships with their regional SCN to discuss facilitated referrals enabling successful connections to appropriate resources for potential participants. Attachment A lists the organizations that accept referrals and screen potential participants for services.

For more information please see: Social Care Networks Information for Medicaid Members