



THE HSC HEALTH CARE SYSTEM  
Health Services for Children  
with Special Needs, Inc.



## **HSCSN and Foodsmart join efforts to improve food and nutrition insecurity in the District of Columbia**

**Washington, D.C. June 2023** - Health Services for Children with Special Needs, Inc (HSCSN), the contracted health care plan provider for the District of Columbia's Child and Adolescent Supplemental Security Income Program (CASSIP) for children and young adults, has partnered with Foodsmart, the personalized nutrition platform with the largest network of registered dietitians in the country. Through this partnership, Foodsmart will help HSCSN Medicaid enrollees to make healthy eating affordable and accessible, reduce food insecurity, and create lasting health equity in the community we serve.

Foodsmart provides enrollees with tailored nutrition guidance and access to affordable healthy food options to help them achieve their health goals. It all starts with Foodsmart registered dietitians, who offer nutrition counseling and help determine whether enrollees are eligible for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and, if so, help them enroll. Then, through the Foodsmart app, enrollees have daily support tools that help them implement their plans. Features like budget-friendly meal planning from thousands of delicious and culturally relevant recipes, grocery price comparison between local stores, and food delivery via Instacart, Walmart, or Grubhub — save enrollees time and money getting food on the table.

"Those who benefit most from better nutrition often struggle to access healthy food consistently. Our dietitians don't just lecture people about what they already know (like veggies are good and soda is bad); they leverage our integrated and ad-free Foodsmart to help people use SNAP dollars and save on groceries and improve access to food delivery. People get Foodsmart by changing their food environment and having personalized nutrition education, not by wading through confusing nutrition science and misinformation. The partnership of HSCSN and Foodsmart links families to nutrition counseling and support — think of food as medicine. This approach leads to food security and better health for the long-term, improved enrollee and patient relationships, and medical cost savings for the plan," said Jason Langheier, Chief Executive Officer and Founder at Foodsmart.

"We are excited to partner with Foodsmart to offer our enrollees practical advice on healthy eating, meal planning, and shopping for healthy and affordable food. In addition, Foodsmart offers a cell phone application and telenutrition services to help enrollees make healthier food choices and manage their diets," said Dr. Eric Levey, Chief Medical Officer at HSCSN.

For the past 27 years, Health Services for Children with Special Needs, Inc. (HSCSN) has worked on improving the health and quality of life for children and young adults with complex needs who reside in Washington, DC. HSCSN is part of The HSC Health Care System, which

has been dedicated to serving and empowering children and families and eliminating barriers to health care and services for 138 years. Their collective mission -- to coordinate innovative, high-quality, community-based care for individuals with complex needs and their families.

In 2019, HSC affiliated with Children's National (CN), a world-renowned pediatric health system serving children in the District for over 150 years. This partnership has created the region's only pediatric-focused, accountable care enterprise, uniquely capable of transforming CASSIP to best support children and young adults with complex needs.

**Foodsmart webpage:** [Foodsmart Program | Health Services for Children with Special Needs, Inc. \(HSCSN\) \(hscsnhealthplan.org\)](https://www.foodsmart.org/health-services-for-children-with-special-needs)

### **About the HSC Health Care System**

The HSC Health Care System is a 138-year-old non-profit healthcare organization committed to serving people with complex healthcare needs and eliminating barriers to health services. The System combines the resources of a pediatric specialty hospital, home health agency, and rehabilitative therapy centers to offer a comprehensive approach to caring, serving, and empowering people with disabilities. To learn more about The HSC Health Care System, please visit [www.hschealth.org](http://www.hschealth.org).

### **About Children's National Hospital**

Children's National Hospital, based in Washington, D.C., was established in 1870 to help every child grow up stronger. Today, it is among the nation's top 10 children's hospitals. It is ranked No. 1 for [newborn care](#) for the fifth straight year and in all specialties evaluated by U.S. News & World Report. Children's National is transforming pediatric medicine for all children. The Children's National Research & Innovation Campus opened in 2021, a first-of-its-kind pediatric hub dedicated to developing new and better ways to care for kids. Children's National has been designated three times in a row as a Magnet® hospital, demonstrating the highest nursing and patient care delivery standards. This pediatric academic health system offers expert care through a convenient, community-based primary care network and specialty care locations in the D.C. metropolitan area, including Maryland and Virginia. Children's National is home to the [Children's National Research Institute](#) and [Sheikh Zayed Institute for Pediatric Surgical Innovation](#). It is recognized for its expertise and innovation in pediatric care and as a strong voice for children through local, regional, and national advocacy. As a non-profit, Children's National Hospital relies on generous donors to help ensure that every child receives the care they need.

### **About Foodsmart**

At Foodsmart, we believe food is the foundation for good health. By connecting members to a registered dietitian, we provide simple solutions to accomplish their health goals through a personalized program. Our dietitians meet members where they are, working with their budget and lifestyle to help them make smart, healthier food choices that yield lasting health improvements and sustainably lower the prevalence of food insecurity. Through the Foodsmart app, members can work with their dietitian to plan budget-friendly meals and easily transfer items to their grocery cart, compare prices on groceries between their favorite local stores, and have food delivered via Instacart, Walmart, or Grubhub — saving members time and money getting food on the table. Foodsmart supports more than 1.5 million members nationwide by partnering with employers, health plans, and directly with consumers. To learn more about

Foodsmart's food care platform, visit [www.foodsmart.com](http://www.foodsmart.com) or request a demo at [demo@foodsmart.com](mailto:demo@foodsmart.com)